

Bowmanville Bee



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

Winter 2010

Who's who in the BCO

OFFICERS

President

CLAIRE SHINGLER

President@bcochicago.org

Vice President

LIZ GABBARD

VP@bcochicago.org

Secretary

JOHN PARAOAN

Secy@bcochicago.org

Treasurer

JIM YORTON

Treasurer@bcochicago.org

BCO BOARD

Otto Barone

B.A. Church

Amy Gawura

Mandel Goodkin

Jeff Graves

Jim Hannon

Mona Majeed

John Maloney

Kris Neurauter

Wes Salsbury

Justin Villar

Barbara Wolke

COMMITTEES

Events

OPEN

Events@bcochicago.org

Gardening

ANNE BOYLE/BETTY REDMOND

Gardening@bcochicago.org

Membership

STEPHANIE MARDER

Membership@bcochicago.org

Planning and Development

JEFF GRAVES

Planning@bcochicago.org

Communications

OPEN

Comm@bcochicago.org

Greenspace

ANNE BOYLE

Greenspace@bcochicago.org

BCO Bowmanville
Community
Organization
www.bcochicago.org
1-866-837-1006

Letter from the President

Hello Bowmanville! I am excited and honored to be working on behalf of our community in the role of BCO president for 2010. I have been living in the Bowmanville neighborhood for the last 4 years, and have worked closely with outgoing president Craig Hanenburg as vice president of the BCO the previous 2 years. Craig's enthusiasm for our community and his passion for the BCO have been evident and I hope to build on his success. Many thanks to him for his service and his ongoing commitment to serving our community.

Bowmanville is a diverse and thriving community of which I am happy to be a part. As a newcomer to Chicago, I have found this community to be welcoming. Through volunteering, as we were settling into the neighborhood, I have made connections that make Bowmanville feel like home for my family. This is very important to me whether I have lived somewhere for a few or for many years. Thank you for allowing us to quickly become integrated into the community. I hope that all residents of Bowmanville share my experience. As president of the BCO I hope to ensure that we serve as a vehicle for enabling exactly that – the integration of residents into the fabric of our community.

The purpose of the Bowmanville Community Organization is to work to 'ensure the interests of the community are being met'. In order to ensure that our individual and collective interests are being met, we must first engage and know one another. Not just your immediate neighbors but people across the neighborhood. The BCO provides a myriad of ways to accomplish this through attending or helping with our annual events and open meetings, getting involved in committee work, rolling up your sleeves in one of our 3 lovely community gardens, or stepping forward to propose a new project or activity.

The BCO is here to connect people in the community, to draw out what are the interests of the community. Two of my goals as president are to foster increased new membership and increased engagement of our existing membership. The organization is strong, but at 200+ members still represents just a fraction of the ~1500 households within Bowmanville's boundaries. At \$12 annually,

the cost of membership is low and the benefits are numerous. I would describe the primary benefit as connectedness. Your integration into the fabric of Bowmanville is more than about joining, though. You must become active – discuss issues with your neighbors and work with us to do something about the things you care about.

Along the lines of connectedness, I want to highlight the ways the BCO communicates with residents. The Bowmanville Bee, our hardcopy newsletter, continues to be our vehicle for reaching all members of the community. The BCO website has undergone a major overhaul in the last year and is another excellent source for info on what's happening. A new Facebook site is in place now for real-time communication – so join us there as well. And finally we use our email list (join via the website) for electronic newsletters and other 'e-blasts'.

One thing we really need is a two-way conversation, so most importantly, please join us in person – at our open meetings and events, and in our committees. Give us a call or drop a note. I look forward to knowing you.

–Claire Shingler

BCO Warm Up

February 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Come to the **North Community Bank** for the first 2010 **BCO General Membership Meeting!**

Warm up with a cup of hot cocoa and cookies and find out what is planned for the BCO in 2010.



Topics include-Block Captain Program, Public Art, and lots more exciting news!

Free Raffle! • Visit with your neighbors! • We hope to see you there!

Check us out on the web
www.bcochicago.org

Or join us on facebook

www.facebook.com/bcochicago



BCO GARDENING COMMITTEE FINISHES A REMARKABLE YEAR

Billy Kuczek



As outgoing chairman of the BCO Gardening Committee, for which I served for the last two years, I am happy to report that our Bowmanville community continues to be a leader in Chicagoland gardening. We have three great community gardens supported by the efforts of many volunteers and creative leaders.

This past year the Bowmanville Community Garden won first place in Mayor Daley's Landscape Awards, (Region 2), the Gateway Garden was greatly expanded by adding vegetable plots and a pergola, the Westgate Garden was expanded on the Bowmanville Avenue side, and we solidified our "Welcome to Beautiful Bowmanville" signs with new concrete bases. The Gateway garden received its own new sign that will be updated again this year, and the green space on Bowmanville Avenue now features a drive-by sign for publicizing BCO community events. The Bowmanville Garden Walk and our community's residential gardens were featured in Chicagoland Gardening Magazine in the September/October issue.

This summer, volunteers weeded, trimmed, and tended the gardens, and made new friends with the creation of the 18 vegetable plots along Ravenswood Avenue. The Bowmanville Garden was expanded on the east with a new planting area that was used to exhibit the Chicago "One Seed" program, and next spring will explode with over 100 new tulips. The path through the garden was partially reclaimed and is now defined with wood chips, so walking through the area is easier. This summer, the growth was so fast and big that walking through it was like trail blazing in the woods. Winter silt fences have been erected around critical garden areas to protect from salt damage.

Betty Redmond, B.A. Church and Anne Boyle have been our garden angels and I want to personally thank them for all their efforts. Betty was recently honored by GreenNet as "Community Greener of the Year" and she is truly a wonderful resource to our gardening efforts and is a community organizer who works to make Beautiful Bowmanville a **GREAT** place to live.

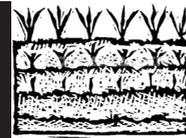


GARDEN COMMITTEE

The next Garden Committee meetings are February 10th and March 10th, 7 PM at the Tempel Steel Training Room. Garden workdays resume the 4th Saturday morning - 9:30 AM, and 2nd Wednesday evening - 6 PM, of each month, beginning March 27th.

When the garden is dormant, the gardening committee keeps busy with its plans for 2010. The new co-chairs of this committee, Anne Boyle and Betty Redmond have already met with garden volunteers, collecting feedback from 2009, and launching new initiatives to increase participation at the Bowmanville and Westgate gardens.

Please join us, and help make Bowmanville a greener place to live!



Vegetable Plots Available for 2010!

The Gateway Garden Vegetable Plots, at 1801 W. Balmoral, are available to gardeners interested in growing vegetables and edible plants in the 2010 growing season!

Requests will be received via gardening@bcochicago.org or at our toll free phone number 1-866-837-1006, beginning **January 1, 2010 through February 13, 2010.**

Gardeners must be members of the BCO (\$12), to be eligible to receive a plot rental. The cost of renting the plot has remained the same low price of \$10!

Gardeners are also required to contribute a minimum of ten volunteer hours each season to the BCO community garden of their choice. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by March 1, 2010.

The raised beds are 10' X 10', and 8" deep. Because gardeners were willing to share plots, the 18 available beds provided food to over 30 families and individuals. This year, one plot will be held in reserve, to grow fresh produce for a local food pantry. Veteran gardener, Jon Bjork has graciously agreed to plant and tend this garden. Any volunteers interested in helping him, please let us know through the contact information mentioned above.

Much has changed at Gateway Garden since our first installation of raised beds back in April '09, followed by the building of the pergola and planting the common area in October '09. New improvements are in the works. Be a part of this wonderful community project, meet and enjoy your neighbors, and produce the ingredients for some tasty meals for you, your family and friends!

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Nadeen Kieren
Shepherd

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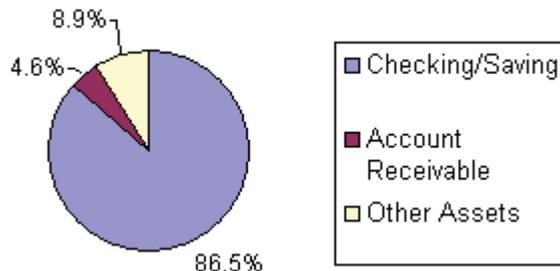
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BCO TREASURER'S REPORT*Jim Yorton*

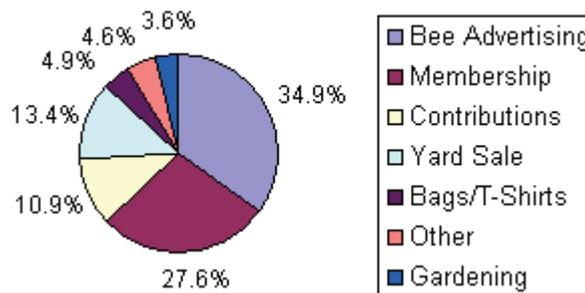
Do you wonder how your BCO membership dues are spent or how the BCO events and Bee are financed? The BCO is able to support all of its events from revenues generated from membership and event fees, and the Bowmanville Bee is almost entirely supported by advertisers.

The charts below will help you better understand how your money is spent. Your support is greatly appreciated!

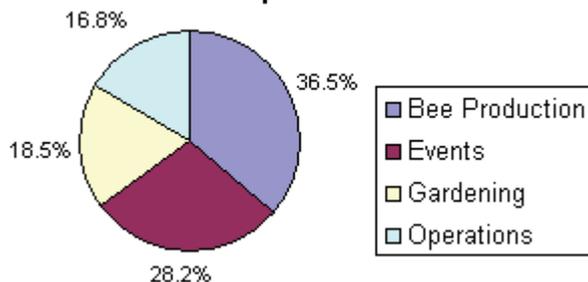
January 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009

BCO Assets

TOTAL ASSETS: \$2,216.64

BCO Income

TOTAL INCOME: \$9,035.26

BCO Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$6,818.62

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Membership Committee meets the second Monday of each month with the next meeting scheduled for January 11, 2010 at 7 PM, location TBD. Please contact membership@bcochicago.org for location, updates, and more details. Plans for 2010 include recruiting committee chairs to fill vacancies on the Communications and the Events Committee, and building stronger committees with broader volunteer bases.

The Membership Committee will host the BCO General Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 18th at 7 PM at the North Community Bank. Topics include - Block Captain Program, Public Art, and lots more exciting news.

Committee member Liz Gabbard, together with Ian Laing and Adam Gotskind, is spearheading a Block Captain Program in response to a recent increase in notable crimes in the area. The potential for a public art project is also being explored by local artist, Sarah Laing.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

P&D commonly meets the last Monday of the Month. Due to the holidays, their next meeting will be on January 25th at 7:30 PM. P&D focuses on three major areas that serve as a guide for the committee's activities: Zoning and Development, Community Maintenance and Improvements, and Business Community Development.

At the last Planning and Development Community meeting on December 7th, P&D committee members selected Jeff Graves as the committee chairperson for 2010. The committee then reviewed the status of their major projects and considered possible actions for 2010. The committee has also completed a 'Focus Statement' which acts as a procedural guideline for the committee. The Focus Statement was presented and approved at the BCO board meeting in December.

**Bowmanville Bee**

The Bee Production Team welcomes Adrian Ruddock. Thanks, Adrian, for all of your hard work and new design elements for this edition of the Bowmanville Bee!

The Edible Schoolyard

“How we eat can change the world.”

-Alice Waters, founder of the Edible Schoolyard and Chez Panisse Restaurant in Berkeley, CA

When we started the concept of an “Edible Schoolyard” at Rogers Park Montessori School (RPMS) it seemed a daunting task. We had many questions, and although some of these questions are still a work in progress, we were able to get a great start on the garden this summer. Through planning sessions with Debbie Senoff-Langford and through the graciousness of Betty Redmond of the Bowmanville Community Organization, we were able to secure a plot along the Ravenswood line and our garden was underway.

We had a lot of advice on how to plant our garden. The Ginkgo Classroom children insisted we plant “marigolds” as they had learned that marigolds deter pests. The Catalpa Classroom children painted our beautiful “Edible Schoolyard” sign which hangs in front of the garden now. We started by imagining the most fragrant herbs and the sweetest fruits and hardiest vegetables. We wanted to engage the children’s sense of smell and touch. For instance – they can pick Rosemary and feel the texture and smell the wonderful aroma. We wanted to make the garden as inviting for the children as possible. We planted the produce in quadrants, with boards in between so the children could walk through the garden, and placed signs identifying the different items.

We implemented the concept of companion gardening,

planting two or more plants of different species together for some cultural benefit such as integrated pest management without chemicals, or for higher yield of crops. It helps to enhance growth rate and the flavor of other plants. We planted basil near tomatoes and beets next to onions and our pumpkins and squash near marigolds. Some of the other foods the RPMS garden contains are grapes – which were a huge favorite of both children and teachers the first week of school, kale, lettuces, and watermelon just to name a few.

We have many parent volunteers, for whom we are so thankful. They come out and water, and weed and help to harvest the garden as it becomes plentiful. Their children come out as well – to help and to learn about the food they were growing, caring for and eventually eating. The garden is a great way to engage the children. Time spent working in the garden cultivates interest in the food. If the students have hands on experience, they foster a deeper appreciation for healthy foods and have the benefit of promoting environmental well being.

The Edible Schoolyard is based on the premise that by going through the process of choosing fruits, vegetables, and herbs to plant, planting them, nurture and harvest, children have a vested interest in the food and are much more likely to eat it. RPMS had a great start this year with our wonderful garden and have learned many things that we will incorporate into our plan for the spring.

*Giedre Trahan – mother of Conor, Ginkgo Classroom
Rogers Park Montessori School*



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Community Fall Festival a Big Success

The BCO tried a new angle for this year's celebration of Halloween and it was a great success. We partnered with local school Rogers Park Montessori (RPMS) to hold a Community Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch on Ravenswood Avenue west of the Metra tracks. The location was ideal as it allowed us to showcase our expanded Gateway Gardens which have undergone an amazing transformation this year with the addition of 18 vegetable plots and a new pergola. Attendance was high, with some estimates of around 400 people. The October 17th event featured a pumpkin patch, a bulb sale, food, garden and kids activities, a costume parade and a raffle featuring great prizes from many local venues. The festival also included fantastic bluegrass music by Hayward – a local band who donated their time and talent.



The day saw neighbors, students, families, friends and pets having fun and enjoying our community together. Congressman Mike Quigley, who continues to actively support Bowmanville and the BCO, came over on his bicycle to join the fun. Master Gardeners from the UIC Extension Gardener program joined us to offer composting tips & information, and reps from Friends of the Park talked to festival attendees about their vision for Chicago parks. Many people chipped in to help local families by contributing goods to the local charity collection point at the festival.

An army of volunteers from the BCO and from RPMS came together to make this happen. Claire Shingler led the planning for the BCO and Kelly Hague for RPMS, with many people helping them along the way. From the BCO we had more than 40 people contributing to planning and execution of the event. Many thanks to all the volunteers and to the long list of donors who contributed to the success of the event. In our busy lives, it is easy to forget that volunteers make a HUGE difference. To get involved in planning next year's event contact events@bcochicago.org.

A BIG Thank You to 2009 Fall Festival Donors:



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Bowmanville Receives Chicago Gardening Award

The Bowmanville Garden won first place in Mayor Daley's 2009 Landscape Awards Program for Region 2. This is the third time the Bowmanville Community Garden has won an award from the Mayor's program. Every year Mayor Daley hosts the awards to promote beautification in the city and garden awareness. The gardens are judged by a panel of landscape experts.

The first place award was presented to Bill Kuczek on behalf of the BCO Gardening Committee at a ceremony on November 14, 2009 at the Garfield Park Conservatory. In attendance and representing the BCO were Bill Kuczek, B.A. Church, Betty Redmond, Craig Hanenburg, and Ellen Jurczak.



Betty Redmond was awarded 2009 "Community Greener of the Year" by GreenNet on Saturday November 14, 2009. This award recognizes a gardener who is nominated by other community gardeners for their work and leadership in community gardening. A GreenNet board reviews the nominees, selects the winners and awards a monetary prize and an award certificate.

Congratulations Betty!



Your efforts and passion for Our community are appreciated by all!

2010 Neighborhood Block Party Schedule

- 2300 Farragut Block Party - July 17, 2010
- 2100 Summerdale Block Party - August 28, 2010
- Berwyn/Bell Block Party - August 28, 2010
- Bowmanville Potluck Supper - September 11, 2010

(Plan one and let us know dates so that we can help you publicize it!)

Griffin Theater Looking for New Board Members

Consider joining the Griffin Theatre board as they prepare to launch their most exciting year ever in 2010! The Griffin expects to finally get the deed to the old Foster Avenue police station which will be converted into a community arts center and the permanent home of the Griffin Theatre! They are planning to have children's theater classes and a combination senior/youth writing and performance class among others. It's all very exciting!



If this opportunity speaks to you please call **Jeff Graves** at 773-612-7203 for more information.

The BCO is now on Facebook!

By Sarah Laing



To all active facebook users and potentially new ones.... join the BCO group & fan pages! Just do a search for Bowmanville Community Organization on facebook and join! This is an opportunity to reach out and connect more with our neighbors. Please invite and encourage your friends and neighbors to join the BCO pages. BCO membership info is listed on the group page and our goal is to increase our support. We will update information about neighborhood events and invite you to post pictures and announcements that may be of interest to the association. Please let us know if you have further thoughts on how to best utilize this. Contact membership@bcochicago.org.

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Tips to Making Smart Giving Choices

By Halley T. Aldeen

The holidays can be a wonderful reminder of how lucky we are to enjoy our health, well-being, and relative prosperity. Given today's economy, however, need for basic services is growing as many people suffer the devastating effects of rising poverty and unemployment. At the same time, as more Americans tighten their belts, charitable giving is decreasing, making the non-profit sector's job even tougher.



If you are lucky enough to be in a position to give this year, you'll reap many benefits; after all, it is better to give than to receive. Charitable giving is wonderful, often providing donors with a sense of satisfaction that far outweighs the benefits to the charitable institution. That said, it is important to ensure that you have made the most of your limited charitable dollars. Here are some tips for forming a meaningful relationship with a charity:

Pick a Cause You Love

There is no shortage of need - and no shortage of organizations doing invaluable work to make our world a better place. Finding your perfect charitable partner provides you with a greater sense of purpose, engagement and fulfillment. Whether your cause is animals, the environment, children, health/disease, education, or disaster relief, there is an organization out there for you to support. If there's a cause that you feel passionate about, check out Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org), which has an exhaustive list of charities by category, to find the charity for you.

Check Out the Charity

Although most charities are honorable, stalwart organizations, you may run into an occasional scam. Before you donate money, make sure that you check out the organization's independent charity watchdog ratings. Fortunately, a wealth of online resources make it possible for you to thoroughly research an organization. First, the organization —unless it is a religious organization such as a church or a political action committee —should be organized as a 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code, meaning that it is a tax-exempt, registered charity. Second, reputable charities are members of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance, which means that they adhere to the tough standards of ethics, financial accountability, and transparency set by BBB. Finally, charities should also have good standing, or "four stars," with Charity Navigator, America's largest charity evaluator.

Maximize Your Charitable Dollars

Your gift can go farther if your employer participates in a matching giving program, which will double the impact of your donation. Additionally, find out if your employer participates in a workplace giving campaign, which can have charitable donations, in the amount you choose, taken directly from your paycheck. If your company does not participate in a workplace giving campaign and you're interested in implementing one, take a look at America's Charities, a federation of over 180 of America's best-loved charities, which can help you get one started.

Donations to charity are tax-deductible. Keep the letters of thanks for your contributions and copies of returned checks and depending on what and how much you donate, you can lower your taxable income. While donating to political causes, including election campaigns, political parties, and lobbying organizations (501(c)(4) organizations), is indeed worthy, remember that your donation may not be tax-deductible.

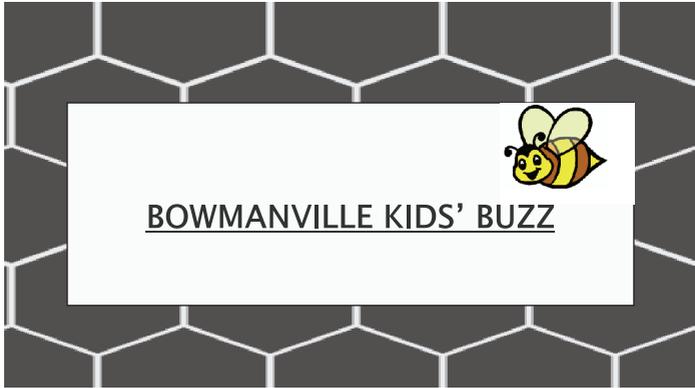
You Can Break Up with a Charity

Not all love is designed to last. You may find that once you're on a charity's mailing list, you get all sorts of unwanted solicitations. Charities often sell or rent their mailing lists. If your gift is a one-time donation or you don't want your name sold to other organizations, alert the charity. You're ultimately saving the organization the money to continually contact you.

Money Isn't Everything

Although financial support is critical to an organization's survival, do not take for granted the value of donating goods and services. Nine million American adults volunteer, providing services estimated at a value of \$239 billion annually. Volunteers are the lifeblood of an organization; for example, 66% of food pantries supplying emergency food to low-income families rely entirely on volunteers; they have no paid staff. That means that not only do the volunteers have a positive impact on service delivery, they make it entirely possible. Additionally, many charities publicize their need for in-kind gifts; don't discount the value of your old DVD player or child's bicycle to a charity in need. The BCO does a fantastic job of collecting items for donation, like coats and shoes at the Community Fall Festival. Finally, many charities conduct cause-related marketing campaigns with companies, making it possible for you to help contribute to a cause by patronizing certain stores or purchasing select services or products, like the many pink items designed to support breast cancer research and awareness charities.

No matter how you choose to help your neighbors, your country, or your planet, know that you are participating in a part of what makes America great —our desire to turn empathy into action.



BOWMANVILLE KIDS' BUZZ



The Bowmanville community is filled with wonderful neighbors of all ages! This corner of the Bee features writing from, and about, a few neighbors you should know. Congratulations to all these young neighbors who are making their dreams come true!

Megan Andrews Prepares for College Volleyball

My volleyball team is in the top eight teams in the city. Our team has not lost one game. Our first city-wide game was played on Monday, November 30, 2009.



I am very excited about the upcoming games! I am the co-captain and one of the best players. My number is 27. I have been playing volleyball for over 2 years now.



Megan Andrews front row, second on the right.

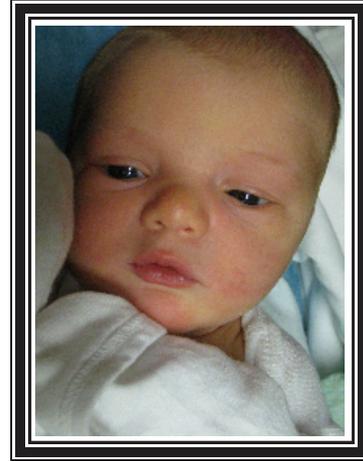
I use the green space on Bowmanville to practice volleyball in the summer. I play there for hours, sometimes. I am thankful for that space because it is very safe for all the neighborhood kids to play there. I hope to keep on playing volleyball until college. I want to be on a big 10 volleyball team when I go to college.

Megan Andrews, Bowmanville Neighbor
Age 11
6th Grade, Blaine School

Welcome August James Pitts

Some people used to say that babies came from the cabbage patch. Well, this one was certainly working in the cabbage patch, aka 'the Gateway Garden' (with his mom, Brianne Pitts) before he was even born!

Congratulations Brianne and Keith!



August James Pitts, born 11/23/09

Sam Swislow wins the Solomon School Annual Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Sam M. Swislow! For the second year in a row, this Bowmanville sixth grader has won first place in the Solomon School Annual Spelling Bee. The spelling contest is open to all students in fourth through eighth grade. Sam now moves to the regional competition. Good luck Sam!



Alex Gabbard-Sheehan Awarded Baseball Scouting Package

Alex Gabbard-Sheehan, on Bell Avenue, and a sophomore at Lane Tech College Prep High School, has been awarded a free scouting package from the National Collegiate Scouting Association for baseball. Twenty athletes from Lane Tech were awarded this scouting package. Alex will be mentored as he continues high school and will have the opportunity to be viewed by college coaches around the USA with hopes of landing a baseball scholarship. Way to go, Alex!



Simon Kafka Wins Cross Country Citywide Finals

On October 31st, Simon Kafka, of Berwyn Avenue, won the Chicago Public Schools Cross Country Citywide Finals in the 7th and 8th grade boys race. There were over 100 runners competing who qualified to run in the finals, by placing in their regional and area championships. Congratulations Simon!



Welcome Dane Fournier

Meet smilin' **Dane Fournier**, another new member of Bowmanville's green community, recently seen at swank garden award ceremonies at Garfield Park Conservatory, and around the neighborhood, too.

Dane was born August 31st, at Swedish Covenant Hospital, to proud parents Eliza and Dave Fournier, and loving big sis, Georgia.



Dane Fournier born 8/31/09

I Am A Poem by Devin

I am special and awesome
I wonder if I will ever get a turtle or puppy
I hear my classmates
I see the wall
I want a turtle and a puppy
I am special and awesome

I pretend I am a cricket
I feel happy
I touch the velvety inside of my costume
I worry about very little
I cry when I am sad or miss someone or something
I am special and awesome

I understand Bryce sometimes
I say wahoo!
I dream big
I try to be big
I hope 4th grade is awesome
I am special and awesome

Devin – Bowmanville Neighbor
Rogers Park Montessori School



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Sydney Foley Dances in the Nutcracker Suite

This holiday season, Bowmanville's own, **Sydney Foley**, a nine year old 4th grader at Hawthorne Elementary School, danced in the 25th Anniversary production of *Ballet Legere's Nutcracker Suite*. Sydney was excited to be among the cast of 120 dancers, including former members of the New York City Ballet! The production was accompanied by a full orchestra, and performed annually at the Historic Chodl Auditorium in Cicero.



Sydney auditioned in early September, and was cast in the role of Mother Ginger. She immediately began helping the production company, by selling chocolate to neighbors, to raise funds for the show. She often rehearsed twice a week, and loved her costume, complete with curly wig and make-up too!

Sydney has been dancing since the age of three, and at age seven joined the park district's Junior Jump Dance Company, located at that time, at Peterson Park. The troupe is now housed at Avondale Park.



Ballet Legere has studio locations in River Forest and Chicago. Each year, *Nutcracker Suite* matinee performances are held for school field trips. Weekend performances were open to the public.

If you have local news to share, please send this information to the *Bowmanville Bee* -

News@bcochicago.org



“Warming the Winter”

North Side Community Day of Service

Save the Date

Monday, January 18, 2009

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Last year, President Obama asked the nation to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, with a day of community service. Locally, our event in Edgewater hosted over 300 volunteers. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2010, please join elected officials and local organizations for a day of service to our community. During the day, projects will include assisting seniors with shoveling and winterizing their homes, painting rooms at a local school, and several other repair and clean up projects for local non-profits and people in need. Projects are available for participants of any age.



Participants are also encouraged to bring gently used winter clothing and unused personal care products to distribute to local non-profit Organizations. There will be two starting locations:

- 48th Ward Service Office - 5533 N. Broadway
- 47th Ward Service Office - 4237 N. Lincoln

RSVP with Jen at jen@heathersteans.com or 773-769-1717.

Homeowner Tax Relief Program

Property tax relief is now available for many Chicago Homeowners. On December 7, 2009, the city launched a new program that provides up to \$200 in relief to homeowners who earn less than \$200,000. The program is being funded by money from the lease of the city's parking meters.



Previously, a state law put a 7% cap on the annual increase in the taxable value of property. However, that law was phased out, so many homeowners are seeing a dramatic increase in their property taxes.

"During these tough economic times, we must do all we can to protect Chicago's middle-class and working families. They are the heart and soul of our city. If they don't prosper Chicago doesn't prosper and right now too many of them are struggling to make ends meet," said Gene Saffold, Chicago Chief Financial Officer.

Homeowners interested in the program should fill out an application at:

<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/>

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Book Reviews *by Susan Yessne*

Spade & Archer: The Prequel to Dashiell Hammett's The Maltese Falcon *by Joe Gores*

Through a series of cases from 1921 through 1928, author Joe Gores introduces us to private detective Sam Spade. We get the back story on Miles Archer and his wife Iva and see Spade move back to San Francisco, set up his own detective agency, hire secretary Effie Perine, deal with the police, use his many contacts, and eventually take Archer on as a partner. It has been a long time since I read any of Hammett's stories, so I can't say how faithful Gores is to his style, but this book certainly feels right. If you are a fan of The Maltese Falcon--book or movie--you will probably really enjoy it. If, by some chance, you don't know the famous movie, it is still a fun mystery to read. (*Adult fiction 337 pp, 2009*)



Bad Things Happen *by Harry Dolan*

Set in Ann Arbor, this is a wonderfully written complex mystery. There is a mystery story magazine at its center that follows the simple formula: plans go wrong, bad things happen, people die. We get the real mystery along side how it would go if it were a story in the magazine, adding layers and commentary on writing mysteries. The protagonist is a beautifully drawn typical noir unknown who is now an editor and juggler--thus not a dangerous man. This is a first mystery by Dolan; I will be looking for more. (*Adult fiction 338 pp, 2009*)



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Hunger Among our Neighbors: The "Silent Katrina"

By Laura Sabransky

In the months following Hurricane Katrina, billions of dollars in donations poured into charitable organizations to help victims of the devastation.

Today, in our own neighborhood, we experience a "silent Katrina." It isn't as conspicuous, but it is painful, and it is a crisis. The amount of people experiencing hunger in Chicago is increasing exponentially.

Close to 500,000 people each year rely on emergency and supplemental food provided by the *Greater Chicago Food Depository* and its member network of almost 600 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. *Care for Real*, Edgewater's Food Pantry, served 3,000 households in October of 2009, a **75% increase from two years ago**. Many of the people who receive food are children and in households that have at least one employed adult.

By the time you read this, this year's holiday season will be past. However, the giving spirit among Chicagoans is year-round. The Bomanville Community Organization asks all of you reading this to consider donating during 2010 to the nearby *Care for Real* or *Greater Chicago Food Depository*. Some of you have experienced hunger in your lifetime, and some of you can imagine what it's like to be a child looking forward to attending school, if only to receive your one meal for that day.

Recently, *Care for Real* :

- Gave 600 families the ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.
- Collected toys for 800 children for its annual Holiday Gift Give-Away.
- Received support from several organizations: Loyola University, Ruth's List, Rickover Naval Academy, Uncommon Ground and St. Andrew's Inn, held neighborhood events to benefit *Care for Real*.
- Raised more than \$21,500 with 75 participants and 400 sponsors at the annual Hunger Walk. *Care for Real* was one of the largest groups at the Event.

Would you like to help?

Care for Real - 773-769-6182

Greater Chicago Food Depository - 773-247-3663

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Planning and Development Committee Project "Safe Sidewalks"

By BA Church

As a part of the BCO Planning and Development Committee, a long term project known as "Safe Sidewalks" was deemed important to both the function and safety of our community. As a part "Safe Sidewalks," during the past few weeks, the sidewalks of the community have all been evaluated for dangerous sidewalks, i.e., those with large amounts of missing concrete or extreme offsets (where the sidewalk squares are not evenly aligned).

It is the hope of the BCO Planning and Development Committee "Safe Sidewalks" project to work with residents of the Bowmanville Community and the City of Chicago to help improve the safety and condition of our sidewalks by providing the residents with necessary information, about the City of Chicago Sidewalk Repair Program. Hopefully, this long term project will bring about positive changes and improved conditions in terms of both function and safety that will benefit the whole of the Bowmanville Community. If you have any questions about this project, please e-mail the BCO Planning and Development Committee through the BCO website, or planning@bcochicago.org.

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Hi neighbors,

I would just like to express my sincere Best Wishes and a Happy 2010 to the Bowmanville Community. This is the season to reflect and be glad for being surrounded by such great Neighbors.

As 2010 progresses, look for this ad in future Bees. I'll be providing you with interesting Bowmanville Real Estate updates and statistics.

Know someone who is thinking of buying or selling a home? Remember, I can help.

Jeff Graves

Your Bowmanville Realtor



Holiday Greetings!



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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



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For further information, or to reserve space in the next issue of the Bowmanville Bee, please contact Sharon McGill at 866-837-1006 or at ads@bcochicago.org.

Help Deliver the Bee!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome! Please call Ellen Jurczak at 866-837-1006.



Need another Bee?

You can find them at the following local businesses:

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- Pauline's Restaurant
- Claddagh Ring
- Fireside Restaurant
- Let Them Eat Chocolate
- Green Sky
- Crema
- Bobbie's Runaway Tavern
- The Book Cellar



BCO Calendar of Events

BCO Board Meetings, Third Thursday each month, 7:15 PM at Temple Steel Training Room, 5448 N. Wolcott.

Communication Committee Meetings, first Thursday of each month.

Planning and Development Committee Meetings, last Monday of each month.

Garden Work Days - Bowmanville, Gateway, and Westgate Gardens, the 4th Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (beginning March 27th); and the 2nd Wednesday from at 6:00 p.m. to dusk (beginning April 14th).

BCO 14th Annual Yard Sale - Saturday, June 5, 2010, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

BCO 12th Annual Garden Walk - Saturday, July 10, 2010, 11:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

BCO Ice Cream Social - Sunday, August 15, 2010, 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

BCO Fall Festival/Halloween Event - Saturday, October 16, 2010.

For up to the minute details on BCO Meeting/Event locations, dates and times, be sure to check www.bcochicago.org, or call 1-866-837-1006.

Membership Makes it Happen!

Join the BCO

\$12

Join or renew your membership today! Please return this form with your check for \$12.00 payable to the Bowmanville Community Organization to BCO Membership, Jim Yorton, 5250 N. Damen Ave., Unit F Chicago, IL, 60625. Questions? Call 866-837-1006 or email membership@bcochicago.org. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Name _____

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Renewal New Member Committee I'd serve on: _____

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

1. What year did you move to Bowmanville? _____

2. Do you rent or own your home? _____

3. How many people are in your household? _____

4. What are their ages? _____

5. What are your hobbies and interests? _____

