

Bowmanville Bee



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

Summer 2007

Who's who in the BCO

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Eloise Reimer

Claire Shingler

Letter from the President

By Ellen Jurczak

In an ongoing effort to better serve the neighborhood, BCO Board members recently recommended that we get to know Bowmanville better. We wanted demographic information that was specific to Bowmanville. Alderman O'Connor directed us to the U.S. Census website (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). The site is also his office's main source for demographic information. The last census was in 2000 so the information is a bit dated but it is the most recent that is readily available and, for convenience, the data is presented as current.

In addition to this we recently began collecting the following information on the membership forms: (1) the length of time the applicant has lived in Bowmanville, (2) whether he or she rents or owns his or her home, (3) the number of people in the household, (4) their ages, and (5) the applicant's interests. What is the BCO going to do with all this information? The plan is to compare information about our members with information about the neighborhood as a whole, and with the activities in which the BCO is currently involved (Events, Planning and Development, the Bee, etc.). We'll then determine those needs we currently serve well and areas where we can improve service. We can then redirect our time and funds to best serve the neighborhood.

The area between Ravenswood, Foster, Western and Peterson is a single tract (#401 in Cook County) so the data on the Census Bureau's website is unique to Bowmanville. Here are some basic facts: Bowmanville is 0.78 square miles and has a population of 4611, 2326 male and 2285 female. There are 1838 households.

*1012 of the residents (22%) are under the age of 18

*463 (10%) are over the age of 65

*34.4 years is the average age of residents

*1792 men are over the age of 15, about half (880) are married and not separated

*1942 women are over the age of 15, about half (947) are married and not separated

*755 (42%) of the men and 584 (30%) of the women over the age of 15 have never married

*139 households include unmarried partners



About half of the residents (2116 of 4303) over the age of 5 speak a language other than English and there are 276 (about 15%) linguistically isolated households. A linguistically isolated household is one in which no member fourteen years old and over (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well". Spanish is the most frequently spoken foreign language followed by Asian and Pacific Island languages.

*1800 residents (39%) are foreign-born

*681 of the 1838 (37%) housing units are occupied by the owner

*1064 are rental units

*93 are vacant

*1948 of the residents (44%) live in owner-occupied housing

*2455 (56%) live in rental units

*1997 (46%) lived in the same house for five years or more



BCO Bowmanville
Community
Organization

www.bcochicago.org

1-866-837-1006

Help improve the BCO. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions. They are always appreciated. Please contact the BCO through the website (www.bcochicago.org) or by calling our hotline (1-866-837-1006).

Recovering from Identity Theft

- Part 4

By Mark Soehn

Suddenly your bank account is empty, your credit card bills are through the roof, and you're getting late notices for accounts you don't own. Despite your best efforts, your identity has been stolen. What now?



Time is money

To minimize your losses, act fast. Contact, in this order:

1. Your credit card companies
2. Your bank
3. The three major credit bureaus
4. Local, state, or federal law enforcement authorities

Your credit card companies

Credit card companies are getting better at detecting fraud; in many cases, if they spot activity outside the mainstream of your normal card usage, they'll call you to confirm that you made the charges. But the responsibility to notify them of lost or stolen cards is still yours.

If you do so in a reasonable time (within 30 days after you discover the loss), you won't be responsible for more than \$50 per card in fraudulent charges. Ask that the accounts be closed at your request, and open new accounts with password protection.

If an identity thief opens new accounts in your name, you'll need to prove it wasn't you who opened them. Ask the creditors for copies of application forms or other transaction records to verify that the signature on them isn't yours.

Whether the identity thief compromises an existing account or opens a new one fraudulently, the creditor involved may want you to fill out a fraud affidavit. Most will accept the uniform affidavit form available from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); you may obtain it from the FTC at www.ftc.gov.

Follow up your initial creditor contacts with letters indicating the date you reported the loss or theft. Watch your subsequent monthly statements from the creditor; if any fraudulent charges appear, contest them in writing.

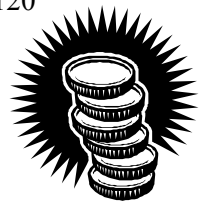
Your bank

If your debit (ATM) card is lost or stolen, you won't be held responsible for any unauthorized withdrawals if you report the loss before it's used. Otherwise, the extent of your liability depends on how quickly you report the loss:

- If you report the loss within two business days after you notice the card is missing, you'll be held liable for up to \$50 of unauthorized withdrawals. (If the card doubles as a credit card, you may not be protected by this limit.)
- If you fail to report the loss within two days after you notice the card is missing, you can be held responsible for up to \$500 in unauthorized withdrawals.
- If you fail to report an unauthorized transfer or withdrawal that's posted on your bank statement within 60 days after the statement is mailed to you, you risk unlimited loss.

If your checkbook is lost or stolen, stop payment on any outstanding checks, then close the account and open a new one. Dispute any fraudulent checks accepted by merchants in order to prevent collection activity against you. And notify the check-guarantee bureaus:

- Check Rite (800) 766-2748
- ChexSystems (800) 328-5121
- CrossCheck (800) 552-1900
- Equifax-Telecredit (800) 437-5120
- NPC (800) 526-5380
- SCAN (800) 262-7771
- Tele-Check (800) 366-2425



Part 5: Credit agencies can help

Mark C. Soehn is a Principal at Financial Solutions Advisory Group, Inc.

A logo consisting of five stylized, black human figures standing in a row, slightly overlapping. Below the figures, the text "Chiropractic for Life" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by the address "5138 N. Clark" and the phone number "773.878.8933".

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Property Tax Cap Bill Approved by House Now Moves to Senate Vote

By Cindy Burgin

We're half way there. The Illinois House passed the House Amendment #1 (Senate Bill - SB13) on May 30, 2007. The bill now goes to the Senate where the vote is expected to be called by the end of June 2007.

The original bill simply requested that the 7% property tax cap be extended, but SB13 had much "pork" added before being considered. Complete details are not clear, but, essentially the House Amendment #1 increases the alternative general homestead exemption (the 7% cap) to \$30,000 in the first year (previously \$20,000); \$24,000 in the second year; and \$18,000 in the third year.

The bill also includes; disabled veterans exemption, returning veteran's homestead exemption (one-time benefit), disabled persons' homestead exemption, disabled veterans standard homestead exemption, an increase to the senior citizens homestead exemption, an increase in the senior citizens assessment freeze, an increase in the general homestead exemption, the long-time occupant homestead exemption, an abatement for the residence of a surviving spouse of a fallen police officer or rescue worker. The bill also establishes a Property Tax Reform and Relief Task Force selected from the House and the Senate.

Tax Reform Action Coalition (TRAC) should be credited for keeping the pressure on local officials to renew the 7% tax cap, pork or not. Several Bowmanville residents are members of TRAC and have been active and very vocal about this issue.

Welcome to Bowmanville!

Bowmanville welcomed Helena Claire Shingler to our community on April 13, 2007. Helena weighed in at 10 pounds 2 ounces and is pictured here with her big sister, Catherine. Todd and Claire Shingler are the proud parents and reside in Bowmanville.



We know there are other newborns around Bowmanville. Send us your details so we can welcome your little one to the community in an upcoming Bee.



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Bowmanville History: The Summerdale Police Scandal



The Summerdale (Foster Avenue) police scandal occurred nearly 50 years ago but its impact still affect us today. The scandal started when a burglar named Richie Morrison was facing a prison sentence of two years. With the prospect of a lengthy prison sentence looming before him, he summoned representatives from the office of the Republican State's Attorney, Benjamin Adamowski, and told them that he had sensitive information to share about crooked cops in return for a deal—the customary promise of leniency. Negotiations continued with the public defender and Adamowski's right-hand man, Chief Investigator Paul Davis Newey from the State's Attorney's office, until Morrison finally agreed to be placed in a secret witness protection program.

The scandal involved eight Chicago Police officers who conspired with the burglar Morrison at various times to loot North Side retail stores. What made this situation unique, as opposed to the average run-of-the-mill shakedowns perpetrated against unsuspecting motorists pulled over for traffic violations, was that for the first time in departmental history, uniformed police officers plotted and carried out burglaries while patrolling the streets. Collecting bribes, expecting "presents" and other

Alderman O'Connor to offer Local Vehicle Sticker Purchase

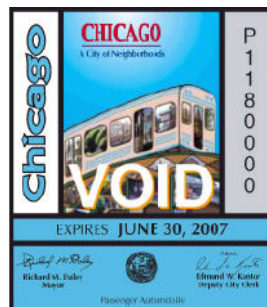
Chicago vehicle stickers will be available for purchase at Alderman O'Connor's office on:

Wednesday, July 11th - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The price of a passenger vehicle sticker is \$75.00 (for vehicles 4,500 lbs and above, the cost is \$90.00). Seniors (65 years and older) will pay \$30.00 for the passenger classification with a valid Illinois driver's license and proof of ownership. Motor scooters and moped owners pay \$45.00.

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emoluments from retail merchants at Christmas time, was something that Chicago residents had come to expect of its police officers over the years. Burgling stores after-hours in the company of the accomplished sneak thief like Richard Morrison who often served as the "lookout," was quite another thing to the citizenry of Chicago.

The scandal rocked the Chicago Police Department and the confidence of the public to its bare foundations. The ensuing events nearly cost Mayor Richard J. Daley his career as a big city power broker, and led to systematic change put in place by a scholarly reformer known as the "professor", Orlando W. Wilson from the University of California at Los Angeles. A 19th century method of police administration permanently ended along with a way of life that traded on the favors of politicians, organized crime, and ward heelers of the very worst stripe.

Richard C. Lindbergh's article "The Babbling Burglar and the Summerdale Scandal: The Lessons of Police Malfeasance" was used, with permission, as a source for the information in this article. The article can be read in its entirety on the BCO website (www.bcochicago.org). Mr. Lindbergh is a city historian and the author of 12 books about Chicago. His latest book, "Shattered Sense of Innocence: The Chicago Child Murders of 1955," was published last October by Southern Illinois University Press. His web-site address is www.richardlindbergh.net

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Volunteers Needed

The BCO is looking for volunteers to help with membership outreach, events, planning, bookkeeping, development, gardening, the newsletter, etc. If you're interested, or just want to find out more, please contact any of the officers or committee chairs listed in this edition of the Bee.

It's Cicada Season

There are two types of cicadas commonly found in large numbers in Illinois. There are dogday or annual cicadas that emerge every year. Periodical cicadas emerge every 13 years in the southern half of Illinois and every 17 years in the northern half of the state. Cicadas are large bodied and have large compound eyes.



Cicadas are sometimes mistakenly called locusts. In actuality, they are not at all related to locusts, which are a kind of grasshopper. The male cicadas "sing" during the day to attract females. Dogday cicadas tend to sing more in late afternoon and evening. Each cicada species has its own distinctive sound to avoid attracting the wrong cicada. Typically, periodical cicada emergences consist of three species, that can be distinguished by the male songs as well as by slight differences in their appearance. The nymphs of these cicadas feed on the roots of trees and shrubs.

Chicago Cicada Cycle

The 17 year cicada broods in the Chicagoland area apparently emerged four years early, in 1969. It then returned to a seventeen-year cycle. In 1986 and 2003, the smaller division emerged. This sub-brood emerges throughout much of the Cook County suburbs, the eastern half of DuPage County, southeastern Lake County, and northeastern Will County. The emergence is a curved band running from Deerfield on the northeast, arcing to Addison and Lisle on the west and Crete on the southeast. The inside of the band arcs across northwestern,

western, and southwestern Chicago. Its territory is not as large as the main brood which will emerge in the in a future year. The main hatch will be heavier in number and cover a much larger territory.

Life Cycle of the cicada

Dogday cicadas emerge from the soil during the heat of the summer - the dog days of summer. The harvestfly name came about because some crops are being harvested at the time of their emergence. Once they emerge, they mate and lay eggs. The eggs hatch and the nymphs feed on the sap in tree and shrub roots from two to five years. When fully grown, the nymphs emerge from the soil, climb a tree, building, or other upright object, and shed the hard shell that protected their body and wings while tunneling up through the soil. By pumping body fluids to the thorax area behind the head, the thorax swells and splits the hard shell. This allows the adult to emerge. Once free, fluids are pumped into their wings causing them to unfold and expand. Once the wings are fully extended, the cicadas let them dry before they fly.

Cicadas Are Edible

Periodical cicadas are also edible. Native Americans utilized them in their diet. In 1990, several college students were filmed eating them alive. When asked what they tasted like, the students reported that they tasted like almonds. Drying them in a microwave oven carefully causes them to release an almond smell.



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Woof!

Nature powered landscapes, or how to just say "No" to leaf blowers!

By Betty Redmond

How can you reduce allergies and asthma, save money, time, stay fit, **and** contribute to saving the planet from global warming?

Carbon Sequestration. Yep, that's a big word, but it's a simple concept. Returning organic matter to the soil has a huge impact on lessening global warming. If you, or your landscape service, use leaf blowers, you are, in fact, removing elements of a rich topsoil, only to have to replace it later with an expensive fertilizer to enhance the growth of your lawn or garden.

Eliminate the use of leaf blowers and gas mowers. Ask your landscape service to use electric mowers and rakes. Using the person-powered grass cutters of the past help keep your abdominal muscles in shape. Not only do leaf blowers and mowers increase carbon and other



noxious emissions, blowers also stir up molds, and other allergens that have already settled into the soil. Raking the yard may not look as 'neat' as a power blown lawn, but it does enable more organic nutrients to decompose in place, and helps keep allergens out of the air we breathe.

No one enjoys having a quiet morning shattered by the arrival of a landscape crew, hustling about for 30 minutes with an oil fueled leaf blower and lawn mower. Noise abatement is another element that contributes to our quality of life, and better neighbor relations.

Many folks in the Bowmanville Community have already reduced grass lawns and increased plant and wildlife habitat in their front yards and parkways. Increased numbers and varieties of birds have been sighted throughout the neighborhood. Create a more "natural look" by planting long lasting perennials and shrubs and you may never have to mow again!



Community Alert - Suspect Wanted for Armed Robberies

The Chicago Police Department is investigating several late night and early morning armed robberies where a handgun was used to threaten the victims. The robberies have occurred between 11:30 PM and 6:00 AM between April 6th and May 12th. These robberies have occurred from 1000 North to 5500 North and from East to 900 West.

The offender has targeted both male and female victims walking down the street. He often approaches them from behind and brandishes a blue steel or chrome handgun and demands their belongings.



Be on the lookout for a black male, 18-28 years old, 5'8 to 6'0 tall, 145 to 180 lbs with short black hair, facial hair reported in several incidents, wearing a gray or black hoodie, using a four door white automobile in one instance, a gray hatchback in another. **Call 911 to report crimes!**



BCO Garden Walk Reminder

Saturday, July 14, 2007 - noon - 4:00 PM

More information at www.bcochicago.org



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Garden News

Celebrating over 10 years of beautifying Bowmanville

Bring Your Green Thumb to the Community Garden this Summer!

Volunteers are needed to weed, mulch, transplant, and water Bowmanville's award-winning Community Garden this summer. So grab your kneepads and plan to join us on the fourth Saturday of each month from June through October. We'll meet in The Bowmanville Community Garden at the intersection of Leavitt, Balmoral and Bowmanville.

Saturday, June 23 🌻 **Mulch Madness**

How do you spread 3 truckloads of mulch? With strong arms and willing hearts! Bring your wheelbarrows and help us make short work of this heavy load as we spread a mountain of mulch all over the garden.

Saturday, July 28 🌻 **Preparing for the Council Ring**

The area needs to be prepared for the council ring installation next month – plants need to be moved and the area needs to be treated organically with cardboard and compost to prevent further weed growth before the stones arrive.

Saturday, August 25 🌻 **Council Ring Installation**

Stone delivery date TBD. The positions for the council ring will be marked, and once put in place, the surrounding area will be re-planted to screen it from the street view.

Saturday, September 22 🌻 **Transplant Like a Surgeon**

Join the knowledgeable crew from GreenCorps as we transplant our abundant beds of iris, asters, catmint, and more throughout the garden.

Saturday, October 27 🌻 **The Great Bush & Shrub Divide**

Fall is the ideal time to move bushes and shrubs that have grown too large for their space or haven't thrived as they should where they were originally planted. Join us as we take this last opportunity to make a few big moves and put the garden to bed for the season.

These regular Saturday garden workdays are scheduled for **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, but you'll be a welcome addition to the crew no matter how long you stay – for 4 hours or 45 minutes, or for however long your weekend plans allow. Enjoy potluck refreshments with fellow gardeners, contributed by neighbors and local businesses.

Neighbors will also be gathering in the Community Garden on the **second Wednesday evening of each month** to take advantage of summer's longer days and cooler nights. Weeding and watering will be the focus of these **casual work evenings from 6:30 p.m. until dusk**. The dates are: **June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12**.

Questions? Call Tom Kennedy at 773-271-8103 or Betty Redmond at 773-784-4655.

Gateway Garden Makes a Comeback

Bowmanville's Gateway Garden, which is located on Balmoral at Ravenswood, was nearly destroyed during the construction of the Rogers Park Montessori School two years ago. But it's scheduled to make a comeback this summer! Longtime BCO board member Betty Redmond has been in contact with People's Gas Company to remove the asphalt and concrete that was dumped into the garden during construction, and when that job is completed, volunteers from the school will complete the garden cleanup and give the asters, galardia, and pushkinia another chance to thrive.

Plans are also underway to acquire the vacant lot across from the school and transform the narrow space into a self-sustainable, child-friendly garden. It is hoped that the BCO, RPMS, GreenCorps and NeighborSpace will work together to make that dream a reality in the coming years. If you would like to volunteer your time and expertise to this project, please call Betty Redmond at 773-784-4655.

Thank you...

... To **all of the neighbors who joined in the first workday of the season** on May 26 in the Bowmanville Community Garden. Later, volunteers shared a pot luck feast to celebrate the start of the garden season.

... To **B.A. Church** for her ongoing efforts to establish a perennial garden in the bumpouts on Berwyn, at the west end of Bowmanville. Thanks to her persistence, daylilies, roses and hostas will be blooming all summer long.



Bee Contributions Welcome



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

Bee Counted - Advertise!

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Quarter Page \$75

3.5"W X 5"H

Half Page \$150

7.75W X 5"H

For further information, or to reserve space in the next issue of the Bowmanville Bee, please contact us at ads@bcochicago.org.

Help Deliver the Bee!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome! Please call Scott Galassini at (866) 837-1006.



Need another Bee?

You can find them at the following local businesses...

- Curves
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- Claddagh Ring

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BCO Calendar of Events

BCO Board Meetings, Third Thursday each month, 7:30 p.m. at Tempel Steel Training Room, 5448 N. Wolcott.

Communication Committee Meetings, first Thursday of each month.

Planning and Development Committee Meetings, last Monday of each month

BCO Garden Walk - Saturday, July 14, 2007

BCO Ice Cream Social - Saturday, August 18, 2007

BCO Halloween Event - Saturday, October 27, 2007



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

Join the BCO

\$12 Join or renew your membership today! Please return this form with your check for \$12.00 to the Bowmanville Community Organization to: BCO, c/o Craig Hanenburg, 5361 N. Bowmanville, Chicago, 60625. Questions? Call Craig at (866) 837-1006 or email membership@bcochicago.org. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Name _____

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☐ Renewal ☐ New Member Committee I'd serve on: _____

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

1. How long have you lived in Bowmanville? _____
2. Do you rent or own your home? _____
3. How many people are in your household? _____
4. What are their ages? _____