

Bowmanville Bee



The Bowmanville neighborhood is bordered by Foster, Rosehill Cemetery, Ravenswood and Western. Visit our website at www.bcochicago.org.

Summer 2017

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Community
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www.bcochicago.org

2017 BCO Garden Walk Draws a Crowd

On July 8, more than 300 neighbors and visitors participated in the 19th Annual Bowmanville Garden Walk, which featured 17 residential gardens, three community gardens, and the BCO GreenSpace. The perfect 78-degree weather and the neighborliness of everyone involved made it a very enjoyable experience.

The event gave Walkers a chance to witness the gardening skills of Bowmanville residents, have questions answered by Master Gardeners, and get ideas for their own gardens. And it gave participating gardeners an opportunity to have their handiwork evaluated by judges, hear their suggestions for improvements, and win awards recognizing their green-thumb prowess.

Many Wonderful Gardens — and Gardeners

This year the judges recognized eight Blue Ribbon gardens (90 to 100 points), and three Red Ribbon gardens (80 to 89 points). This was the first year for all the gardens to be recognized only in the top two categories — showing how

good Bowmanville gardeners are getting!

Russ Klettke was awarded the **Best in Show** Purple ribbon for many thoughtful changes to his parkway and back yard gardens. Russ experimented with form and content in his garden over the last several years, and this has resulted in a beautiful harmony of native plants, vegetables, ornamentals and reclaimed hardscaping materials. The judges commended him for taking chances and learning from experiments. Russ also had handouts for visitors about natural resources conservation, native plants and the benefits of the techniques he uses in his garden.

See the full list of awards, more detail and photos on page 10.



Jeff Graves photo titled "Corner Joy" won the 2017 Garden Photo contest



Russ Klettke was awarded Best in Show



Bowmanville Summer Social

Saturday August 12, 1pm-6pm
Bowmanville Ave at Bell Ave
- Food - raffle - music -
NEW this year: a water slide!
(bring bathing suits)





Communications Committee Stay Informed!

Events Committee

Gardening Committee

Membership Makes it Happen!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Bowmanville's community newsletter, The Bowmanville Bee, is published quarterly with the goal of sharing the neighborhood buzz and promoting local business. Managing Editor Tim Noworyta, Layout Editor Claire Shingler and Ad Manager Ann Scholhamer work closely with BCO members and neighbors to gather and present the local stories that help make Bowmanville the unique and proud community it's become. The Bee urges the submission of relevant content to news@bcochicago.org. **If you are good with layout and would like to get involved, we could use an extra set of hands. Current layout is done with templates in either PUBLISHER or MAC's PAGES software.**

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 and email eBlasts for timely or urgent announcements. We also manage our BCO hotline (773) 349-2268 and have joined twitter! **We are seeking a new volunteer to act as editor for the email eBlasts 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.

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! Next up is our **Annual Summer Social August 12**. **If you can help let us know! We need help to make it happen.** We are always looking for new twists for annual events and new event ideas. Following our informal Bee Social concept, we also have a First Friday's happy hour series underway with the next one August 4. **Contact events@bcochicago.org** with an idea for a next Bee Social or to pitch in on any event.

The BCO Gardening Committee continues to enhance and maintain our community garden spaces. We are thankful for our volunteers and still need the help of the whole community as we endeavor to improve our natural surroundings. We look to the entire community to join our efforts in implementing a sensible and enduring stewardship plan for all of our open spaces. For more details and to pitch in contact the garden committee at gardening@bcochicago.org or on our phone line (773) 349-2268. Please join any workdays when you see volunteers in the gardens. The scheduled work dates are posted online and included in the Bee's calendar (back page). Join the gardening email list on the BCO website.

The Membership Committee focuses on ways to continually engage and support our community and grow our membership base. We reach out to new neighbors and new and renewing members to help match their interests with needs in the community. **Our next Open Meeting is October 19**. Reach out via email at membership@bcochicago.org. Get involved, you won't regret it!

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 (P&D) committee gathers periodically to discuss issues of change, development and improvement of our fine community. P&D interacts with local residents, businesses, and the Alderman's office to influence the evolution of our community. The P&D committee meets as issues arise. Reach out to the chair of P&D with ideas and feedback or to join the committee's email list planning@bcochicago.org.

The BCO acts as a steward for the green space at 5384 N. Bowmanville Avenue and for our community gardens along Bowmanville and Ravenswood Avenues. We also continue to look for opportunities to expand and improve on green space in our community. We need your help as we continue to move forward with our goal of ensuring Bowmanville is one of the greenest, most livable communities in Chicago. **We are currently raising funds to make the Gateway Garden at Ravenswood a permanent and expanded urban garden.** Please contact greenspace@bcochicago.org to get involved.

The Public Art committee was formed in 2010 to explore the idea of a mural in the Berwyn pedestrian tunnel at Ravenswood. That idea became reality very quickly! A restoration of the painted interior took place Summer 2016. If you see graffiti in that mural contact berwynmural@gmail.com. You can also contact publicart@bcochicago.org to get involved or with new ideas.

Community News

Letter from the BCO President

Dear Neighbors,

What an exciting year for BCO! In light of our many neighborhood developments and events, it's easy to forget about the volunteers who make them happen. I would like to (once again) give a shout out to those who contributed to making Bowmanville even more amazing.

To Laura and Bill Schmidt, Barbara and Mike Kraetsch, Craig Hanenburg, Jean Niederman, and Wendy Fairchild: Thank you for making the 2017 Street Sale a triumph! And Frank Ciucur, thank you for hosting the post-party at Leadway.

To Craig Hanenburg: Thank you for all of your fabulous work on the 2017 Garden Walk, and for hosting such an impressive after-party! Moreover, thank you for facilitating such an amazing Garden Walk for the last two decades! To Jeff Graves, Stephanie Cisneros, Becky Lyons, Wendy Fairchild, Mona Yaeger, Stew Weiss, Barbara and Mike Kraetsch, Scott Smith, Shelly Fane, Marty White, Peter McFadden, Robert Nicklas, David Johnston, Thom Heil, Juliet Cella, Billy Kuczek (Jr. & Sr.), Kate Clark, Dave Connor, and our youngest volunteer, Sophia Connor: Thank you for making the Garden Walk run smoothly.

To David Johnston, B.A. Church, Craig Hanenburg, Joe Charles, Peter McFadden, Nancy Polzin, Catherine McCulloch, Teresa Gale, Stew Weiss, Johanna Polzin, Stephanie Cisneros, and many more: Thank you for maintaining our spectacular community gardens!

To Sean Mullin and Ann Scholhamer: Thank you for organizing the Summer Social, it's a treat Bowmanville's adults and kiddos love.

To Mona Yaeger, Claire Shingler, Ann Scholhamer, Suzanne Tenney, Dan Lias, Kate Clark, Sean Mullin, Jeff Graves, Jack Beaupied, Craig Hanenburg, Barbara & Michael Kraetch, Beth Emperor and the many other BCO volunteers I did not see myself at RoT: Thank you for making the second annual Ravenswood on Tap a smashing success!

To Tim Noworyta, Claire Shingler, Ann Scholhamer and everyone who contributes to and those who deliver the *Bowmanville Bee*: Thank you for your assiduous efforts making our newsletter the envy of other organizations.

To Stew Weiss and Jeff Graves, Ann Scholhamer, Claire Shingler, Teresa Gale: While I'm sure many thanks are still to come, thank you for putting such tremendous time and energy towards the Gateway Garden project. It is becoming more of a reality with each passing day. Thanks to all the fundraising ambassadors and donors and volunteers who have stepped up!

Finally, a heartfelt thank-you to every BCO member! Your contributions of time, money, feedback and ideas, as well as your participation in neighborhood meetings and events, strengthen our community and enable us to improve it. If you volunteered and I neglected to mention you, thank you, too!

I am continually honored and humbled to witness all the BCO accomplishments. Please join a committee or project (contacts on page 2) to keep our community thriving!

See you at Bowmanville's First Friday and Summer Social soon.

William Ferguson, BCO President

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Ravenswood on Tap II — A Fun Way to Support Bowmanville

by Mona Yaeger, BCO Membership Committee

Ravenswood on Tap is one of several events the BCO puts on throughout the year - some on our own and some in partnership with other organizations. As a volunteer group of residents who build community, the BCO can't do what we do without the participation, time and interest of neighbors like you. Thanks to Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce and all who helped with Ravenswood on Tap! It gave everyone involved a fun way to support the BCO, and we hope that even more of you will join the fun of next year's beer fest.



The 2nd Annual **Ravenswood on Tap** was held June 24 and 25. In 2016, the craft beer fest was held outside Empirical Brewery on Ravenswood at Foster, where the crowd of beer fans overwhelmed the venue. This year it was moved south to a larger location at Ravenswood and Berteau to accommodate more craft beer lovers. This year's fest included many of the breweries in the newly dubbed "Malt Row" corridor, including Bowmanville neighbors Half Acre Beer Company, Spiteful Brewing, Empirical Brewery and KOVAL Distillery. In addition to great libations, the well-attended event featured local bands with Bowmanville connections: Willy Dynamite, Trick Shooter Social Club, and Dan Rico along with more great acts. Tasty food was on the menu from local vendors Cevapcici, Lucila's Homemade, Luella's Southern Kitchen, Mrs. Murphy & Son's Irish Bistro and Yum Dum.

BCO members assisted with event planning, and staffed the event. In return, the BCO received a share of the revenue and also ran a Bowmanville Bounty Raffle. Two friends of Bowmanville - **Pat Burns and Cynthia Brown (Brownie!)** - won the raffle, which BCO created to raise funds for the Gateway Garden project. They took home prizes from local vendors including I Monelli Trattoria, Metropolitan Brewing, Half Acre, Spiteful, Claddagh Ring Pub, Ampersand Wine Bar, DueLire Vino & Cucina and more!



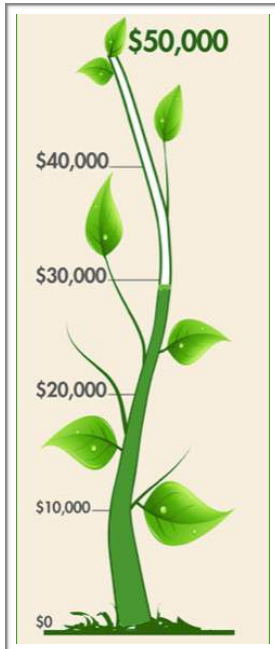
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Gateway Garden Fundraising Effort Going Strong

Neighbors, we have some exciting news to share.

Our Gateway Garden campaign is at 60%, having raised \$29,428 of the \$50,000 goal as of July 29! We have more pledged money coming in from summer events and are well on our way. With your support, we feel sure we will meet the goal.



Thank you to every single neighbor and friend of Bowmanville who has offered time, money, hospitality, energy and support to this campaign thus far.

This is happening! All eyes are on the prize now: a beautiful, PERMANENT, expanded community space for ALL to gather and grow. By now, you know the space we are purchasing is at Balmoral and Ravenswood Avenue, along the west side of the Metra tracks. Be part of it!

The BCO and community members are overwhelmed by the support for this project. We knew we could do this, but our expectations have been exceeded in that we have raised \$30,000 through 145 donors in just 10 short weeks. This incredible progress highlights the level of interest and commitment to this project. Organizational donors have played a big role, including Rogers Park Montessori, West Andersonville Neighbors Together, and Congressman Mike Quigley IL-05. With NeighborSpace support, we have funds lined up with Driehaus Foundation and the city of Chicago to support us once we meet our community goal. Our end goal is in sight!

As we close in on our fundraising goal we will start to plan our community design process. Interested neighbors will be able to participate in bringing concepts to life as we design and implement plans for this permanent, expanded garden space.

But first, we must get to \$50,000. Can you make a gift? Host a party? Talk it up?

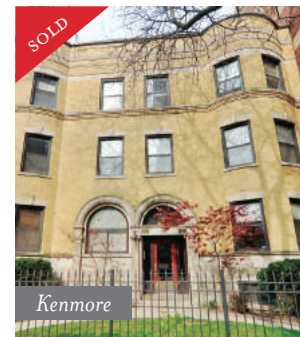
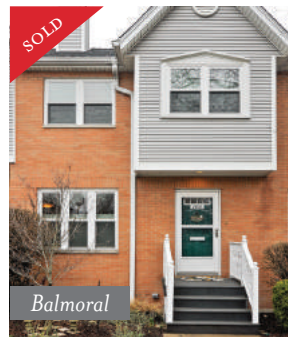
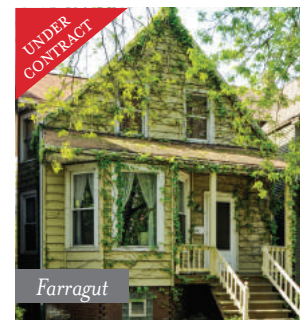
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BCO puts the FUN in FUNdraising for the Gateway Garden

The FUNdraising has involved quite a bit of FUN as neighbors have come together in many ways so far to support the expansion and preservation of the Gateway Garden.

We are grateful to all who came out to a wide variety of events. 36 neighbors slung beer at Andersonville's Midsommarfest, more than 40 staffed Ravenswood on Tap, many hawked goods and donated proceeds from the BCO Street Sale, a large team staffed our Garden Walk, and we also held raffles for a fabulous Bowmanville Bounty of local goods & services. There have been neighbor initiated events including Namaskar yoga, theatre at Victory Gardens, and the Bee Fit fitness festival where all or a portion of ticket sales have supported our effort. Four times so far we've also had matching gift campaigns running thanks to generous neighbors and partner organizations like West Andersonville Neighbors Together.

We are especially grateful to four blocks who came together to encourage neighbors to give:



- **2100 Summerdale/Hoyne neighbors** joined Ann Scholhamer and Jeff Graves to kick off the summer at a Memorial Weekend party for the cause.
- **1800 Balmoral/Summerdale neighbors** hosted a cocktail progressive organized by Diana Leifer. The block took a tour of the blue states, with drinks and morsels from a blue state at six neighbor homes on a lively Saturday night.
- **1800 Farragut** stepped up at their block party, with lots of chatter about the project and donations collected.
- **2200 Farragut** also stepped up as part of their block party where a neighbor collected funds that were matched by a generous donor on the block.



We are planning a neighbor event at Half Acre Beer Company and one at Spiteful Brewing as their taprooms open (dates TBA), a Sunday FUND day at Marty's (Oct. 27), and more!



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Biking Bowmanville: Cinder Classic Race August 20 in Winnemac Park

By Russ Klettke

If you've seen the 1979 movie *Breaking Away*, you know how it works: Bike riders race around a cinder track, trading off bikes to teammates as one competitor gets tired and a fresh rider jumps on to continue the race. Chicago's own version of that is coming to Jorndt Field at Winnemac Park on Sunday, August 20 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Participation is open to teams of two to four riders who can raise \$800 to benefit Chicago's Active Transportation Alliance (ATA).

The ATA is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and public transportation to promote public health, encourage energy-efficient transportation, and protect the environment. It's a non-governmental group that has a lot to do with how the Chicagoland area has become one of the most bike-friendly metros in the U.S., with numerous bike lanes and 125,000 daily bike trips in and around the city.

Safety First

How are the city's bike lanes working for you? Motorists are sometimes frustrated with increased bike traffic and the loss of pavement on streets such as Damen and Lawrence. And some bikers (like some motorists) are irresponsible and reckless. But Loop-area research shows that improved biking infrastructure, such as clearly marked lanes, has increased safety and promoted safer behavior.

Examples:

- On Dearborn Street in the Loop, where two-way bike lanes and bike-specific traffic signals were installed in 2012, stoplight compliance by bikers rose from 31% to 81%.
- Bike ridership rose 55% on Kinzie Street in the River North area when that street was given a protected bike lane, with 41% of those riders shifting their route from other streets. In other words, the Kinzie amenity reduced bike traffic on nearby streets but increased riding overall.
- Also on Kinzie Street, travel time for motor vehicles was slightly slowed in the eastbound traffic lanes in the morning but improved slightly in the westbound lanes. Overall, vehicular traffic moved faster most times of day.

The ATA provides many tools for individuals and families interested in bicycling more. That includes the designated bike lanes (locally found on Damen, Lawrence, Lincoln, Clark,

and Bowmanville). Also, the Family-Friendly Bikeways program, Safe Routes to School program, the Bikeways for All Campaign, and the currently-upgrading Lakefront Trail, which is separating bike from pedestrian traffic to improve safety on the Lincoln Park trail.

Our neighborhood (and city) is a great place to ride a bike. So the next time you need a few groceries, want some exercise, or would like to see what's going on in the area, hop on your bike. Just remember to wear a helmet and ride responsibly. See you at the Cinder Classic on August 20!

To learn more about bicycling in Chicago, see:

<https://www.cinderclassic.org/>

<http://activetrans.org/>

<http://www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/protected-bike-lane-statistics>



Russ Klettke has biked in Chicago since 1983, with only one trip to the emergency room in thousands of miles of biking all these years.

**Bee Social
at
Bowmanville First Fridays!**

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Many Wonderful Gardens — and Gardeners

(continued from page 1, Bowmanville Garden Walk Draws a Crowd)

Many Wonderful Gardens — and Gardeners

Beyond Russ Klettke's **Best in Show** Purple ribbon, many other gardens were recognized for their excellence. This year's **Blue Ribbon** (90–100 points) recipients were: Scott Galassini and Ernestine Bettini; Wendy Fairchild and Jim Kriegsmann; Tom Kennedy and Leavett Wofford; Russ Klettke; Emanuel Lopez; Laura Moser; Robert Tulini and Robert Di Domenico; and Maria Elena Velazquez. **Red Ribbon** recipients (80–89 points) were Diana Leifer; Jean Niederman; and Suzanne Tenney.

In addition, the review team presented three awards recognizing special achievement in gardening:

Judges Award. Maria Velazquez on Farragut Avenue was awarded the Teal Ribbon for her garden's updates and style continuity. She made several changes suggested by the judges last year, such as adding more variety to her plant selection and swapping out monochromatic pots with bright, colorful hand-painted Mexican pottery. Her husband, Mario, provided extra special hospitality.



Garden Design. Robert Tulini and Robert Di Domenico received a Gold Ribbon for garden design — only the second time in the past 12 years this award was presented. Their garden was noted for exceptional flow from the formal English front yard to the back of the property, as well as for the tranquil and private outdoor rooms created by the design.



Most Whimsical. A Maroon Ribbon was awarded to Laura Moser (shown at right) for the whimsical nature of her garden filled with sea creatures and fun mermaids that create unexpected views. Suzanne carefully selected

plants and garden accents to carry out her theme. Her new hidden seating area under her deck is a perfect addition to her already lovely garden and provides a great private and entertainment space.



Helpful Gardening Information

A favorite component of the Walk is the "Ask a Master Gardener" table, where visitors can have questions about gardening answered by Master Gardeners from The University of Illinois Extension Program, a Garden Walk partner for the past eleven years. Jackie Tanaka, Patricia Pinianski, Mattie Wilson, Reuben Rios and Susan Joy Schleif staffed the table this year.

Another team of Master Gardeners, consisting of Linda Blaser, Pat Morin and Pierre Poinsett (shown at left) worked all day to review participating gardens, advise gardeners, and serve as



judges for the Best in Show and recognition awards, which are based on such criteria as design, creative use of plants, and neighborhood enhancement. A 4-H style system with 100 possible points is used to determine the winners.



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Great Photographers, Too!

An increasingly popular part of the Garden Walk is the Garden Photography Contest. Visitors voted for one of 16 photos submitted. Taking First Place was **"Corner Joy"** by Jeff Graves (featured on page 1). His winning photo will be used next year in the 20thth Annual Garden Walk, to be held on July 14, 2018. **"Cat on the Prowl"** by Barry Kafka took second place, and **"Night in the Garden"** by Ann Scholhamer placed third. You can find those photos and more from the day on [BCO's Facebook page](#) and on the [BCO website](#).



Kudos to Our Super Volunteers and Sponsors!

The Bowmanville Garden Walk simply could not have happened without the support of the many volunteers who spent hours working on and at the event. These included Craig Hanenburg, Jeff Graves, Stephanie Cisneros, Becky Lyons, Wendy Fairchild, Mona Yaeger, Stew Weiss, Barbara and Mike Kraetsch, Scott Smith, Shelly Fane, Marty White, Peter McFadden, Robert Nicklas, David Johnston, Thom Heil, Juliet Cella, Billy Kuczek Jr. & Sr., Kate Clark, Suzanne Tenney and Dave Connor. Those staffing the Welcome Tables this year included Shelly Fane and Marty White (at Bowmanville and Bell, shown above on right) and Stephanie Cisneros and Kordian Szczeblewski (at Ravenswood and Balmoral, shown above, on left).

We especially appreciate all the Master Gardeners who provided answers to gardening questions and served as judges for the Garden Contest. And special thanks go to our wonderful donors sponsors:

- **Gethsemane Gardens** for "Best in Show" Garden and Photo Contest prizes and Master Gardener thank-you gifts
- **Thybony Paint and Wallpaper** for the paint sticks used to create our Garden Walk Map Fan
- **Jeff Graves of North Edge Group** and **Georgios Kalabogias of Farmers Insurance** for sponsoring BCO summer events and the Map Fan printing
- **Barbara O'Connor** for sponsoring the Master Gardener Review team
- **Ben's Noodles and Rice** for food at the Awards Party

We also greatly appreciate the advertisers who made the Garden Walk Color Program possible: 40th Ward Alderman Pat O'Connor, All Star Carpet Care, G.V. Jewelry, Half Acre Beer Co., K's Dugout, Kopi Café Boutique & Espresso Bar, Lincoln Square Printing, Murray & White Home Interiors and Unique Gifts, Barbara O'Connor of DreamTown, State Representative Greg Harris, and Urhausen Greenhouses. Please show your appreciation by patronizing these businesses and telling them how grateful you are for their support.

The Awards Party Caps It Off

Thanks to hosts Craig Hanenburg and Billy Kuczek, the Garden Walk again wrapped up with a most enjoyable Awards Party for volunteers, judges, and participating gardeners and photographers in Craig's backyard. In addition to providing a venue for presenting the awards and housing the photos for the Garden Photography Contest, the cozy location welcomed visitors (including Congressman Mike Quigley) with food, wine, desserts and a chance to meet and talk gardening and other things with Bowmanville folk. Encore, Craig!

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BCO Street Sale a Super (and Not Soggy!) Success

By Laura Schmidt

The questions started coming the Wednesday before the annual Bowmanville Street Sale on Saturday, June 3: Is the sale still on? Is there a rain date? Have you seen the weather report?

We had indeed seen the weather report – a 90% chance of rain on Saturday! It wasn't looking good.

Thankfully, Chicago forecasts are rarely accurate. By the time Saturday rolled around, we had perfect weather!

Record-breaking Participation

We celebrated not only the weather, but a record-breaking number of participants – nearly 100 homes hosted sales this year. Many sellers reported excellent sales (and, of course, cleared out their basements/attics for a profit), and the bargain hunters rejoiced in their fantastic finds. For example, one shopper was able to supply a mom-to-be with everything from a Pack-n-Play, car seat and high chair to baby clothes and baby bottles for about \$100. Jewelry, kid's toys, lamps, tools and home goods were also hot items – not to mention the lemonade stands run by enterprising Bowmanville youth. Generous folks even raised \$1009 for the Gateway Garden through their sales! It was quite a day.

Looking forward to another great Bowmanville Street Sale in 2018 – see you then!

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Area Events to Note

- **Andersonville now has a Girl Scout Troop**, and it's accepting new members. To sign up your daughter (starting with girls entering grades K-3) for this troop, go to the Girl Scout website, <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/join.html> and look for Troop 25657. The troop will meet one Saturday a month, starting in September. If you have questions or might be interested in volunteering with us, contact katrinelikesart@gmail.com.
- **The Chicago Walk to End Alzheimer's** will take place on Sunday, September 24, 2017, starting at 10:00 am at Montrose Harbor. If you are interested in registering for this 5K Walk and starting up a team to help raise funds to combat Alzheimer's, or have questions about this event, please visit act.alz.org/chicago2017 or contact Jennifer Miller at 317-409-2535 or Jennifer.miller353@gmail.com. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.
- **Donna Urbikas**, formerly a longtime Bowmanville resident, will give a talk entitled, "Poland in Chicago: Chicago in Poland" at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln, during Polish Heritage Month. She will also be part of an author panel discussion on "The Power of Identity" at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave. Donna is the author of *My Sister's Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile and Stalin's Siberia*. For more information, visit danutaurbikas.com.



Public Art Coming to West Ridge Nature Preserve

The West Ridge Nature Preserve on Western at Ardmore has been chosen by group of community members as the site of the 40th Ward's 50x50 Neighborhood Arts Project. The 50x50 program was inspired by Chicago's 50 Wards and the 50th anniversary of two major art projects, the Picasso statue in Daley Plaza and the Wall of Respect that once stood on the South Side. Representatives from community groups including BCO, ASNA, WANT, WEAR, GRO, NEW and the West Ridge Nature Preserve aided in the selection process. The new art piece will be located near the entrance of the preserve and will be a mosaic art of some kind by Green Star Movement (greenstarmovement.org), a nonprofit that involves students and community members in the design and installation of public art. There will be opportunities for volunteers from our community to work on the art piece. Watch for their survey to help influence the piece.

Whether you're currently considering a move, or it's still some time down the road, now is the time to begin the process. Your first step is easy:
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Enjoy Bewitching Shakespeare Storytelling in Winnemac Park!

By Sabine Cummins



Every August for the last few years, I have brought a blanket and picnic basket and gone with my family and friends to Winnemac Park to enjoy terrific open-air mashups of Shakespeare's plays by actors from

Shakespeare's Motley Crew (SMC - smcplays.org) The experience is engaging, fun and very different from your usual picnic outing. The scenes are so compelling that Last year, my one-year-old daughter wanted to interact with the actors. Best of all, the performance is free!

SMC's *Midsummer Mayhem5 – The Very Witching Hour* runs every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening in August. Shows start at 7:00 pm, with a parade and preshow at 6:30 pm. The performance takes place on the Argyle St. side of the main Winnemac Park path at the Seeley fork near the playground — there's a grove of trees that serves as a



backdrop. Bring a blanket, bring a picnic, bring your imagination and see Shakespeare scenes as you've never seen them before!

I feel fortunate to live in such a

wonderful neighborhood, where I can experience great shows without getting in my car or buying an expensive theatre ticket. It's as simple as going to the park and taking in the outstanding performances right in front of you. I walk away with a big smile every time. Give it a whirl if you want to experience wonderfully entertaining theatre for both kids and adults.

Because SMC takes a different approach to Shakespeare, I interviewed the Artistic Director, Laura Jones Macknin, and the show's Director, William Sidney Parker, to learn more about their company. They are both long-time Ravenswood residents, living a block from Winnemac Park for the last 20 years.

How long have you been producing Shakespeare? How many summers have you been doing this?

We've been producing Shakespeare around Chicago since 1992 and have performed about half the canon, including blockbusters like "Titus Andronicus" and "King John," as well as works by Dexter and Middleton and some modern goofs on Shakespeare). We've been performing "Midsummer Mayhem" in Winnemac Park since 2013. Each year we create a new mashup of fun scenes.

What first gave you the idea to bring Shakespeare to Winnemac Park?

I've have lived in the area for many years. I'm also a runner and was training for the marathon in and around the park. As a veteran of many outdoor Shakespeare productions in far flung places like Lake Forest, I remember thinking (during an 18-mile run), this is SUCH a perfect setting for Shakespeare — if I don't contribute something to this lovely park, I will have missed a great opportunity and will never forgive myself.

Why do you think the plays Shakespeare has endured for so long and are still popular today?

It sounds cliched to say 'timeless' but they really are — look at the new Starz series 'Will' — Will Shakespeare reimagined as Elizabethan punk. We actually did a punk theme to "Midsummer Mayhem" last summer and it was amazing how well "Merry Wives of Windsor" and the "Macbeth" witches and the "King Lear" finale confrontation fit the theme. Shakespeare gives us human stories and extraordinary language and utterly recognizable living breathing people. What you add on top makes it relevant to our particular time and place.

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Shakespeare Storytelling in Winnemac Park!

(continued from page 14)

What does the atmosphere at Winnemac Park bring to your productions?

So much fun! – as well as chaos, dogs, children, ice cream carts and real life. It *feels* Elizabethan (The Globe was not a hushed auditorium). For each performance, we come into the park and make a lot of noise singing and dancing along the path to drum up the audience. We tell people: We're only 45 minutes and family friendly and there are lots of fights and music, so come see the show! We always get loads of children stopping by when the fights are going on (apparently swords are irresistible!). We also get people with tablecloths and picnic baskets.

What are the advantages and challenges of doing outdoor theatre?

The advantages are many: It's real life — we use found objects, like trees to climb in the middle of a scene. Because we are free, open to the public, informal and family friendly, we reach audiences who would never go to a formal theatre. Also, we get the ability to interact with the audience (last year an actor made a bit out of stealing food...) and we get to know and perform for our neighbors.

The advantage of *Shakespeare* outdoors is how *easy* he is to understand. You might not know Shakespeare at all, you may be hustling your kid home for her bedtime, but glance over at the show and you will know, your kid will know, who is the bad guy and who is the good guy, or that he loves her and she does *not* love him. People get caught up on the details of Shakespeare's language but the fact is you don't have to be an English professor or an actor to understand Shakespeare and enjoy his stories. We think Shakespeare's part of the good life and far more accessible than most folk realize. Don't worry about the meter and metaphors, just enjoy the show.

The disadvantages are mainly sound-related – it's hard to compete with airplanes overhead and construction vehicles on Damen. We're working on a capital campaign to get some formal infrastructure like mics (believe it or not, a good system for 10 actors costs upwards of \$8k). And of course we'd *love* a semi-permanent stage that could be set up at the beginning of the run and stored in the park district over the winter. We're working on that too!

What draws you personally to Shakespeare? To live performing?

Well, me personally, I'm a bit of a drama lover, so it doesn't get much better than (I'm quoting a review here) "losing your mind under the stars." But I love saying Shakespeare's words out loud, seeing them land with an audience, seeing an audience invest in Romeo and Juliet's relationship or Feste's sadness or Isabella's dilemma or Macbeth's struggle of conscience.

Also, I just *love* Shakespeare's witches, which just happens to be our theme this year – Shakespeare's witches in a lot of different guises. We're making a game, "Spot the Witch," of guessing how some of the scenes were chosen. As for live performance: Well, you never know how it's going to end, do you?

For more information: visit www.smclplays.org or www.facebook.com/SmcPlays.



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PRINT SPECIALS

Bowmanville Bee - Summer 2017

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Deadline for the Next Bee: Sept 11

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Areas where I can help out in the coming year:

- Event Planning: ☐ Street Sale ☐ Garden Walk ☐ Summer Social ☐ Fall Event (TBD)
☐ 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)



Aug 4	First Friday Happy Hour meetup	5pm-8pm @ Ampersand Wine Bar
Aug 10	Gardening Evening Gateway Garden	6pm until dusk @ Gateway Garden
Aug 9	Police Beat 2012 CAPS Meeting	7PM @ 1609 W Gregory
Aug 12	Bowmanville Summer Social	1PM-6PM @ Bowmanville Ave at Bell Ave
Aug 17	Board Meeting	7PM Location TBA
Aug 19	Half Acre's Big North event	see Half Acre website or FB for details
Sept 11	Fall BEE DEADLINE (for October issue)	news@bcochicago.org
Sept 13	Gardening Evening Gateway Garden	6pm until dusk - Gateway Garden on Ravens
Sept 21	BCO Board Meeting	7PM Location TBA
Sept 23	Gardening Day Bowmanville & GreenSpace	9:30 AM til 3:30PM
Oct 6	First Friday Happy Hour meetup	Location TBA - check BCO Facebook
Oct 10	Gateway Gardening Evening	6pm until dusk @ Gateway Garden
Oct 11	Police Beat 2012 CAPS Meeting	7PM @ 1609 W Gregory
Oct 19	Bowmanville OPEN MEETING & SOCIAL	7PM, location TBA - check website or BCO F
Oct 28	Gardening Day Bowmanville & WestGate	9:30 AM til 3:30PM

CHECK OUT THE BCO WEBSITE! www.bcochicago.org