Letter from the Editor

It seemed as if spring might be trying to sneak in under the guise of winter this year, but anxious Chicagoans who were waiting and watching for her arrival thwarted any covert plan and rushed to embrace the scattered and few +50-degree days in March and April, celebrating with smiles the warmth of the occasional sunshine. Adding to the anxiety of Mother Nature’s reluctant arrival, the country was rocked by tragedy in Boston and West, Texas, as the flood waters rose across the city of Chicago. It’s been a long haul to get here, but, alas, spring and its buzzy escort, The Bee – Spring 2013, are here.

Included in this issue of the newsletter are a number of hyper-local items, along with an invitation to join in numerous community efforts and events, including volunteering in the Bowmanville Gardens, supporting the GreenSpace and a chance to join/renew your Bowmanville Community Organization membership.

“Membership makes it happen,” as the slogan goes. Details and applications for The Garden Walk are also inside. Note the fact that this year’s event will be the last of the annual walks, as the horticulturalists’ hay day moves to an every-other-year cadence going forward. Mark your calendars for July 13 to visit some of the loveliest gardens in the city – right in your own backyard!

Plans are taking shape for a new and grander production of the BCO Ice Cream Social. This year’s event, August 17, will be “The Bowmanville Summer Social – Ice Cream & More,” and will incorporate some of the highlights from previous Fall Festivals – including live music -- at The GreenSpace.

The BCO has withdrawn its partnership with Rogers Park Montessori School and will not be a co-sponsor of the fall festival this year. Don’t worry though, a version of that fall event will still be hosted by RPMS and will take place on their grounds. The event will be open to the surrounding communities and will celebrate fall in style.

You can bet that lots of fun will be had at the second annual BCO Poker Run, a fundraiser for the GreenSpace with an emphasis on fun. The poker-pub-crawl will be held in September and is open to anyone who’s game!

Visit bcochicago.org to stay on top of all things Bowmanville between Bee editions and, as always, let us know how we might better serve you and your community.

Peggy Cassidy
Managing Editor
The Bowmanville Bee

BEE There! Get out and BEE social!
May 11: BEE Vocal (Karaoke & DJ) at Leadway Bar & Grill, 7pm
May 16: BEE Social at K’s Dugout, 7pm
No RSVP required. Check www.bcochicago.org for more info.
Bowmanville’s community newsletter, The Bowmanville Bee, is published quarterly with the goal of sharing the neighborhood buzz and promoting local business. Managing Editor Peggy Cassidy, Layout Editor Joey Chiappetta and Ad Manager Paula Palmentera 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, sent to news@bcochicago.org.

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

The Events Committee is one of the best ways to meet neighbors throughout the community, and have a lot of fun while you’re at it! We are always looking for new twists for annual events and new event ideas. We are gearing up for 2013 events and welcome your help. Next up, the Bowmanville Street Sale, June 1st and Garden Walk July 13. Register for both online at bcochicago.org or using the application included in this issue. Contact events@bcochicago.org to help out with events.

The BCO Gardening Committee continues to face exciting challenges in 2013 and is poised to move into a rebuilding and restoration mode at the Gateway Garden upon completion of railroad construction. We are thankful for our volunteers and still need the help of the whole community as we endeavor to improve our natural surroundings. The Garden and GreenSpace committees’ work continues on the installation of our newest site. 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 contact the garden committee at gardening@bcochicago.org or on our toll free line 1-866-837-1006. See our work dates included in this edition of the Bee’s calendar.

The Membership Committee focuses on ways to continually engage and support our community and grow our membership base. This is definitely an area where you can see your new ideas take flight. Next up, BEE Social at K’s Dugout (1930 W Foster Ave.): May 16, 7pm. Open to all neighbors and friends of Bowmanville. Stop by to say hello, no RSVP required. Contact membership@bcochicago.org to help us with membership outreach. We’d love to hear from you.

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 meets and networks 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 advantageously grow our community. The P&D committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of most months. Contact chairman Jeff Graves for information: planning@bcochicago.org – all are welcome!

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

The Public Art committee was formed in 2010 to explore the idea of a mural in the Berwyn pedestrian tunnel. That idea became reality very quickly! Do you have a good idea for additional public art in Bowmanville? Put it out there. Contact publicart@bcochicago.org for more information.
Charter Proposal Resisted, Withdrawn
by Peggy Cassidy

Community voices were heard – loud and clear – in response to a proposal for a new charter school in the neighborhood, as residents and members of the Chicago Teachers Union gathered at a March 21 Bowmanville Community Organization meeting at the North Community Bank on Western Avenue. That proposal has since been taken off the table.

A record attendance at the BCO meeting, held just hours after Chicago Public Schools announced the closing of nearby Trumbull Elementary School and 53 other CPS schools, forced organizers to limit access inside the bank, due to fire code regulations. Some 70 people protested outside the bank, while Concept Schools VP Salim Ucan made his pitch for the Horizon Science Academy at Balmoral to those gathered inside. Ucan outlined plans, as DNAinfo.com reported, “for a 34,000-square-foot, $10 million facility that would initially enroll 400 students K-8, and expand a grade at a time to K-12, with a maximum capacity of 750 students.”

Concept Schools had applied for a zoning change at 2050 W. Balmoral Ave. prior to bringing the issue to the community for discussion. “It was probably the worst timing for us to be there that night,” Ucan told Sarah Flagg, of the LincolnSquarePatch. “We kind of expected that. Ald. O’Connor had given us a head’s up on what the issues might be, so we knew going in that we may face some challenges.” And challenged he was that night, by residents and teachers alike.

“Residents were particularly rankled over what they considered Concept Schools’ lack of outreach before applying for the zoning change,” DNAinfo said.

“I was so livid about this,” said Sharon McGill, who owns a townhouse directly across from the Duray plant. “Neighbors who live within 250 feet found out two days ago … We probably will fight this tooth and nail,” she told the website.

But that “tooth and nail” battle was not necessary. Concept withdrew its proposal in early April and Patch reported that Ucan “understood the community’s perspective on the new charter school because of its close proximity to Trumbull.”

“It doesn’t make sense to shut down the facility and have an empty building and build another facility two blocks from it,” Ucan said.

The debate regarding charter schools in Chicago goes well beyond the boundaries of Bowmanville. A March 27 Chicago Tribune editorial supported the charter school movement, urging Chicagans to remain open to this shot at “a superior education.” But CPS continues to resist, “pressured by teachers union officials, parents fighting closure of neighborhood schools and other critics who want to stifle charter expansion,” the Trib opined.

For now, Bowmanville is off the hot seat in this debate, but with the closing of Trumbull, we (and our kids) are not out of the woods.
GreenSpace Sets Sites on Bigger Parcel
by Fritz Lenneman

After the winter months spent as the "WhiteSpace" or the "GreySpace," it's finally happened: the GreenSpace is back! And with spring's warmer weather finally (FINALLY!) on the way, it is time for the final push to realize the community's plan for everyone's favorite patch of Bowmanville Avenue.

When the property at 5384 N. Bowmanville Ave. went up for sale in 2009, the BCO's GreenSpace Committee secured the property and commenced with a neighborhood-wide project to determine how to best use the space. The final plan, referred to as a "Neighborhood Yard," was developed to serve many different needs in the community: play areas for kids, spaces for quiet reflection, and verdant habitats for nature.

After years of hard work by GreenSpace devotees, hundreds of volunteer hours and $32,796 and counting in raised funds, the plan for the "Neighborhood Yard" will come to fruition this summer. On April 6, volunteers installed the Stump Stomp and additional work days are scheduled (the next one: Sat., May 4).

But That's Not the End of the Story

My family is new to Bowmanville. We moved in at the tail end of last summer, but already we've come to love the GreenSpace as a vital resource. One thing I was surprised to learn, however, is that what many know to be "the GreenSpace" is not a guaranteed sanctuary. The not-quite-a-trapezoid you see on the GreenSpace signage? That's the GreenSpace. The large open field of horse chestnut trees that lies west of Bell Avenue, beloved by ball-owning kids and frisbee-chasing dogs, not to mention Ice Cream Social attendees? That's undeveloped land owned by Rosehill Cemetery.

Now, with all the changes coming to the neighborhood lately, including the City's involvement in the announced "Nature Preserve" at Peterson and Western, the open space adjacent to the "actual" GreenSpace is for sale. It's an 11-acre parcel running from Bowmanville Avenue out to Western Avenue, including the beloved open space next to the GreenSpace. It's been listed for sale by the owners of Rosehill Cemetery. Based on a zoning change, a likely development option is for a senior living facility.

The GreenSpace Committee, aware of a possible change, has been hard at work exploring ways to keep the "de facto GreenSpace" open for community use. There are two possibilities:

1. Seek a large scale donor, raise funds and/or grants to enable the community to purchase all, or a portion of, the parcel.
2. Prepare to work with an as-yet-unknown developer to reduce negative impact on the neighborhood and ensure that some land is reserved for community use and to enlarge the GreenSpace.

In discussions, Ald. Pat O'Connor has suggested that the GreenSpace Committee's best course of action will be to work with the developer to secure open land as part of the planned development. However, the BCO and the GreenSpace Committee remain committed to an ideal solution, called Phase 2: buy the land and save it for the community forever. But, the reality of that plan is potentially a multi-million-dollar property and we don't know Warren Buffett's phone number.

We Need Your Help

If you want to help secure the open land next to the GreenSpace as land we can all enjoy — whether that's with a big fundraising idea, a fresh insight on how to work with a potential developer, or Warren Buffett's phone number — contact the GreenSpace Committee with fundraising or strategy ideas.

Additionally, we need volunteers to bring Phase 1 of the GreenSpace to fruition. Please join us on Sat., May 4, at any time between 8 AM and 3 PM or at any future workdays. Come out and help!
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Bowmanville Bee - Spring 2013

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From Garbage To Garden, Composting Makes Sense

by Betty Redmond

More individuals, municipalities, and private businesses are using composting to deal with waste in an environmentally responsible way. For a practice that doesn't require a lot of effort, composting provides impressive benefits:

- Keeps biodegradable waste out of landfills, where it becomes a source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas
- Is a fabulous soil amendment, reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation

Composting Basics

With enough time, pretty much any organic material will break down through natural microbial processes. Given that, composting doesn't require advanced wizardry, though there are some things to monitor.

What to compost?
A mix of materials high in carbon ("brown" items like leaves, twigs, cardboard, saw dust from untreated wood, or even newspaper) and nitrogen ("green" items like grass clippings and vegetable scraps) in 3 to 1 ratio is recommended. Though meat and dairy products break down eventually, it’s best to leave them out of the compost so they don't attract pests or create other complications.

Moisture levels
You don't want soggy wet conditions, which lead to smelly anaerobic decomposition, but your compost should stay moist (like a wet sponge that has been wrung out). If your compost is too dry, sprinkle it with water or add more green material. If it's too wet, increase the amount of brown material.

Aeration
Turning your composting every couple of weeks helps to prevent anaerobic (smelly) conditions.

Temperature
It's normal for decomposing materials to give off heat; it's a sign of a healthy situation.

Microbial life
Though you can buy commercial compost starters, adding some healthy soil or old compost to your bin generally does the job of inoculating the pile with the organisms you need.

When is it ready?
Finished compost will be dark and crumbly, and not be recognizable as the scraps that you put in the pile to begin with.

How to use it?
Mix it into a top few inches of plant beds, add it to planting holes prior to placing transplants, or use it as a topdressing (even in containers).

Infrastructure for the Home Composter
You have lots of options for your set up, from a plethora of DIY (do it yourself) bins that can be constructed fairly easily (lots of plans online), to commercially produced composters. Even people without outdoor space can compost with a vermicomposting setup (worms!).

For those who purchase a bin, the City of Chicago offers a rebate for 50% of the purchase price, up to $50: http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cdot/SustainableBackyards/2013_Interim_Rebate_Form.pdf

Other Considerations
- Keep noxious weeds, diseased plants, and plants that have gone to seed out of the compost
- Do not compost pet waste, dairy, or meat scraps, which tend to attract animals
- Commercial bins are good for keeping rodents out of the compost
- Don’t have a garden? You can donate your compost to community gardens!
Garden To Flourish With Metra Mess As Backdrop

By David Johnston

The Metra/UP North construction is making progress but there is still a lot of work expected this year – and likely into next. Still, Gateway gardeners will forge ahead, warned to use extra caution when in the area.

As of this newsletter, installation of tie-backs for the retaining wall is nearing completion. Work on the retaining wall backfill, tensioning of the tie-backs, and installation of precast concrete panels are expected in the spring. The area between the garden beds and the new Metra retaining wall is expected to be a construction zone for most of this summer. A temporary fence has been set up to separate the construction zone from the veggie gardens.

Restoration of the area is expected to begin later this year. The plan includes replacement of the Gateway Garden veggie beds that were in the construction zone, soil in the beds, and wood-chip mulch surrounding. Upon completion, the landscape design firm has planned for 16 trees and 27 shrubs between the Gateway Garden and the Metra retaining wall. These include Serviceberry, Chokecherry, Hawthorn, Red Cedar, Hazelnut, and Honeysuckle varieties. This shrubbery will provide additional habitat for birds along with seasonal interest.

The expectation, according to Metra, is that restoration will be completed before the 2014 gardening season.
The 15th Anniversary Bowmanville Garden Walk will be held on Saturday July 13, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM and is open to all!

New for this year! The Bowmanville Garden Walk will feature two half day programs.

The morning schedule will have half the gardens on display from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM and the afternoon schedule will have the remaining gardens on display from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. This program change will give our garden presenters the opportunity to visit gardens during one half of the day and show their garden the other half of the day. Additionally there will be an educational presentation with coffee and pastries at 9:00 AM at the Bowmanville Greenspace to start the day before the touring schedule opens.

So whether you are a beginning gardener, have lots of experience in gardens, or just enjoy seeing other gardeners handiwork, we hope you will participate, invite your friends and enjoy this special day in Bowmanville. If you are interested in landscaping, flowers, container plants, growing vegetables, or taking photographs we hope you will join in the fun and enter your garden or a photo this year.

This will be the 7th Garden Walk Amateur Photography Contest!

Every year this exhibit grows in popularity. At the photo exhibit a garden photo is selected by visitors’ votes, the photographer wins a prize and the winning photo is used for the poster and event publicity for the next Garden Walk event. If you have some photos with a local garden theme we encourage you to enter the contest. And if you need ideas take a look at the previous winning photos on the BCO website.

The Bowmanville Garden Walk features our neighborhood, its residential gardens and the three BCO community gardens.

Bowmanville residents welcome neighbors and visitors by showing their yards to display their gardens and the day offers you a friendly venue of hospitality and ways to learn more about gardening. Garden participants have the option to have their garden reviewed by Master Gardeners on various criteria including design, creative use of plants, and neighborhood enhancement, or reviewed just for advice and consultation. All the participants and volunteers end the day at a Garden Party where garden awards are presented, photos of all the gardens are displayed and the photo contest winner is awarded. Go to the BCO website for more information.

Participation forms to enter the photo contest or to show your garden are inserted in this Bee publication!
Set Your Sales For June 1

It’s a sure sign of summertime when the streets of Bowmanville fill with Merchants-For-A-Day and the hundreds of shoppers who come to The Annual Bowmanville Street Sale. Now in its 17th year, this year’s sale is set for Saturday, June 1, from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Register online or with the application in this issue, deadline May 19.

If you are available to help with publicizing or planning this event, please contact Barbara Wolke, 773-784-6571, or barbwolke@gmail.com.

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Hot Moms - Local Band

It goes without saying that there are many very attractive moms in the Bowmanville neighborhood, but perhaps there’s a lack of awareness of “The Hot Moms,” and founding member, Bowmanville resident Andrew Stephens.

Formed in 2012 by singer/songwriter Stephens, “The Hot Moms” is an American rock band based in Chicago. They play guitar heavy hard hitting rock and roll that features blues,country and garage rock undertones. They have been compared to “Bay City Rollers,” "The Band," and others. The Hot Moms have a vibrant and highly entertaining stage performance that truly captivates audiences. Whether it’s the on-stage antics, massive American flag backdrop or simply the excellent music, one can't help but watch and listen. The Hot Moms are no nonsense American rock-and-roll. Their recent first single "Classic Start" was featured on Chicago's 93.1 WXRT "Local Anesthetic." They will be releasing another single online this spring and will be back at Wall To Wall Studios in Chicago this summer to work on their debut full length LP.

Future BCO Member Arrives

Always welcoming of new members, the BCO joined friends and neighbors of Samantha Gleisten and Matt Kelley in celebrating the arrival of Brennan Kelley, born on March 10 at 5:18 pm. Weighing in at 8 lbs., 9 oz., and 22 inches long, Brennan and his big sister Vivian Kelley are prime candidates for garden keepers sometime around 2026.

Sealing Up A Deal On Your Home’s Efficiency

by Barbara Wolke

If you want to lower your utility bills and have a more comfortable home, but can’t afford the upfront cost, Energy Impact Illinois can help. Currently, homeowners can take advantage of a discounted $99 energy assessment and receive 70% off energy efficiency improvements, with up to $1750 in total rebates on select energy improvements to your home. Your home will stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter and you’ll reduce your energy use by at least 15%. There are no income restrictions for the program and all single-family homes, 2-4 unit buildings, and most townhomes are eligible.

Energy Impact Illinois is an alliance of non-profit groups, local organizations, and local utilities focused on helping homeowners make the lowest cost, most effective energy efficiency upgrades for their home. Air sealing and insulating are two of the most cost-effective and permanent improvements that homeowners can make, especially in the older homes in Bowmanville. More than half of total energy costs come from heating and cooling a home and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. Most homes (even newer ones) also have incorrectly installed or insufficient amounts of attic insulation.

A resident in the 2100 block of Farragut recently worked with the alliance to tighten up her 100-year-old home with insulation, wrapped duct work and an added interior door. While she wished to remain anonymous for this publication, she has said she is very satisfied with the improvements to her home and appreciates having the information passed along to her neighbors. I myself am having an assessment right now and look forward to sharing my experience.

To learn more about the program or schedule an energy assessment, contact your neighborhood Field Organizer Matt Elmore at 503-333-5578 or matt@energyimpactillinois.org.

We need YOU!

Get involved. You won’t regret it. We need help with Gardening, GreenSpace, Communications, Bee delivery & leadership.

Contact president@bcochicago.org
Clean Up Fitness, Bowmanville Style
By Russ Klettke

“Functional training” is something all of us do everyday. It’s the means by which we instinctively avoid injury in the physical business of life, such as picking up objects off a floor, climbing stairs and encountering unstable surfaces while walking. For the most part, functional training is about getting your whole body to engage in the task – arms and shoulders, the core and the legs – as you build strength, flexibility and balance with pushing, pulling, bending and stretching.

Even for individuals who are out of shape, you can do these movements in the home. See if you can put on socks or shoes while standing. Or, sit on a floor or low step and raise yourself up to a standing position – once or many times. Another exercise is reach to pick something off the floor without bending the knees (or bend just a little).

The more you do these things, the stronger you get. But how do you motivate yourself to train functionally on a regular basis? I have a suggestion:

Walk around the neighborhood and pick up trash.
Here’s how it works: Test your ability at home to pick up a bottle or flattened soda can. Are you able to do it without a crouch, standing straight up? If you can you would be VERY good at this task.

Perhaps you take the familiar “tandem” stance, which involves putting one foot forward and the other back. Placing the right hand on the right-forward leg, you ease your left hand down to pick the item up. If you can do that, EXCELLENT, you are a striver – and capable of removing stuff from gutters and untended areas.

This activity can improve circulation and raise your Vitamin D levels (if you do it in the sunshine). But there’s also an environmental benefit to gathering recyclables:

- **Aluminum is 100% recyclable.** Every pound of newly manufactured aluminum requires five pounds of raw bauxite ore and creates five pounds of caustic, toxic mud. Every recycled can saves the equivalent of the electricity consumed by a large-screen TV over 90 minutes.
- **Plastic bottle recycling creates jobs and reduces oil dependency.** More than 50,000 recycling businesses exist in the U.S., employing 1 million people. Derived from petroleum, every new bottle consumes about as much oil as would fill a quarter of the bottle. Recycling requires some energy, but less.

The Bowmanville Street Pick-Up Gym never closes and every little litter bit helps – you, the neighborhood and the earth.

Russ Klettke is a Bowmanville resident, a certified fitness trainer and author of “A Guy’s Gotta Eat, the regular guys’ guide to eating smart” (2004, DaCapo Press)
Bowmanville Community Organization
— Membership Form —

JOIN THE BCO OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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

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New Member  Renewal

Name(s) __________________________________________________________

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Areas where I can help out in the coming year:

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

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

What year did you move to Bowmanville? __________________

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

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

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

What type of new BCO programming would interest you? __________________________________________

Comments or feedback? ________________________________________________________________

BCO Calendar of Events
(Committee contacts listed on page 1; check website for schedule updates)

May 4  GreenSpace Installation Day - native grasses  8am-3pm
May 8  Garden work night  6:30pm until dusk
May 16  BEE Social - K’s Dugout(1930 W Foster)  7pm
May 18  Garden workday  9:30-3:30pm
Jun 1  Bowmanville Street Sale  9am-4pm
Jun 12  Garden work night  6:30pm until dusk
Jun 22  Police Beat 2012 CAPS meeting  7pm
Jun 22  Garden workday  9:30-3:30pm
Jul 10  Garden work night  1pm-9:30pm
Jul 12  Summer Bee Deadline
Jul 13  Bowmanville Garden Walk  10am-4:30pm
Jul 27  Garden workday  9:30-3:30pm
Aug 14  Garden work night  6:30pm until dusk
Aug 17  BCO Summer Social - Ice Cream & More!  6:30pm until dusk
Aug 24  Garden workday  9:30-3:30pm
Sept 17  2nd Annual Poker Run

Need another Bee?

You can find them at the following local businesses:
- North Community Bank
- The Book Cellar
- Claddagh Ring
- Bobbie’s Runaway Tavern
- Let Them Eat Chocolate
- Green Sky

Deadline for the Next Bee: JUL 12

Help Deliver the Bee!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome! Please call 866-837-1006 or email news@bcochicago.org

Bowmanville Community Organization
866-837-1006 or email membership@bcochicago.org

Check out the BCO website! www.bcochicago.org