

Bowmanville Bee

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



Fall 2016

Who's Who in the BCO

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Summer Social Scoops Up Multi-flavored Smiles

by Sabine Cummins

As we welcome the beautiful colors of autumn in Bowmanville, I keep thinking of a little slice of summer heaven I experienced here on August 13. That's when, after living in Bowmanville for seven years, I was finally able to attend the BCO Summer Social, and one thing I can say is that I wish I had gone sooner!



This year, I was able not only to attend, but also to participate by volunteering an hour at the ice cream booth. While crafting my scooping (and licking) skills and passing out doggy treats, I met some new neighbors. The laughs of the families, the barbecue smells from the food booth, the rocking live music, and the spouting fire hydrant created a fun block-party atmosphere.

I'm a new mom, so I wasn't sure if I would be able to both enjoy the summer social and volunteer. But it actually worked out perfectly! Everyone loves ice cream on a hot summer day, especially when it's free, so the smiles from kids and adults licking their yummy cones — filled with vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream donated by Pauline's restaurant — were great to see. Plus, my fellow volunteers were quite funny, telling stories about the neighborhood.

While I chatted and scooped, my husband and one-year-old daughter enjoyed kicking large beach balls around with the other families and dogs in the green space. Once my volunteer "shift" was over (which went by pretty fast), we spent time with the firemen and their big red truck. What a hit it was with my little gal and many other kids!

My daughter was too small to get into the bouncy playhouse, but she loved watching the big kids jumping around. On our way out, heading home for naptime, we stopped at the language-learning booth to sign up for a free class and get our raffle ticket. The prizes were amazing — hard to pass up.

Next summer, I hope to see you in this sweet little corner of Chicago we call Bowmanville to celebrate summer in the city! If you can, sign up to volunteer for the social. This event can happen only with participation from our community, and it is always more fun with more people. So help us continue to make this a great summer event for everyone in the neighborhood!



Engine #10 firefighters brought out the big truck and opened the hydrant to the delight of hot kids!

BCO Open Meeting & Election!

Open to all! Neighbors. News. Nosh.

Topics: Vote for board members and revised bylaws
Collaboration between Amundsen High School Art Department and Bowmanville
Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce-supporting Bowmanville businesses

October 20th • 7:30 pm • Urban Pooch 5400 N Damen



Communications Committee Stay Informed!

Events Committee

Gardening Committee

Membership Makes it Happen!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Public Art

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 using MAC's PAGES software OR Microsoft Publisher.**

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! Watch Facebook and the BCO website for the calendar for events. We are always looking for new twists for annual events and new event ideas. We also have a concept for an ongoing series of informal 'Bee Social' meet-ups to take place around the community to bring neighbors together. 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 20 at Urban Pooch. In the meantime please join in to the great events the BCO organizes and help where you can.** 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 exploring expansion of the vegetable gardens on Ravenswood Ave. 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. **Contact publicart@bcochicago.org to get involved or with new ideas.**

Community News

Bowmanville — Please Join in Improving this Gem in the City

Dear Neighbors,

Words cannot fully describe how much my spouse and I love living in a neighborhood as spectacular as ours. I hope you not only feel a similar sentiment, but are also aware of the uniqueness of Bowmanville. When I think of how a mere ten miles away we have some of the most poverty-stricken neighborhoods in the U.S., I am even more grateful for the luck and blessings I've had in my own life, and living in Bowmanville has been one of them.

Now that I have a year under my belt as BCO president, I realize how all of the things that make our neighborhood so wonderful did not just randomly happen. From the street sale to the summer social to the maintenance of the community gardens and beyond, there have been an innumerable volunteer hours spent on helping make Bowmanville so beautiful and such a good place to live. Above all else, manpower is most important and we, the BCO, encourage you to get involved with us and the greater neighborhood.

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:
talk to me.

I'm your neighbor - a knowledgeable, experienced, and competent broker. One who knows the neighborhood, and has successfully helped people move in/out of the Chicago-area since 2007.

It's never too early to plan ahead.

Marian Nixon
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One of our BCO board members, Stew Weiss, said it best: "A multitude of positive changes have occurred here over the last three decades, and they have happened because of neighborhood involvement. Not only do we need to be the eyes and ears of our own domain, but we also need to be the proverbial squeaky wheel. Demanding attention to legitimate concerns has made Bowmanville a safer and more livable neighborhood. If you have a concern about the neighborhood, let the BCO and Alderman O'Connor know, call 311, or report it on the Chi-Works and SeeClickFix apps."

Mark your calendars!

We hope to see you at the BCO fall meeting on Thursday, October 20, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm at the Urban Pooch Training & Fitness Center, 5400 N. Damen Ave. It's a great chance to meet neighbors, hear what's going on, and share your thoughts about ways to improve Bowmanville.

Also, Amundsen High School will be hosting a Community Open House on Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tremendous things are happening at Amundsen. Go see for yourself and think about the benefits of having your child attend a local school. I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of you who donated money to the Amundsen art department to help students' development in the classroom — particularly the ones who restored the Berwyn mural under the Metra tracks.

I'm honored to serve on behalf of the community, and wish you a wonderful autumn and the holiday season that follows.

All the best,

William Ferguson, BCO President



2017 Slate for BCO Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

In accordance with our by-laws, the BCO is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for election at the BCO Open Meeting on Thursday, October 20, at 7:30 pm at Urban Pooch Fitness & Training Center, 5400 N. Damen Ave. Voting for proposed bylaw changes will also take place at the meeting.

If you missed a chance to join the board but still would like to get involved, please get in touch at membership@bcochicago.org. There are many ways to keep Bowmanville moving forward.

Board of Directors – Elect 16 positions with 4 officers designated:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kate Clark | 9. Michael Kraetsch |
| 2. Sabine Cummins - VICE PRESIDENT | 10. Dan Lias |
| 3. Beth Emperor - SECRETARY | 11. Claire Shingler |
| 4. William Ferguson - PRESIDENT | 12. Ann Scholhamer |
| 5. Jeff Graves | 13. Scott Smith |
| 6. Craig Hanenburg - TREASURER | 14. Suzanne Tenney |
| 7. Ashley Kosztia | 15. Stewart Weiss |
| 8. Barbara Kraetsch | 16. Mona Yaeger |

Nominating Committee — Elect 7 positions and 2 alternates

Board reps: Claire Shingler, Ann Scholhamer, Mona Yaeger, alternate Craig Hanenburg

Member reps: Paula Palmentera, Peter McFadden, Kathleen Feeney, Noelle Etheridge, alternate David Johnston

Please Join Us: BCO Open Meeting and Annual Election — October 20

The meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday, October 20, at Urban Pooch Fitness & Training Center, 5400 N. Damen Ave. This meeting is open to all residents and friends of Bowmanville. Please come to catch up on all things Bowmanville, visit with neighbors, vote for bylaws updates and elect the new board, whom you can then welcome. All active members of the BCO are eligible to vote. Memberships can be renewed at the beginning of the meeting or online.

If you are not sure of your membership status, please email treasurer@bcochicago.org.

Guest Speakers

- A representative from Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce. This group designs programs to help connect, support and empower businesses within the Greater Ravenswood community. Bowmanville is within their community area.
- Lorelei MacBeth/Denise Barba from Amundsen High School Art Department. These 2 teachers led the 20 students who did the volunteer restoration of our Berwyn Mural in June.

Refreshments will be pot-luck style - please bring something to share if you can.

A big THANK YOU to the new officers, who have graciously volunteered time and leadership for the coming year!

Community News

BCO Bylaws Updates

For review and vote at the Open Meeting on Oct. 20.

The BCO Board of Directors has voted to propose the following changes to the BCO bylaws. Please review the intent and revised text for the proposed changes and be prepared to vote at the Open Meeting or vote by proxy. Note the *Intent and Rationale* are included here for your information only and will not be included in the bylaws text — only the **revised text** or **proposed text** as shown will be included).

PROPOSAL 1. Change terms of Board members from one year to two years.

*Intent and Rationale: This change will increase continuity of board membership and leadership, which in turn will enable stronger momentum on projects. It will also reduce the volunteer effort required to seat a new board each year and improve outcomes in recruiting board members. **Note:** The only term limit remains with President limited to 2 consecutive terms. That limit has not been changed, which means a President can be elected for up to 2 (now two-year terms) consecutively.*

Article VI OFFICERS, Section 2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS (page 6, revised text)

A. Term

The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the BCO and shall serve for **two years** until their respective successors have been elected.

PROPOSAL 2. Add a new bylaw Section that allows email voting on matters requiring immediate action.

Intent and Rationale: Officers must protect the integrity of their decisions by: 1) adhering to procedures and allowing for discussion upon any matter requiring a vote; and 2) ensuring that through active and meaningful participation, board members stay informed and comply with their fiduciary duty of care. Email can be a useful tool for taking the pulse of a board by polling board members. This new section formalizes email as a valid means for collecting input to inform an executive committee action. Per existing bylaws, the executive committee can take action on behalf of the board in between board meetings; the actual board decision is then documented via vote at the next in-person meeting.

Article VI OFFICERS Section 4 Email Voting (proposed text for NEW SECTION 4)

In a matter requiring immediate action, the President or a delegate will poll Board members via email and within 48 hours the members will respond with affirmation and/or concerns. After addressing any concerns, and upon receiving replies from a majority of Board members in the affirmative, the Executive Committee may go forward with action. This action will be reaffirmed at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

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Waldorf School Also Serves Bowmanville

By Russ Klettke

The previous issue of the *Bee* listed elementary and high schools in the Bowmanville area that prepare neighborhood students for the future. An unintentional omission was the Chicago Waldorf School, where some members of our community send their children.

Waldorf Schools worldwide are based on the core values of excellence, respect and reverence, wholeness and self-reliance, and community. The international Waldorf movement began about 100 years ago in Germany through the work of educator Rudolph Steiner. Waldorf schools:

- Offer a developmentally appropriate, experiential, and academically rigorous approach to education. They integrate the arts in all academic disciplines for children from preschool through twelfth grade to enhance and enrich learning.
- Teach math, music, dance, theater, writing, literature, legends and myths as subjects to be experienced, not simply read about and tested. Through these experiences, Waldorf students cultivate their intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual capacities to be certain of their paths and of service to the world.
- Professors who have taught Waldorf graduates at higher levels note that they are flexible, creative and willing to take intellectual risks. They are leaders with high ethical and moral standards who take initiative and are passionate to reach their goals.



Outdoor learning experiences are part of every day in the Waldorf Schools



The main Waldorf campus on West Loyola in Rogers Park.

The Chicago Waldorf has 2 campuses— the main on Loyola Avenue in Rogers Park serves Pre-K through grade 12 and the Lincoln Square Annex serves Pre-K. For more information, visit chicagowaldorf.org.

Notably, Waldorf school was the second bidder in the Trumbull School redevelopment sale and had hoped to move their entire PK-12 school to the Trumbull campus near Bowmanville. They were outbid by Svigos Developers and TimeLine Theatre. The Svigos development plan is currently in a state of flux as TimeLine recently announced they pulled out of that plan.

If we've overlooked a school that a Bowmanville child might attend, please let us know at news@bcochicago.org. This is a community of the future – we want to know how your children are getting ready for it and to share that with new parents and neighbors.

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Alderman Patrick O'Connor

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Community Outreach, Bowmanville Style

BCO Amundsen Arts Thank You Campaign a Big Success

After Bowmanville residents and Amundsen high school's

art department teamed up to re-store the Berwyn tunnel this summer, Bowmanville residents came to the board with a request to support Amundsen's Art Programs. The suggestion was a 'thank you' donation to help them buy needed supplies.

AHS art teachers Lorelei MacBeth and Denise Barba relayed to neighbors that with Chicago Public School's budget crisis their material needs are increasingly difficult for Amundsen to cover. Yet quality art supplies are crucial for a strong art program and to give the students experience with a great variety of

art media. Their goal this year is to show more student work in the community, encourage more students to enter contests, and assist students who are applying to art schools to build strong portfolios

The BCO considered the request and was happy to have the resources to help with this worthy cause. In addition to a \$500 donation outright, BCO launched a matching gift campaign for the Amundsen Arts department. The idea was that the BCO would make the first \$500 donation, and would match up to another \$500 if raised by individuals. Bowmanville residents responded enthusiastically. Within **THREE DAYS**, neighbors, friends of Amundsen, and friends of Bowmanville donated \$520 to the matching campaign, bringing the total thank you donation to \$1520.

The donations were channeled through Friends of Amundsen,

founded in 2012 to support the educational mission of Amundsen High School. (www.friendsofamundsen.org). The next FOA

meeting is Tuesday October 11 at 6:30pm in the Amundsen Library (Enter the Main/center door on Damen).

The BCO is proud to support this excellent cause. Amundsen principal Anna Pavichevich noted that the "BCO has been supporting AHS since my first day. We are so grateful for our partnership and your ongoing belief in our students. Not everyone 'puts their money where their mouth is'. Thanks BCO!" MacBeth, Barba, and Beneen Prendiville, President of FOA were all grateful for the support and enthusiastic about the future. Restoring the tunnel mural was a positive and memorable experience

for the AHS art students and they look forward to future collaboration!

New Process for Proposing BCO Community Outreach

This was the first request for community outreach support to the BCO Board using a new Board process for considering project and funding ideas. A [BCO Community Outreach Request](#) form on the BCO website can be used by residents or groups with ties to Bowmanville to submit requests to the BCO Board of Directors. Although the BCO doesn't have resources to fund or completely fund every project, it is our hope that groups can leverage our community resources for causes that line up with the interests of Bowmanville residents.



Art teacher Denise Barba with one of her students at the Berwyn Mural doing restoration work.

Next FOA meeting

Tuesday October 11th, 6:30pm

Enter the Main/center door on Damen

All are welcome to join!

Friends of Chappell Board Meetings

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Happenings in B-Ville



Congrats to Bowmanville neighbors and longtime BCO volunteers Paula Palmentera and Peggy Cassidy on their Sept 16 wedding at Thatcher Woods.



2100 Summerdale Block Party celebrated all our lost musicians,. Prince was well represented with lots of purple themed outfits and cocktails!

Send photos and news to news@bcochicago.org

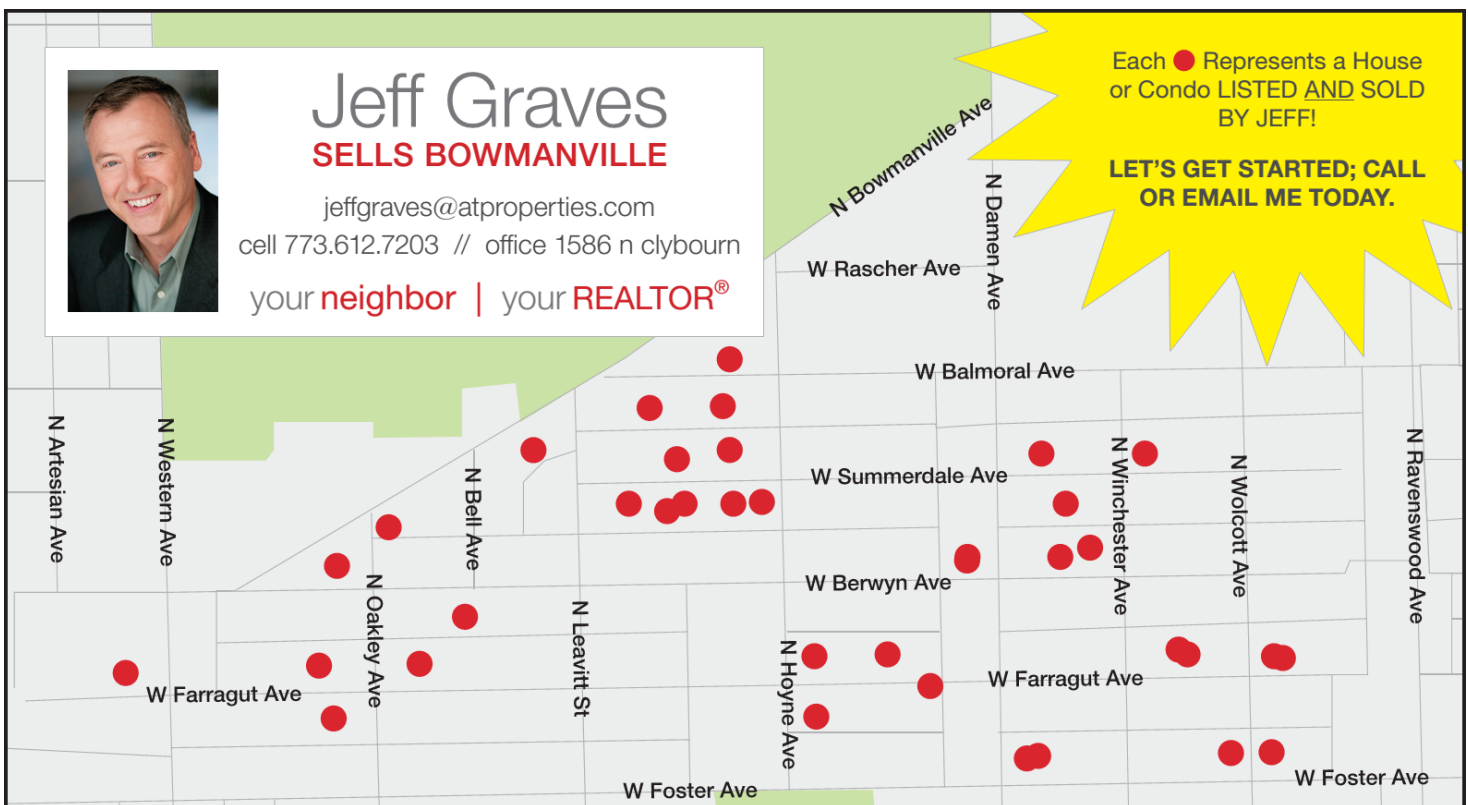


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Community News

Thoughts on Changes in Bowmanville

Everything changes, nothing remains without change. — Buddha (5th century BCE)

The only thing that is constant is change. — Heraclitus (535-475 BCE)

By Jeff Graves

OK, so it is official: Things change — and Bowmanville is no exception. As a local real estate agent, I meet a lot of neighbors who are concerned about changes in our neighborhood. I also meet many others who are excited about the changes. But I find the changes they're referring to are not always the same. And if they are, the changes are often viewed from very different perspectives.

For example, our local schools are really improving. Bowmanville residents are feeling more confident to send their children to Chappell or Amundsen. I think we can all agree that is a welcomed change. However, better schools are one reason for higher property values as the neighborhood becomes more desirable to new families. And this is where the difference in perspective starts.

While you may like the increase in your home's equity, your neighbor may be concerned over the increase in property taxes that go hand in hand. Also, the increased interest in Bowmanville brings us to the 'D' word: *Development*. Like most things in life, development can be great, horrible or benign. But development is change, and it is unavoidable.

Don't forget, 120 years ago, Bowmanville was a "new development." Imagine what the locals back in the early 1900s thought about all the houses going up, taking away good farmland. I'm certain there was a mix of concern and excitement similar to that we feel right now. Yet look at the amazing community those changes created!

In today's environment we hope for the best. We hope the owners of that tear-down or that gut-rehab build legally, responsibly and with sensitivity to the development's neighbors. We hope new businesses add and improve the atmosphere that Bowmanville has enjoyed.

The good news is we have the benefit of an active and effective community organization — the BCO! If you want to help guide change towards the positive, become a BCO member. Also, talk to your neighbors, reach out to other BCO members, or contact someone on the BCO Board. We would welcome hearing from you, because your concerns are ours, too!

Just remember... *Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.* — John F Kennedy (1917- 1963)



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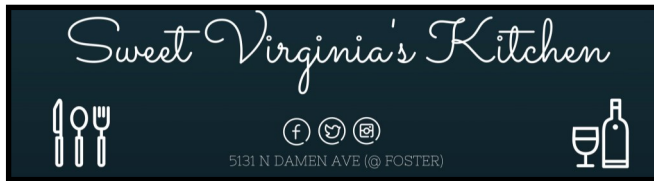
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Building Community Through Comfort Food

If you've walked or driven down Damen Ave. recently, you may have seen the sign "**Sweet Virginia's Kitchen**" on a storefront across from Amundsen High School just south of Foster Ave. It's a new restaurant that's slated to open in November by Angie Wines and her partner, Anneliese Moy, and that will feature homey eclectic food cooked from locally sourced ingredients.



Some of the treats to be showcased at Sweet Virginia's Kitchen



Sweet Virginia's Kitchen will offer a menu derived from Angie's years of cooking for friends and families, including her signature meats and smoked pulled pork, as well as dishes like chilaquiles, spicy Asian meatballs, and shrimp tacos with citrus slaw. Many of the items are time-tested hits from Angie's catering experience and annual tailgate party during

Chicago's Pride Parade.

"It's an eclectic menu featuring comfort food from all corners of the world," says Angie. "At the core, it's about making meals from scratch daily using ingredi-

ents from sources I trust. Knowing where our food comes from is really important for me because I come from a family of farmers."

The restaurant is named after Angie's grandmother, from whom she learned to cook. "I grew up standing next to her on a stool in the kitchen," Angie recalls. "She taught me all of our family recipes, both savory and sweet. For example, I rub whole pork shoulders with a secret recipe that's sweet and spicy. Using apple wood, I smoke it low and slow for 12 hours."



(Continued on page 11)



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Bowmanville Biz Beat

(Continued From page 10)

In addition to creating a neighborhood hub for comfort food, Angie will showcase and sell Anneliese's pottery in the restaurant. "Having artwork in the restaurant is also a nice reflection of my grandma, who created a lot of artwork herself, including drawings on her recipe cards, which will be displayed at the restaurant," Angie says. "We'll also be using Anneliese's beautiful hand-made pottery to serve some of the food."

The restaurant will be a family affair with Angie creating all the dishes while Anneliese managing the front of the house. "We are really looking forward to creating a community gathering place through comfort food and art" Anneliese says. "We hope diners will feel the soul and effort Angie puts into each and every dish."



Very Community Minded

Even while getting her restaurant ready to open, Angie has already jumped in to support the community. When Friends of Amundsen contacted her to see if she would donate some sweets for their staff welcome back breakfast, she volunteered to cater the whole event for over 100 adults. And she duplicated the effort at Chappell.

Also, when Angie heard at a Friends of Amundsen meeting that a lack of funding for snacks has kept many kids from participating in after-school activities or performing at their best, she stepped in to help. While the Friends looked for

ways to fund the snacks, Angie brought in healthy snacks to keep those young brains running.

If you'd like to show your support for Angie and Anneliese, consider contributing to their Kickstarter campaign — a delicious way to help grow a family restaurant!

Also, check out their website, www.sweetvirginiaskitchen.com, follow their progress on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

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Help Griffin Theatre Make Bowmanville Its Home

Despite delays in renovating the former police station on Foster into a performance space, and a pause in the BCO/Oktobfest event this year, Griffin Theatre still plans to make Bowmanville its permanent home.

The rehearsal space is up and running on Damen at Berwyn, and the board is working through the details of financing and construction planning for the theatre. If you are interested in helping to make a Bowmanville theatre a reality, contact Jeff Graves at (773) 612-7203.

Also, support Griffin now by buying season tickets at www.griffintheatre.com/box-office/subscriptions.



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WINTERSET

by Maxwell Anderson
Directed by Jonathan Berry
November 19 – December 23, 2016

IN TO AMERICA

by William Massolia
Directed by Dorothy Milne
March 18 – April 23, 2017

RAGTIME

Book by Terrence McNally
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Directed by Scott Weinstein
New Orchestrations by Matt Deitchman
May 27 – July 16, 2017

Winner of the first New York Drama Critic's Circle Award for Best Play

A rare revival, in keeping with the Griffin's work to explore lost plays like *London Wall*. Inspired by the infamous murder case of the 1920s when a pair of Italian anarchists, were convicted and electrocuted despite insubstantial evidence. Anderson's poetic verse play follows a man's quest to prove his father's innocence years after he was executed for a murder he may not have committed.

World Premiere Drama

A world premiere drama that traces the American immigrant experience from Jamestown to present day through the stories of ordinary men, women and children who departed their homelands in the hopes of creating a new life. An extraordinary story 400 years in the making that transcends time, space and race to reflect the diversity and commonalities of our shared American experience.

Tony Award-winning Musical World Premiere Orchestration

A newly orchestrated chamber version performed with two pianos, a wind instrument, and 20 actors. Griffin premieres this new version created by director Scott Weinstein and music director Matt Deitchman. The musical, based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, is set at the dawn of a new century where the lives of three American families from different backgrounds intersect in their search for the American dream.

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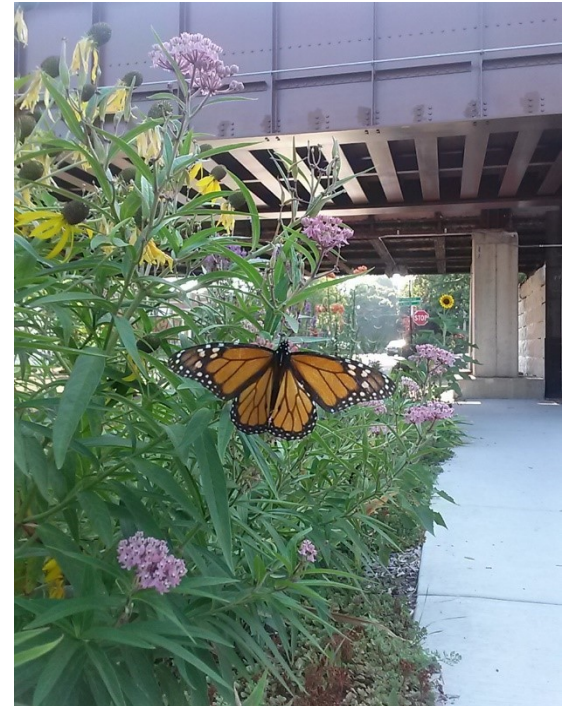
Making Bowmanville Monarch-Friendly

Monarch butterflies cannot survive without milkweed plants.

Their caterpillars eat only milkweed, so monarchs lay their eggs on the plants. But the increasing use of herbicides and changes in land use have eliminated much milkweed from the landscape, as this [National Geographic article](#) (August 20, 2014) points out. Therefore, planting milkweed can help support monarch populations, as well as other pollinators, because the plants provide nectar to a diverse array of bees and butterflies.

Fortunately, BCO members like David Johnston and B.A. Church know the importance of milkweed to monarchs and have some in the BCO Community Gardens. “We try to protect any milkweed that pops up,” Dave says, “and B.A. Church has been actively planting it at Westgate Garden when available. There is often a wait list to purchase it at Gethsemane Gardens. I’ve also noticed that many neighbors are actively growing milkweed in parkways and yards. So thanks to all of you who are helping to make Bowmanville monarch-friendly.”

Common milkweed spreads by underground rhizomes, so if you don’t want it to take over an area, you may have to pull out or dig out the shoots in the spring. But that’s usually quite easy to do, and worth the effort for all the good that milkweed does for monarchs and other butterflies — and us.



Monarch butterfly on milkweed this August at the Gateway Garden on Balmoral.

Photo by David Johnston

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The Little Blue Pet Haven on Berwyn

If your pet is a valued and integral part of your family, you know what it's like when your heart is touched by an animal. So you know how someone can feel when they are struggling to care for a companion animal that's touched their heart.

When Marijon Binder moved into a little blue house on Berwyn in 1978, many of her neighbors were elderly, their spouses dead and their children far away. With health issues and diminished finances, many were challenged to keep up their properties.

When visiting with them, Marijon would sometimes suggest that they sell their homes and move into senior or assisted living housing. Many said: "I will when my little dog or beloved cat dies, but not yet. I could not live with the realization that the pet who has been my faithful companion for so many years might end up being euthanized at Animal Control because of my weakness."

Marijon was a writer of curriculum materials and travelled a lot, but she was also a problem solver. So she began to say to her neighbors, "You find a better situation for yourself, and just bring your dog, cat or bird to me and I'll take care of it for the rest of its natural life. Once you are settled you can come to visit or I'll bring it to visit you."

Within a year the little blue house on Berwyn had one canine, one avian, and three feline residents, cared for by Marijon and a dedicated neighbor volunteer when she was away.

Helping Her Neighbors — and More

Then a dear lady from across the alley needed knee and hip surgery due to advanced arthritis but kept putting it off because she was the neighborhood stray cat feeder. So Marijon, totally naïve about the secret culture of stray/feral cats, suggested, "OK, let's capture, tame and find homes for *all* the outside cats in the neighborhood, starting with the kittens under your back steps."

What she learned over the next few months about the secret lives of alley cats — as well as about the kindness/concern and apathy/cruelty of humans — was astonishing. But, with the dedication of neighbors on a mission, all known stray/feral alley cats in Bowmanville were trapped, neutered and rehomed after graduating with family-cat manners from the transition house on Berwyn.

Early on, Marijon realized that to gain the concentration time and space for her writing career, it was necessary to "send the kids out to play". But even her fenced yard would not, of course, do for cats, so



she learned about standard lengths of 2x4's, 4x4's and screen types/sizes, and used her drafting skills to create the blueprint for a maximum-sized screened yard and engaged a neighbor to construct it. Easily visible from the extra-wide open

alley, it has been, over the years, a fun place for groups of youngsters and people pushed in wheelchairs to view feline antics (and for cats to view people!)

What had begun as a Bowmanville neighbor-helping-neighbor endeavor, very quickly became a time-and cash-consuming project with social workers, family members, and elderly petitioners from all over Chicagoland calling for help with beloved pets. Often maintenance care (dog-walking, litter box changing, cleaning) or financial support (food, vet care) could be given in home, thus

keeping the person and pet together for mutual benefit and preventing another heartbreaking shelter surrender or before-its-time euthanasia.

One of the founding volunteers, Eleanor, having suffered strokes, heart attacks, cancer and arthritis, came to live with Marijon with her own menagerie of rescues and continued helping as she could, for 13 years. It was she who suggested the name, "Touched By An Animal," as illustrative of the life-enhancing messages these beloved companion animals bring to their people, especially the elderly, disabled, and lonely.

(Continued on page 15)



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PRINT SPECIALS

Community News

A Very Specific Mission

In 1983 Marijon, with a newly- formed Board of Directors, applied for, and was granted not-for-profit status (502-c-3) and a state license – not as an animal shelter (which has a different mission of rescue/adoption), but as a haven for cats who may need temporary care until returning to their people. Of course, some may be rehomed when the person dies or moves away, or are rescued young felines.

Marijon does not advertise or publicize the haven's address, except for individually timed appointments, because this is still her personal

home, not a business or a public animal shelter. PLEASE, do not bring cats to her house! Touched By An Animal is very limited in money and volunteers, and has this specific mission:

TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL, INC, preserves the nurturing bond between people and their companion animals by helping the Elderly and others maintain this loving relationship and providing lifetime homes for cats when needed, in our home, where Cats-Are-Purrsons-Too.

**TOUCHED BY AN ANIMAL, INC,
SEEKS an ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**Required:**

- Graphic design & photo shop talent/ experience
- Basic secretarial skills
- PASSION FOR HELPING animals & people
- Versatility, flexibility

Part to Full time hourly pay DOE with plenty of growth opportunity in NFP sector.

Over the past 33 years the little blue house with screened-in yard has gathered beautiful friends, dedicated volunteers, heartwarming stories, hair-raising rescues and magnificent cats. And yes, everyone connected with it has been touched by an animal, and filled with love, respect and gratitude for all of God's wonderful creations.

For more info, visit touchedbyananimal.org. If you would like to volunteer, have questions or comments contact: marijonbinder@yahoo.com 773-728-6336



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BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

—MEMBERSHIP FORM—

Bee Contributions Welcome

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

Bee Counted-Advertise!

Sizes and rates per issue:

Business Card 3.75" x 2" \$25
Quarter Page 3.75" x 4.25" \$75
Half Page 7.25" x 4.75" \$150
5% discounts for 4x/year advertisers.

For further information or to reserve space in the next issue of the Bowmanville Bee, please contact ads@bcochicago.org or (773) 988-7664

Next Bee Deadline:

January 9th

Help deliver the Bee!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome! Please Contact (773) 349-2268 or email comm@bcochicago.org

Need another Bee?

You can find them at the following local businesses:

- Byline Bank
- The Book Cellar
- Speedline
- Let Them Eat Chocolate
- Green Sky
- Pauline's
- Norwood Car Wash

JOIN THE BCO OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Now you can join or renew ONLINE at www.bcochicago.org!

Or return this form with your check to:

Bowmanville Community Org Treasurer c/o Craig Hanenburg
5361 N. Bowmanville Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 ANNUALLY

Questions? Call (773) 349-2268 or email membership@bcochicago.org

☐

New Member

☐

Renewal

Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

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Areas where I can help out in the coming year:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenspace Initiatives | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art Initiatives | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 /2 Flat ☐ Multi-Unit >2 Units

In your household, please tell us **how many** residents are:

Adults (18-65) # _____ Seniors (over 65) # _____ Children (Under 18) # _____

What types of new BCO programming would interest you?

Comment or Feedback:

BCO Calendar of Events

Committee updates on page 2, check website for schedule updates

Oct 11	Gardening Evening Gateway Garden	6:00 PM Until Dusk
Oct 12	CAPS Meeting Beat 2012@ St. Gregory's Church Gym	7:00 PM (1609 W Gregory)
Oct 15	West Ridge Nature Preserve Work Days	10:00 AM—noon
Oct 20	BCO Annual Membership Meeting & Election	7:30 PM Urban Pooch 5400 N Damen
Oct 22	RPMS Pumpkinpalooza	11:00 AM—1:00 PM
Oct 22	Garden Workday Bowmanville & WestGate	9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Nov 17	BCO Board Meeting	7:00 PM Location TBA
Nov 26	Veggie Gardens 'Put to Bed' deadline	
Dec 14	CAPS Meeting Beat 2012@ St. Gregory's Church Gym	7:00 PM (1609 W Gregory)
Dec 15	BCO Board Meeting	7:00 PM Location TBA