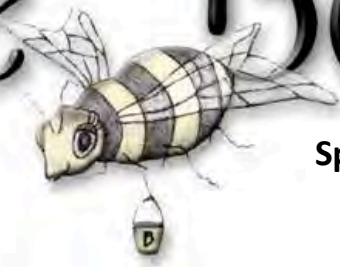


# Bowmanville Bee

The Bowmanville neighborhood is bordered by Foster, Rosehill Cemetery, Ravenswood and Western. Visit our website at [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org).



Spring 2012

## Who's Who in the BCO

### OFFICERS

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Claire Shingler  
*Vice President*

Paula Palmentera  
*Secretary*

Menghua Sun  
*Treasurer*

Noelle Braun-Etheridge  
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Amy Gawura

Jeff Graves

Scott Lair

Sue McCoy

Kathleen Moran

Joseph Mulherin

Anthony O'Reilly

Stewart Weiss

Barbara Wolke

Jim Yorton

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## Spring Soars – Because This is Bowmanville

by Peggy Cassidy

A brief meteorological tease in late March whetted our appetites for summer, but we're still making our way through spring – and, as this issue of The Bee indicates, there are plenty of things to look forward to in the coming weeks.

From bald-headed women (Page 3) to Balmoral bridge work (Page 4) to "The Birds" (Page 6), Bowmanville is buzzing with Bee news. Events ahead for the community -- including the Garden Walk, The Street Sale and a series of block parties that promise to beat out any for miles around – offer a line-up sure to bring summer smiles. Why? Because, this is Bowmanville.

As in years past, hundreds of visitors will walk the streets of Bowmanville on June 2 to shop for bargains and enjoy the company of local residents. It's an annual event that not only attracts the attention of Chicagoans outside of the burg, but offers a chance for neighbors to meet and greet each other and catch up after months of winter. There's still time to become a retailer for the day, or if you prefer to hunt the bargains as a shopper, bring your friends! (Page 4)

The Garden Walk, July 7, is another annual event that brings neighbors together in a variety of small,



**Sue Sell's winning shot from The 2011 Bowmanville Garden Walk photo contest.**

intimate settings – the gardens your neighbors have created and now invite you to share. (Page 8)

Reports from The Greenspace Committee continue to amaze (Page 8). While fundraising is challenging, check out the progress in this issue's report. More impressive, even, is to see the open land as it develops into the GreenSpace envisioned several years ago. This community effort is moving steadily towards being a community gathering place, a rest spot and a place where the benefits of biophilia may well be experienced (Page 13).

Read about the art project that has incorporated elements of Bowmanville into a logo. Special thanks to Steve Shanabrich for featuring the neighborhood in his Chicago-centric work (Page 6).

We've added a bonus feature this issue: Funnies From Facebook (Page 12). We welcome your contributions for this segment – as we welcome your neighborhood news, your family highlights and your suggestions for worthy Bee content. Enjoy!

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN BOWMANVILLE

**Street Sale**  
June 2, 2012  
**Garden Walk**  
July 7, 2012



In an age of shrinking publications, The Bowmanville Bee is going strong. It's where neighbors come for the local buzz, including news, features and area announcements. The eBee fills in the blanks between our quarterly issues, and Managing Editor Peggy Cassidy works with Layout Editor Joey Chiappetta and Ad Manager Paula Palmentera to put the super local in local news. With a reliance and gratitude to area residents and businesses for sharing relevant and informative content, the Bee Squad greatly appreciates advertiser support and local input. Send your news and editorial remarks to [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org).



The Communications Committee provides many ways for the BCO to connect to the community and for the community to make its voice heard through the BCO. These include our website, Facebook page, quarterly newsletter (the Bowmanville Bee), online e-Bee, and e-Blasts via e-mail for timely or urgent announcements. We also manage our toll free BCO hotline 1-866-837-1006. We are seeking a new volunteer to act as editor for the online newsletters and e-blasts and people who can help keep our website current. If you have an interest in writing or editing we'd love the help. Contact: [comm@bcochicago.org](mailto:comm@bcochicago.org).



The Events Committee is one of the best ways to meet neighbors throughout the community, and have a lot of fun while you're at it! We are always looking for new twists for annual events and new event ideas. **Next BCO events: June 2, 9am-4pm - Bowmanville Annual Street Sale – see website for application. July 7: Bowmanville Garden Walk – stroll Bowmanville's gardens and find out what beauty is just around each corner. Registration and event info available on the BCO website.**



The BCO Garden Committee is facing some exciting and daunting challenges in the 2012 season! We'll need the help of the whole community as we endeavor to improve our natural surroundings. The City of Chicago will soon finish their portion of the GreenSpace installation at 5384 N. Bowmanville, and the community's work will begin. The Garden Committee (led by Betty Redmond) and Greenspace Committee (led by Anne Boyle) will be joining teams to complete the installation of this great new addition to our community. At the Gateway Garden, we will respond to and recover from the railroad bridge construction at Balmoral and Ravenswood. Volunteer to help out, provide snacks, meals or beverages on workdays, and/or help coordinate volunteers. Contact the garden committee at [gardening@bcochicago.org](mailto:gardening@bcochicago.org) or 1-866-837-1006. See our work dates included in this edition of the Bee's calendar. Follow our progress and find more workday details on the BCO facebook page.



The Membership Committee focuses on ways to continually engage and support our community and grow our membership base. This is definitely an area where you can see your new ideas take flight. Two of our latest initiatives include a 'Welcome to Bowmanville' outreach to recent new home and condo owners in the area, as well as a BCO Bargains program – discounts for BCO members as one way we say thank you for supporting us. Contact [membership@bcochicago.org](mailto:membership@bcochicago.org) to help us.

Like public radio, all of our neighbors can freely enjoy the benefits of the hard work of the BCO. But in the end, "Membership makes it happen"! Join or renew today, we'd love to have you! Over 200 community members recognize the value of what the BCO does for this community, and know that it doesn't happen without financial and volunteer support. BCO membership fees are low at \$20 annually.



The Planning & Development committee gathers to discuss issues of change, development, and improvement of our fine community. We interact with local residents, businesses, and the Alderman's office to advantageously grow our community. Contact Chairman Jeff Graves for information: [planning@bcochicago.org](mailto:planning@bcochicago.org) – all are welcome!



The BCO GreenSpace Committee continues its focus on fundraising and site planning for the newly acquired green space at 5384 N. Bowmanville. This committee is also working hard to expand the space. We need your help as we continue to move forward with our goal of making Bowmanville one of the greenest, most livable communities in Chicago. Please join us in this effort! To get involved, please contact [greenspace@bcochicago.org](mailto:greenspace@bcochicago.org).



The Public Art committee was formed in 2010 to explore the idea of a mural in the Berwyn pedestrian tunnel. That idea became reality very quickly! Final grouting and over-coating of the mural will happen with the Spring 2012 thaw, and we will also need community support to maintain this local treasure. Future public art projects are to be determined based on interest and availability of volunteers. Do you have a good idea for additional public art in Bowmanville? Put it out there. Contact [publicart@bcochicago.org](mailto:publicart@bcochicago.org) for more information.

## Community News

### Balding for St. Baldrick

by Kris Neurauter and Maria Gullo

The **St. Baldrick's** Foundation is a childhood cancer charity funding research to help find cures for kids with cancer. It's a great organization supported, in part, by volunteers who collect pledges prior to having their heads shaved in solidarity with the tens-of-thousands of children who battle cancer each year. The funds raised translate into grants for cancer research.

In fact, there is no St. Baldrick, and there's no hair left on the heads of those who volunteer to be shaved for the cause. Several Bowmanville neighbors were sheered recently, among them, Kris Neurauter and Maria Gullo.

"I participated in St. Baldrick's this year after reading a blog on 'Chicago Now' by a mom who chronicled her toddler daughter's battle with cancer," Kris said. When "a co-worker ... who wanted to do something to honor (that child), Donna Quirke Hornik" asked Kris to join her as a St. Baldrick's volunteer, Kris did not hesitate.

She participated in an event at the Candlelite on Western Avenue. The event raised over \$73,000 (and still counting if anyone wants to contribute) and was, as Kris said, "Amazing!"

"While I was terrified the morning of the event, I felt so inspired by the group of people who came together to shed their hair. The support I got from my family and friends was incredible, and two of my Berwyn-Bell neighbors, Liz Gabbard and Diane Rico, helped by working our raffle table," she said.

Neighborhood taproom, The Claddagh Ring, hosted its fourth annual St. Baldrick's event, in which three firefighters shaved their heads in support of one of their own. The bar brought in \$14,000, according to participant James Kearney.

Maria Gullo opted in on a St. Baldrick's event after her friend Amy Kelly's brother Sean had done St. Baldrick's for years. When Sean passed away, Amy wanted to do St. Baldrick's in his honor.

Maria said she went to a bar named Spyners to support her friend.

The owner of the pub, "who goes by (the name) Moe," Maria said, offered to donate \$50 to St. Baldrick's for the first person who hadn't yet signed up.

"I shot my hand in the air, took off my hat and went around the bar to get last minute donations!"

With \$129 collected, "I made my donation and was onstage getting my head shaved!" Maria said. "My mom's cousin, Terry, is battling cancer, so I decided to get on the phone with her as I was getting my head shaved and dedicate my shaved head to her. My cousin told me, 'That is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me!'"

St. Baldrick's donates 87% of the money to research for kids' cancer, according to Maria, who's a convert to her new bald look.

"I will do this every year and try to get as many people on board as I can!" she said. "You should do it next year!"



It was a shear pleasure for Maria Gullo and Kris Neurauter to participate in St. Baldrick's Day.



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## Community News

### Bridge Work Begins at Balmoral

by David Johnston

The Metra UP North bridge replacement work at Balmoral & Ravenswood has begun. Removal of bridge structural steel was completed the first week of April, with installation of support equipment and excavation for bridge concrete abutment removal scheduled through the first week of May. This will be followed by removal of the existing concrete abutments (mid-May) and caisson/drilled shaft installation (mid-May into June).

Concerned residents again requested fencing to separate Metra's work from the gardens. Local gardeners asked that the work crews go out and clearly mark areas that will be impacted when the retaining wall work begins later this year. The response was that they cannot do that as they are "still in preliminary engineering stages in regards to devising a plan to construct that wall and will notify BCO accordingly once a plan is finalized and approved."

Heavy construction will result in equipment and street closures on Balmoral and on Ravenswood adjacent to the Gateway Garden. Local traffic on Ravenswood/Honore (off Foster) is to be diverted to the alley between Balmoral and Summerdale. Parking and access will be restricted, as some may have already noticed on recent work days.

The pedestrian underpass at Berwyn is scheduled to remain open for the duration of this phase of the project.

Later this year, a retaining wall will be installed along the west side of the tracks from Balmoral to Foster. The embankment along the Gateway Garden will be removed and parts of the vegetable gardens and structures will need to be removed entirely. The garden team has been working to help prepare for these changes. Caution is urged if you are planning to be in these areas.



### Hoist Your Sales For B-Ville Resale Event

by Barbara Wolke



The 16th annual Bowmanville Street Sale is set for Saturday, June 2, so it's time to sort through your belongings and determine which ones might need a new home.

Shoppers come annually from near and far to check out the goods being offered, this year from 9 AM-4 PM. Last year, 85 families set up shop, and the fun is not just in buying, but also in selling, bartering and clearing out some of those jam-packed spaces in your home.

There'll be lemonade stands and plenty of free conversation. Several areas use this event as a time for neighbors to gather around and enjoy the friendly commerce. A remaining highlight of the day is the "After the Sale Party" at Leadway, (Damen & Farragut) where the owner, Frank, is a great host and a terrific cook.

The last date for submission is May 19.

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Time Out Chicago  
Oct 2011



Nadeen Kieren  
Shopkeeper

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## Community News

### There'll Be Swingin', Swayin' And Record Playin'

The arrival of Spring brings thoughts of summer, of course, and with those come plans for Bowmanville block parties. While these are primarily held for residents of the designated block, they present a good opportunity to stop in and meet some neighbors if you're out and about on the party dates. Already on the books are:

<b>June 23</b>	The 1900 block of Berwyn and the 2200 block of Farragut
<b>July 7</b>	The 5300 block of Winchester and The 2300 block of Farragut (and The Garden Walk)
<b>July 14</b>	The 1800 block of Farragut
<b>August 18</b>	The Berwyn/Bell block club

There are others, too, the dates of which are not known, but look to the summer Bee for more, and look for the tell-tale signs on a block near you!

Remember, when it's summertime, "the time is right for dancin' in the streets."



Violet Novy was swayin' at a 2011 block party.

### Block Party Challenge

The fabulous Berwyn/Bell block club donated \$200 to the BCO GreenSpace campaign following their block party last summer. They have put out a challenge to the other blocks: Who can repeat (or beat!) their generous contribution? Get creative on how you raise the funds to donate. A kissing booth (put your dog in the booth!)? Sell Hot Dogs for greenspace? A dunk tank? A raffle? Or simply a donation jar making the rounds at your block party? Let's get more blocks on our GreenSpace donor list!

### Don't Get Ticketed While Parked At Home!

There is nothing worse than leaving your house only to find a ticket on your car in its usual parking spot. The 2012 Street Sweeping schedule is now posted on Alderman O'Connor's website. Sections 6 & 7 cover Bowmanville. Make sure you know when to expect the no-parking signs on your block so you don't get caught with a ticket.

<http://www.aldermanoconnor.com/3258/40th-ward-street-sweeping-schedule/>

### Safety First

We do live in the city, and as a result we do see our share of graffiti, gang activity and other crime. While we remain one of the lowest crime neighborhoods in Chicago, there is still serious stuff happening on our blocks. Home invasion, shooting and weapons violations, stolen autos and other property to name a few recent happenings in Bowmanville. In order to keep our neighborhood safe, walk-able and evolving in a positive direction, we need to be aware of what is happening and proactive in communicating to one another and with our police, alderman and other city services. At the April CAPS meeting, the officers stressed the importance of not being afraid to call 911 when residents are at all concerned about any level of suspicious activity. This means you should call if you see a car you don't recognize with someone sitting in it, or you see people waiting at the bus stop on Foster and Winchester who let the bus pass by without getting on, or anything that simply makes you uncomfortable.

Please also talk directly to our CAPS liaisons and our beat cops – get to know them so that they are working in partnership with you.

**Beat 2012 CAPS meetings: June 13<sup>th</sup>, Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7pm at St Gregory's Bingo Hall – 1609 W Gregory**

**CAPS by email: [CAPS.020District@chicagopolice.org](mailto:CAPS.020District@chicagopolice.org) or  
CAPS by phone 312-742-8770 Ext. 120**

Equally important is to be talking to your neighbors. Do you have a method in place to share information on your block and across the neighborhood? You need one! **Help us beef up our block captain/block liaison program in Bowmanville.** Check out the membership section of the BCO website or contact [membership@bcochicago.org](mailto:membership@bcochicago.org) for more info.





## Arts & Culture

### Chicago Neighborhood Project Spotlights Bowmanville

by Peggy Cassidy



A local designer has combined his love for Chicago with his love of design in his ongoing project, "The Chicago Neighborhoods." Steve Shanabruch, who plans to portray 77 Chicago communities in a logo-like image – has completed nearly two dozen, recently adding Bowmanville to his completions.

The Bowmanville image is striking (as are all in his collection), and features the Berwyn Mural and the neighborhood gardens in its depiction of the burg.

"I know branding a neighborhood is quite subjective," Steve writes on his website. "My experiences and knowledge are obviously different than those of someone else, especially a long-time resident, so let's call this project 'One designer's take on Chicago.'"

He goes on to explain that some of his neighborhood logos "are based on personal experiences and intimate knowledge of certain neighborhoods (such as Beverly, where I grew up), but in most cases these logos come from inspiration gleaned from various sources, including online research and conversations with current and past residents.

Check out Shanabruch's work at [thechicagoneighborhoods.com](http://thechicagoneighborhoods.com), and watch for more neighborhood logos as he develops them.

### THE BIRDS in Bowmanville

By Joyce Litoff

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, a large flock of birds will descend on Bowmanville, but it won't be nearly as scary as in Alfred Hitchcock's film, "The Birds." It is the annual spring show of art at **Avram Eisen Gallery, 5204 N. Damen.**

This year local artists were invited to create and exhibit pieces with a "bird" theme, and more than thirty responded. The gallery will be showing framed paintings, collages and drawings, as well as offering smaller items like scarves and jewelry—all reasonably priced for Spring and Mother's Day gift giving.

An open house brunch event will be held on Saturday, May 5th, from 11 AM – 2 PM. Works will remain on display through the month of May. Smaller items will be available through Mother's Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

On display will be creations by: Beth Adler, Kim Amati, Richard Benoit, Jessica Buchberger, Pamela Callahan, Inara Cedrins, Monica Cho, George C. Clark, Ellan Deutsch, Paula Egan, Jacob Gaddie, Elizabeth Graff, Maria Gullo, Deborah Hirshfield, Karen Heuter, Sarah Kaiser, Meggan Kehrli, Jeanne Kramer, Kim Laurel, Nina Litoff, Tom Melvin, Janet Metzger, Walter Moscow, Judith Pollock, Tania Rodamilans, Alice Sharie-Revelski, Michelle Stone, Marcia L. Streicher, Cynthia Vaicunas, Vassilen Vasevski, Dessi Vasevska, Jimmy Wilnewic, and Don Yang.

For more information, call or email the gallery: (773) 271-3008 [avrameisengallery@yahoo.com](mailto:avrameisengallery@yahoo.com)



## Arts & Culture

### Griffin Theatre Company is on the Move



Griffin Theatre Company's rendering of what the new site may look like once fully renovated.

Griffin Theatre is progressing its plan to renovate and move into the new home they have acquired in the former Summerdale Police station located at Winchester and Foster Avenue. They recently held a fun and interactive meet and greet with neighbors at K's Dugout across the street from the future theatre home. K's Dugout welcomed neighbors, and there was exciting chatter about the future as well as the history of the old police station building. Keep your eyes on it, as Griffin has indicated they are intending to hold a carnival-like fair in the parking lot over the summer. And while you're thinking theatre, check out Griffin's latest show, Bathsheba Doran's KIN which runs April 28 – June 10, 2012 at Theatre WIT.

# MARTY'S

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*The Staff and Owner of Marty's proudly salute and say thank you to all those that help make our neighborhood such an enjoyable part of our lives.*

## A Greener, Sustainable Bowmanville

### The Bowmanville Garden Walk

by Craig Hanenburg

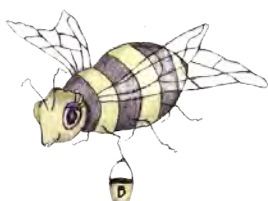
The 14th Annual Bowmanville Garden Walk will be held Saturday, July 7, from 10 AM to 4:30 PM and is open to all! Whether you are a beginning gardener or have lots of experience, we hope you will join in and enjoy this event. If you are interested in landscaping, flowers, container plants, growing vegetables, or taking photographs, we hope you will participate this year.

The Garden Walk features an amateur photography contest in which a garden photo will be selected to be used in the event publicity. This year's Garden Walk poster features Sue Sell's winning photo from last year. Don't you wonder what that pup looks like now?

This annual event highlights our neighborhood residential gardens and the three BCO community gardens. Bowmanville residents welcome their neighbors and visitors by opening their yards to display their gardens, creating a friendly and hospitable venue and opportunities to learn new things about gardening. Residents can also choose to have their gardens reviewed by Master Gardeners on various criteria including design, creative use of plants, and neighborhood enhancement.

The participants and volunteers end the day at a Garden Party where awards are presented and pictures of all the gardens taken by our BCO volunteer photographers are viewed. Go to the BCO website for more information and to access the forms used in entering the photo contest or your garden!

No official entry is needed to simply participate as an observer, and the public is most welcome.



### Create Your Own Sustainable Backyard!

By Betty Redmond

It may surprise you to find that most anyone can afford to create an earth-friendly backyard with a little financial help from the City of Chicago Department of Transportation's Sustainable Backyards Program.

Have you considered installing a rain barrel, planting a tree in your front or backyard, or creating a garden from durable, easy care, native plants? Consider the fun, "teachable moment" you can provide your kids as you create your own family science experiment and install a composting bin in your backyard! Across the city, rebates are being offered to aid Chicagoans as they conserve water, improve water quality, reduce flooding, cool the air, combat climate change and bring nature to the city.



Rebate Basics:

- TREES (up to \$100 back)
- NATIVE PLANTS (up to \$60 back)
- \*COMPOST BINS (up to \$50 back)
- \*RAIN BARRELS (up to \$40 back)

*\*PLEASE NOTE: The City of Chicago will no longer sell subsidized rain barrels or compost bins.*

Rebate amounts were allocated based on the value of the ecosystem services provided by each product. Ecosystem services are the additional benefits of healthy ecosystems, including storm-water management, improved air quality, and improved human health.

Trees can provide many benefits to our quality of life; for each tree we plant we receive ecosystem services valued at roughly \$1,200 over the life of that tree. All of these environmentally-friendly products are worth the investment!

The city's website ([www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel](http://www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel)) offers barrels of information about the program, including rebate forms and suggested free seminars. Products must be purchased before Dec. 31, 2012, and specific guidelines for the submission of receipts are included on the website.



## A Greener, Sustainable Bowmanville

### City Girl Brings Farm Fresh To Chicago

A one-time BCO board member and current Bowmanville resident, Alexa Dunn has created a new website for Chicagoans interested in eating seasonal foods from local farms, supporting those farms and other sustainable farming practices, finding organic products and practicing urban farming.

The site, [Chicagofarmandtable.com](http://Chicagofarmandtable.com), is a directory and a resource for finding CSAs (community supported agriculture), farmer's markets, grocers, restaurants and bakeries that utilize local seasonal produce and organically reared meat. Also covered are topics for 'doing it yourself', i.e., growing your own produce, raising chickens in and around Chicago, beekeeping, and finding u-pick farms in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Seasonal recipes are featured, as well.

The idea is to put all the information in one place, (one website), to make the sustainable, healthy foods easier to access for the average consumer.

"Please take a minute to check out the site," Alexa said, "and feel free to let me know what you think (good and bad). I'd love to hear your suggestions, ideas, great links I can add to the site, and if you want to contribute as a writer or have an interesting subject we should cover, please reach out."

To help keep the site up and running, Alexa asks that Bee readers share her link with any interested family and/or friends. You can also find her on facebook at "Chicago farm and table."

While still in its infancy (please excuse the pages still under construction), [Chicagofarmandtable.com](http://Chicagofarmandtable.com) will evolve and grow with the community.

"Let us know how I can make it better," Alexa asks. You can reach her through the site, a stop well worth making on your next ride on the World Wide Web.

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 website: [www.davidwestling.com](http://www.davidwestling.com)

### Fair Spring Brings Early Clean-Up on Farragut

The neighbors in the 1800 block of Farragut have taken advantage of the warm Spring to spruce up their block. On a recent warm Spring afternoon, several neighbors joined together to clean up the front yard of an empty home on the block. The former resident of the home is no longer living there, so folks raked leaves, pulled weeds, picked up trash, and straightened up the front porch.



Joe Toups pitches in to keep his block looking good

The same hard-working neighbors also cleaned up debris in the cul-de-sac on their block to keep the storm drain clear. They then cleaned up around the parkway trees. During the rare snowfalls this winter, several neighbors joined the Chicago Snow Corps volunteers and kept the sidewalks clear of snow. You can learn more about the Snow Corps on the City's website, [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org).



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## *A Greener, Sustainable Bowmanville*

### GreenSpace Fundraising Surges Past \$25,000 Mark



Not long ago the greenspace on Bowmanville Avenue was far from green, but it has since been leveled and sodded -- step by step it is coming to fruition.

The board of the Bowmanville Community Organization recently approved a cash contribution of \$1500 in support of the GreenSpace fundraising campaign, bringing the Bowmanville Avenue open space closer to its completion. This donation puts our total funds raised above the \$25,000 mark. Well done Bowmanville, we are more than half way to our goal of \$50,000 for the fundraising campaign!

Spokeswoman for the GreenSpace Committee, Anne Boyle, said in a note to the board that , "these funds will be carefully used to pursue our goal of obtaining and developing permanent open space for the Bowmanville community."

The GreenSpace Committee is working on many fronts to reach its goal, including fundraising, communication, land development, and Phase 2 acquisition.

The committee welcomes neighborhood participation as it works to improve the quality of life for everyone in the community.

### You can help shape our neighborhood for generations to come.

Plant a tree.  
Sell lemonade.  
Research a foundation.  
Update our website.  
Host a party.  
Write a grant.  
Arrange an auction.  
Talk to friends.

#### Join the Green Team for Bowmanville.

Contact [greenspace@bcochicago.org](mailto:greenspace@bcochicago.org) or call 866.837.1006 to find out how you can help. Thank you for your support!



### Worms Anyone?

Is anyone interested in worm composting? Bowmanville neighbor and master gardener Anthony O'Reilly can help you out! Compost kits for \$50, with everything you need included. Make beautiful compost for house plants, container planting, even make a tea to fertilize your garden plants. Email Anthony at [eager12012@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eager12012@sbcglobal.net).

## Community Schools

### Amundsen Faces Unknown As Principal Steps Down

The Amundsen Local School Council is seeking a replacement for retiring Principal Carlos Muñoz. Muñoz announced his retirement at a recent school council meeting, shocking the attendees as he struggled to explain his departure after 37 years with Chicago Public Schools.

"It's not something that I really want to do," The Welles Park Bulldog reported him saying at the March 27 LSC meeting.

"Certain things are scaring me ... certain things are happening," he's quoted in the Center Square Journal as saying, "I think it's best I retire in June."

CSJ goes on to say that "a number of his peers have arrived at the same decision, largely due to the pending expiration of the Pension Enhancement Program."

CSJ stated: *Recent reports indicate that more than 150 CPS principals have notified the district of their retirement at the end of the 2011-12 school year, causing Local School Councils to express concern that the candidate pool to fill these openings is thin. Principals are reacting to proposed rules that would limit the number of unused sick and vacation days the principals banked during their employment at CPS, according to Catalyst, an independent news journal reporting on school reform.*

Bill Helm, a member of the Amundsen LSC, told The Bulldog that the LSC couldn't wait for July to start the process of replacing Munoz.

"That would leave the school without a leader for the 2012-3 school year," he told the Bulldog.

And so the hunt is on, with critical results expected from the school's next leader. Amundsen has ranked low on performance scales in recent years, with, according to The Bulldog, "just 16 percent of students ... eligible to attend a selective four-year college and just 64.6 percent of Amundsen students graduat(ing) in five years."

### Clear The Pool For Adult Swim

After being closed for several months for repair, the Amundsen High School swimming pool is once again open and available to community members. The pool, located behind Door #4 of the school's front entrances, is shared by the school and the Chicago Park District.

"Each has its own property rights in the park," reports Patrick Boylan, of the Welles Park Bulldog.

Hours for adult swim are Monday-Friday, 8:30 PM – 9:15 PM.

Contact Lisa at [lisa.raguucci@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:lisa.raguucci@chicagoparkdistrict.com) or at +1.312.742.5101 for more details.

## Local School Councils Elected

Congratulations to all the newly elected LSC representatives for our local schools. Along with the parent, teacher and staff representatives, the community members listed below will be advocating for our school children. Best of luck to them all, and many thanks for their service to our community and schools. Full LSC election results have been reported by the Welles Park Bulldog and are available on their website.

#### Amundsen High School

Michael Cohen  
Jeffrey Newman

#### Chappell Elementary

Heidi Kafka  
Eddie Syllas

#### Trumbull Elementary

Randy Heite  
Mark Miller



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## Community Schools

### Chappell Honored For Closing "Achievement Gap"

by Peggy Cassidy

Congratulations are in order for nearby Chappell Elementary School which has received a "Spotlight Award" from the Illinois State Board of Education for the second year in a row.

"I'm so proud of my students and faculty," said Chappell principal Joseph Peila when asked about the award. "The Spotlight Award is one of a number of possible awards that schools can get from ISBE. Together, schools that earn these various awards are considered state honor roll schools."

According to its website, The Illinois State Board of Education recognizes "high-poverty schools where high academic performance is closing the 'achievement gap'" in its designation of "Spotlight Schools." This year, there are 167 Spotlight Schools throughout the state in urban, suburban, and rural locations.

"The Spotlight Schools demonstrate that low-income students and schools with limited resources can show impressive academic performance. These schools know how to help all students succeed," the ISBE says. "These schools exhibit achievements that are contrary to the conventional wisdom that test scores will reflect demographics despite local efforts."

Peila said that there isn't really any type of ISBE-sponsored ceremony attached to getting these awards, and the news arrived at Chappell via a letter from ISBE. He said that Mayor Rahm Emmanuel invited schools on the ISBE honor roll list to be recognized by City Council on March 14.

"It was nice and much appreciated," he said. "Here at school, I presented students with poster-sized copies of the letter and certificate from ISBE at our quarterly awards ceremony a few weeks ago." Above and beyond all that, the students at Chappell were rewarded with a "no school uniform" day to celebrate their success. Again, Bowmanville sends a huge congratulations to Peila and his team on this impressive accomplishment.

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## Health

# Biophilia Strikes Bowmanville!

By Russ Klettke

There is a reason people are naturally drawn to looking at lush landscapes. It's more than just observing something pretty: Proponents of something called the "biophilia hypothesis" claim that humans experience a biological response to such things as blue skies, green trees, aromatic flowers and the songs of birds.

The theories around and approaches to biophilia were proposed as early as the 1980s in such books titled *Biophilia* (Edward O. Wilson, 1984), *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (Stephen R. Kellert, 1993) and *Children and nature: psychological, sociocultural, and evolutionary investigations* (Kellert and Kahn, 2002). While still unfolding through university and commercial research, some of the findings that support a visual and physical immersion in nature include:

- **Colors:** Greens and blues (trees, sky and water) recede in space while reds, pinks, purples and yellows project forward. Across all cultures, blue skies are perceived as opportunities and the abode of deities, while the other colors typically are associated with tastier foods.
- **Fading daylight:** Ganglion cells of the eye are sensitive to blue light, which triggers internal melatonin production and circadian rhythms as the sky darkens at sunset – which can affect the soundness and quality of sleep.
- **Bird songs:** Research is being conducted at the University of Surrey in the U.K. on whether "avian arias" can have a positive affect on peoples' moods when they are otherwise stressed or fatigued.
- **Natural smells:** Consider the aroma of lilacs, the smell of a seashore, or just the clean air in an arboretum. It speaks of good oxygen and, possibly, a food source.

Now, contrast this with the typical modern experience: Hours spent in traffic on asphalt highways, looking into digital screens all day (computers) and night (televisions and mobile devices such as tablet-pads, e-readers and cellular phones). The more we remove ourselves from natural environments, the more we forgo the benefits (e.g., depend on sleeping pills instead of naturally-produced melatonin).

Biophilic techniques are already incorporated into healthcare. Skilled nursing facilities are building patient-accessible gardens, while lightboxes with photos or videos of skies (some with a gradual movement of clouds) are being installed in radiation treatment, MRI and dentist offices.

We have much to look at, listen to and smell in Bowmanville and our surroundings. The presence of natural wildlife confirms the healthiness of our environment and how it can contribute to our own health. In the warm months to come, it can promote better health and sleep to turn off the television and, instead, go for a walk – perhaps to a community garden.

*Russ Klettke is a Bowmanville resident and a business and health writer. He is not sure the grackle couple inhabiting a tree in his parkway would qualify as "song birds," but roots for them when they chase squirrels away.*

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## Bee Contributions Welcome

Have a story to tell, a horn to toot about a good neighbor we should all know about, or an article to contribute? Submissions from all ages are welcome. Please contact us at [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org).

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Volunteers are always needed and welcome! Please call 866-837-1006 or email [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org)

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Areas where I can help out in the coming year:

- Event Planning: ☐ Street Sale ☐ Garden Walk ☐ Ice Cream Social ☐ Fall Festival  
☐ Membership outreach ☐ Gardening ☐ Finance  
☐ GreenSpace initiatives ☐ Planning and Development ☐ Bee delivery  
☐ Public Art initiatives ☐ Communications (newsletters, website, email, Facebook)

Please take a moment to answer the questions below. Your answers will help us focus our efforts on your behalf.

What year did you move to Bowmanville? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in a house or multi-unit building? ☐ House ☐ Multi-unit (>2 units)

How many adults (18-65) are in your household? \_\_\_\_ How many seniors (over 65) are in your household? \_\_\_\_

How many children (under 18) are in your household? \_\_\_\_

What type of new BCO programming would interest you? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or feedback? \_\_\_\_\_

## BCO Calendar of Events

*(Committee contacts listed on page 1; check website for schedule updates)*



MAY 9	Garden Planting – Westgate Garden	6pm until dusk
MAY 19	Garden Cleanup – Bowmanville Garden	9:30am-3:30pm
JUN 2	Annual Bowmanville Street Sale	
JUN 13	Garden Cleanup – location TBD	6pm until dusk
JUN 23	Garden Cleanup – location TBD	9:30am-3:30pm
JUL 7	Annual Bowmanville Garden Walk	
JUL 11	Garden Cleanup – location TBD	6pm until dusk
JUL 28	Garden Cleanup – location TBD	6pm until dusk
AUG 12	Annual Bowmanville Ice Cream Social	
OCT 13	Annual Bowmanville Fall Festival & RPMS Pumpkin Patch	
OCT 25	BCO Board Election & Open Meeting	