Building Community and Safety

BCO Style: Block-by-Block

by Ann Scholhamer

Bowmanville is a close-knit community. That’s often why people want to move to this area and, more often, that’s why they stay. When hard times hit a neighbor, Bowmanville residents lend a helping hand; shoveling, grass cutting, delivering home-cooked meals. Mostly, it happens on a localized level through individual Facebook pages or word of mouth.

When an outbreak of catalytic converter thefts was broadcast through the BCO Facebook site, many a watchful eye was on the streets and alleys, and neighbors reported suspicious activity. With the recent below zero weather, another call went out to make sure folks checked in on neighbors who may need extra assistance during hard times.

The BCO has an established Block Captain program, and we want to invigorate it to bring more support to those in need and to allow for quick contact with a wider number of households when urgent information arises. Not everyone is connected through Facebook or BCO Blasts and many times we are too busy to check online on a regular basis. Block Captains can fill the gaps.

The BCO program is designed to help blocks get organized around information sharing amongst themselves and with other parts of our community. The program works well when the Block Captains are involved, but if you don’t know who your Block Captain is, then your block probably needs a volunteer to step into that important role. Consider the opportunity.

Contact membership@bcochicago.org if you want to learn more about becoming a block captain. Visit the BCOChicago.org website, click on Membership, then follow the link to the Block Captain/Block Club page, or call 866-837-1006 for information. Operators are standing by!

The stated goal of the Block Captain program is to “bring neighbors together on both social and safety levels while enhancing our already family-friendly community.” It’s simple: We want to make sure that we really take care of each other. Please join us.
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 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 have recently joined twitter! 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 also have an ongoing series of informal ‘Bee Social’ meet-ups taking place around the community to bring neighbors together. Next up is Bee Entertained! Join neighbors Feb 26 at 8pm for a night of World Music with banjoist Jayme Stone at Old Town School of Folk Music. Contact events@bcochicago.org to reserve a spot or with an idea for a next Bee Social. We’d love to hear from you.

The BCO Gardening Committee continues to enhance and maintain our community garden spaces. Applications are available online for vegetable plots for 2014. Deadline to apply is March 1.

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 toll free line 1-866-837-1006. 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).

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. Join us at the upcoming BCO Spring Open Meeting March 20, 7PM at North Community Bank (5241 N Western Ave). 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: planning@bcochicago.org.

The BCO GreenSpace Committee continues its current focus on completing development and creating a maintenance plan for the green space at 5384 N. Bowmanville. This committee also continues to look for opportunities to expand the space. 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. 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.
Meet the New BCO Secretary

Peter McFadden moved to Bowmanville in July 2012 and, he says, “it has proven to be a great fit!”

He landed here after what he calls a “nomadic” adult life. Peter lived abroad in France and Singapore for many years, and moved to Chicago hoping to find a modestly priced single-family home in the heart of the city.

“I feel a part of both the vibrant Andersonville and Lincoln Square communities,” he told The Bee, “yet (I) always come home to our sleepy hollow I now call home.”

He’s a “coal cracker” from rural northeastern Pennsylvania, and grew up on a lake. But, he says he “always felt that I had been switched at birth and should have been raised in a Park Avenue co-op. As soon as the law allowed, I moved to NYC and have been an urban dweller ever since.”

And Peter’s multiple addresses aren’t his only points of variation.

“Professionally I work in the travel industry, virtually for Expedia, and am also a licensed mental health counselor with a couple of volunteer positions in the field,” he said.

As a single, gay man living with his one-year-old spaniel Caleb, Peter takes pleasure in his walks around the neighborhood, hoping to meet new friends and neighbors.

“The BCO has been very welcoming to me since moving to the hood!” he says, and in the voice of a BCO Board member, he adds, “We are reaching out to those in need and hope that all of you will consider serving on a BCO Committee to continually improve our neighborhood experience.”

New Born Neighbors Await Spring Debut

Nicholas Miller Festa was born to Berwyn residents John and Beth Festa on Oct. 4, 2013. Much to the delight of his parents, he is sleeping through the night and, obviously, smiling for his photos. His next trick will be learning to throw a ball so he can play fetch with his dog, Nola. He can’t wait to make friends with all of the neighborhood kids once it warms up outside!

Kyle and Erin Danielson welcomed their daughter, Clara Brynn Danielson, on Jan. 5, 2014. The baby came just a few days before her due date and weighed 7 lb. 6 oz., and was 20 inches long. All three are doing great and they, too, look forward to the warmer weather and a chance get out and meet all the neighbors.
Nebraska Girl Finds Dream Come True in Lincoln Square

In most regards, Lincoln, NE, is a long way from Bowmanville, but it's a journey Jackie Barron has taken without regret.

Jackie and her 14-year-old son live on Farragut Avenue and have been in Bowmanville for the past eight years.

She has seen many of her dreams realized since she left her childhood home in Nebraska, first attending college in Michigan, then moving to Chicago.

Formerly an accountant, Jackie says, "After staying home with my son when he was a baby, I knew I couldn't bear to go back to accounting, so I finally decided to follow my dreams."

She attended the Steven Papageorge Hair Academy, then located in Andersonville, to help make her dreams come true. Jackie "always wanted to be a hair artist," she said, and "hair has always been my passion."

It started with styling her dolls' hair as a little girl and moved "on to the girls I would baby sit, makeovers for my friends in high school and being a receptionist at a salon in college."

Jackie has recently moved from her location in Wicker Park to Flip, a salon on North Lincoln Avenue, across the street from Trader Joe's. She welcomes new clients from Bowmanville, and is offering a $10 discount to any customer mentioning this Bee article. Call or stop in to meet this self-made neighbor.

Flip Salon, 3726 N Lincoln Ave., 773-368-4775
Winter: Time to Take the Polar Purge Plunge?
by Sandy Spatz

We all have “stuff”; stuff we’re proud of, stuff we love and stuff we haven’t touched or even seen in years. Some things help personalize and define our space as places we love to come home to and others help make daily life easier and more efficient. We spend our lives acquiring and accumulating these things but there can come a moment when we look around and feel a bit suffocated by those very same things. At the end of the day, we need to be able to catch our breath, find our car keys and feel at peace in our own homes.

When I was a child, I would frequently rearrange my bedroom furniture, go through my desk and drawers and sort and purge -- although I certainly didn’t call it that at the time. I would keep my room very neat and organized. I loved it!

Childhood is a great time to learn some organizational skills and I believe it is never too early to teach children to respect and take care of their things. Organizing and rotating their toys and supplies help kids feel more in control of their environment and less overwhelmed. Taking on such a project as a family can be fun and very gratifying.

It’s also never too late! It’s always a good time to stop and review our “stuff”: determining what we need, what really matters to our lives and what we find is best passed along to someone else. Frigid temperatures can keep us indoors so it could be a great time to get a jump start on spring cleaning or prepping early for June’s neighborhood yard sale.

Start Your Street Sale Pile Now
by Barbara Wolke

The 18th Bowmanville Community Annual Street Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 9 AM to 4 PM, so, now is the time to start sorting through your belongings and determine which ones might need a new home.

Last summer, 82 families set up shop and the fun is not just in buying, but also in selling, bartering and clearing out some of those jam-packed spaces in your home. A highlight of the day is always the “After Sale Party " at Leadway (Damen and Farragut).

Applications will be on the website, and will also be circulated in early May. So, get started at home today. Shoppers come from near and far each year to check out the goods.

Never Too Early to Think Summer
by Ann Scholhamer

The Annual BCO Summer Social swung out bigger and better in 2013 – along with the fantastic Pauline’s Ice Cream being scooped for hours, we enjoyed Chef Martin’s Brats, and so much more. Local musician Larry Liss and Trick Shooter Social Club provided lively music, enjoyed by young and old. Steven Solomon, pop-jazz pianist and vocalist, kept things moving, while local artists, crafters and entrepreneurs shared and sold the product of their talents.

The Social wouldn’t be complete without the Bouncy House and visits from the Bicycle Ambassadors and the firemen from First Station 110. Our thanks to them all for coming out!

If you missed it, mark your calendars now for The 2014 Summer Social: Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014. It promises more music, food and fun with your neighbors and friends! To learn more and get involved in next year’s Social, contact Ann Scholhamer at bcoicecream@gmail.com.
Beer Here! And There, And Here

As the micro-brewery movement spreads across the country, so too is it making its mark in Ravenswood and even Bowmanville. The Metropolitan, Begyle and Half Acre are already rooted in the area, and now Empirical is set to open in the Spring at Foster and Ravenswood, and Thrillist reports that there is a second-floor taproom in the works.

And even closer to home, Strange Pelican Brewing took over the 4 Paws Brewing Co.’s lease, at 5435 N. Wolcott Ave. on Jan. 1. It was just a year ago when Meghan and Matt Gebhardt opened 4 Paws with great enthusiasm. They did not comment on the decision to get out of the craft beer business now, but Strange Pelican co-owner and brewer Eric McNeil explained their decision to move in.

"We were stuck waiting for building permits at our Fulton location, so when this opportunity came about we couldn't pass it up," he told DNAinfo Chicago. "We are thrilled and cannot wait to start brewing in this amazing space."

Local Grocery Competition Heats Up

It was with much anticipation that the Dominick’s grocery opened at 5233 N. Lincoln Ave., several years ago, but now the demise of the Dominick’s chain brings with it a new store with a somewhat new concept.

Tony’s Finer Foods will take over the Dominick’s store in Lincoln Square, DNAinfo Chicago reports. The announcement was made online in late January. "Introducing Tony’s Fresh Market!" it said, pointing to the Lincoln Avenue location.

The store is expected to open in the spring,

Headquartered in Itasca, Tony’s operates 11 locations in the metro Chicago area. The family-owned company opened its first store at 3607 W. Fullerton Ave. in 1979.

Tony’s line of exclusive Antonino-branded products includes cheeses, pastas and peppers.

With the addition of Tony’s and the Mariano’s store set to open mid-March on Lawrence Avenue, Bowmanville households will soon have several choices when it comes to shopping the aisles.

The Staff and Owner of Marty's proudly salute and say thank you to all those that help make our neighborhood such an enjoyable part of our lives.
Veggie Plot Could Be Yours
by David Johnston

The year 2014 will mark the sixth season for vegetable gardening at the Gateway Gardens, located at the corner of Ravenswood and Balmoral avenues. The raised beds along Bowmanville Avenue provide an opportunity for interested gardeners to grow their own produce and support our neighborhood gardening efforts. Veggie garden plot applications and guideline forms for 2014 are now available on the BCO website at bcochicago.org/gardening.

The deadline for submitting an application is March 1, 2014. Membership in the Bowmanville Community Organization, a nominal plot fee, and the commitment to provide at least 12 hours of volunteer support to community-wide gardening efforts are required of those obtaining plot assignments.

As in past years, plot assignments are expected to be in high demand. The removal of beds in the Gateway Garden, due to construction along the Metra/UP North Line, reduced our supply of plots. These are slated to be restored when construction is completed, but it is not known yet if they will be available for any of the 2014 growing season.
2013 Poker Run Sidetracked By Legislation

Simple fundraising is not so simple anymore. Just as we were gearing up for our 2nd annual Bowmanville Poker Run last fall, a change to IL legislation (HB2520) went into effect requiring licensing and fees that dramatically affected this event and any other Poker Runs around Illinois. In September, the BCO’s second Poker Run effort was caught in the crossfire.

Although the BCO initiated the new licensing process immediately upon learning of the new requirements hours before the scheduled event, each of the Poker Run pubs was hit with a violation from the Liquor Commission for lack of proper licensing. Rather than fight the violations, the participating businesses chose to pay the fines and move on. An appeal to have the violations voided was worthy and the BCO was behind it. But in the end, understandably, it was a gamble the bar owners did not want to take. A negative outcome on the appeal could have increased the fines or resulted in more harsh consequences. Business owners know Chicago bureaucracy all too well.

Despite strong attendance and a great night, our efforts at community building and fundraising had the reverse effect: a hardship for the participating pubs, many volunteer hours spent researching and chasing closure on licensing issues, and nearly $3000 spent by the pubs and the BCO thus far in licensing costs and/or fines. In short, the 2013 Poker Run resulted in a costly and regrettable mess.

Under the current legislation, the BCO won’t pursue another Poker Run, but Poker Run or not, we urge the community to continue to support our local pubs. They have supported the Bowmanville Community Organization, and depend on the locals to support their businesses. With hopes of continued positive relationships with these neighbors, the BCO encourages residents to stop in and eat and drink locally. There are five local pubs in Bowmanville: Big Joe’s, K’s Dugout, Leadway, Bobbie’s Runaway Tavern, and Claddagh Ring.

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www.bcochicago.org
This winter’s snow has been a nuisance for many, but one Bowmanville resident reached back to his childhood to turn a chilly chore into a good time for himself and his son.

Sean Mullin, who moved to Bowmanville with his wife and two children in June, tells The Bee that he was out shoveling after a recent big snow day, when he had the idea to build a tunnel, reportedly for the boy, but perhaps a bit for himself as well.

“I shortly realized that with a little extra effort I could probably build a lot more than just a tunnel, so I spent an hour piling up as much snow as I could and packing it down with my shovel,” Sean said. He spent the next half-hour hollowing it out to create a crawl space (above, left), and was surprised by the amount of room the “igloo” offered, easily accommodating Sean and his 3½-year-old son (above, middle).

“Unfortunately, I couldn’t convince my wife or 1 ½-year-old to join us, but I think we could have fit them too,” he said. The structure held up to some rough play from other neighborhood kids, too.

“Oddly enough,” Sean said, “I did live in Fairbanks, Alaska from seventh through twelfth grade, but I can assure you this was never part of the curriculum.”

On the western side of Bowmanville, much fun was being had in the snow as well. Sephora and Leonardo Toma made a “blob snowman” (above, right) in their front yard, across the street from the Greenspace.

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**Bee Entertained!**

World Music by banjoist Jayme Stone  
Feb 26 at Old Town School of Folk Music, 8pm  
Join neighbors for a Bee social meet-up!  
Email events@bcochicago.org to reserve your spot (free tickets, $10 suggested donation).

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Share What You Read With Little Free Library

A few neighbors in the 2100 block of Summerdale recently noticed a Little Free Library on Catalpa Ave. and were intrigued.

“We decided it was something we would like to do ... so we found out more about the Little Free Library organization,” Karen Wallace Herbert said. It turned out The Little Free Library web site was a great resource, offering, among other things, some pre-made libraries for purchase. But the Summerdale gang decided it would be a lot more fun (and economical!) to make their own.

One very talented and artistic neighbor built the library, Karen said, and then a few others helped paint it. More neighbors generously donated the post and other building materials, and one neighbor took care of contacting the Little Free Library organization and getting the library officially registered with a charter number. It was a real community effort!

“By the time we got the library up and running, it was early November” Karen told The Bee, so it was getting too cold and wet to schedule the community-wide decorating party the group had hoped for. They’re hoping to still do it next spring/summer.

The Little Free Library has been a great addition to the block. After much deliberation, the decision was made to place it midway down the block, on the south side of the street. It offers something for every reader’s taste. On any given day there will be popular fiction titles, mysteries, kids’ books, historical nonfiction, sports and political publications and even some cookbooks. If you come back in a few days, there will be all new titles! It’s a great way to share what you read. And it’s not just for Summerdaleans -- everyone in the community is welcome to come by to check it out, take a book, leave a book, or both.

Have a space in mind where another Little Free Library might thrive? Reach out to publicart@bcochicago.org and help make it happen.
Bowmanville Community Organization
— Membership Form —

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 c/o Jim Sinegal - Treasurer
2052 W Farragut Ave #2
Chicago, IL 60625

MEMBERSHIP: $20 ANNUALLY

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Home Address ________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State ______________ Zip _______________

Phone __________________________ Cell ________________________________

Areas where I can help out in the coming year:

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

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? ________________________________________________________________

———    Membership Form    Membership Form    Membership Form    Membership Form ————

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Police Beat 2012 CAPS meeting</td>
<td>7pm, St. Gregory Bingo Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>BCO Board Meeting - annual budget review*</td>
<td>8pm @ Old Town School of Folk Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>'Bee Entertained!’ social meet up</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Veggie Plot Applications due</td>
<td>email <a href="mailto:gardening@bcochicago.org">gardening@bcochicago.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>Garden Planning Meeting</td>
<td>7pm, location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>BCO Spring Open Mtg</td>
<td>7pm @ NCB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Gardening day</td>
<td>9:30-3:30 at Bowmanville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>Spring Bee Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Garden Orientation meeting</td>
<td>7pm, location TBD</td>
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<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>Police Beat 2012 CAPS meeting</td>
<td>7pm, St. Gregory Bingo Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 17</td>
<td>BCO Board Meeting*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Gardening day</td>
<td>9:30-3:30 at Gateway</td>
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*Contact secy@bcochicago.org for BCO Board meeting locations as they change monthly

CHECK OUT THE BCO WEBSITE! www.bcochicago.org