

Bowmanville Bee



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

Summer 2015

Who's Who in the BCO

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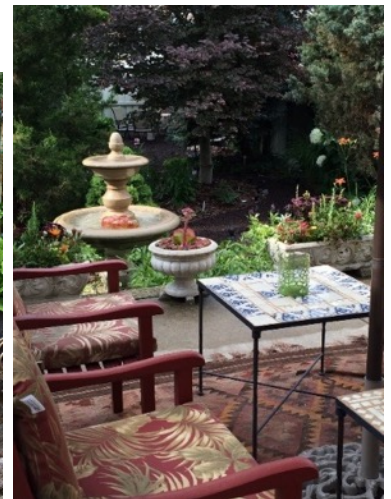
The 17th Annual **Bowmanville Garden Walk** on July 11 buzzed with more than 200 people, some from as far north as Lake Forest and as far south as Champaign. The Walk featured 21 residential gardens, three community gardens and the BCO GreenSpace, as well as (new this year) street corner parkway gardens landscaped by neighbors.

Besides providing an opportunity to see many of the wonderful gardens in our neighborhood, the Walk gave participating gardeners a chance to have their gardens reviewed by a panel of Master Gardeners and be recognized with the "Best in Show" and other awards.

This year's Best in Show Award went to Mary Stoppert and Carmen Perez (above at left) on Balmoral Avenue for their amazing garden with three seating areas, three fountains, wrought iron features and food stations for wildlife. (Two views of the garden are shown below at right. See page 4 for other ribbon winners.)

The event included an "Ask a Master Gardener" table staffed by a five-person team from the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners Program, which has been a BCO Garden Walk partner for the past nine years. This year the team even brought a watershed model for children to interact with to see how water moves over ground into rivers and lakes.

Continued on page 4. Find more Garden Walk photos on bcochicago.org.



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Saturday, August 15 - 12 to 4pm - Bowmanville Green Space
5384 N. Bowmanville Ave

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Bowmanville's community newsletter, The Bowmanville Bee, is published quarterly with the goal of sharing the neighborhood buzz and promoting local business. New Managing Editor Tim Noworyta, 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 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! 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. **Contact events@bcochicago.org with an idea for a next Bee Social or to pitch in on any event.** We'd love to hear from you. Our next event is the **Bowmanville Summer Social August 15**. Ann Scholhamer needs your help to make it happen.



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).



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 will be October 22**. 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. **We'll need a new P&D chair to step in come October.** Think about it!



The BCO GreenSpace Committee strives to complete 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 one of our two GreenSpace Think Tank sessions Aug 24 or Aug 31 to brainstorm next steps!** 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.

A Resounding NO to Charter Schools in Bowmanville

As many of you know, Intrinsic Schools earlier this year proposed development of a charter high school on the east side of Western Avenue on land owned by SCI/Rosehill Cemetery. Because the development would affect Bowmanville, the BCO conducted an online survey from May 22 to June 28 to see what residents of our and surrounding neighborhoods thought of the proposed school.

Since then, Alderman O'Connor announced on July 2 that Intrinsic was no longer considering the Rosehill site. Based on survey results, many in Bowmanville were relieved with that outcome. We thought you'd find the survey results interesting, so we've highlighted them below. Contact comm@bcochicago.org if you have specific questions on the results. Thanks to all of you who took part!

RESPONDENTS

A whopping 771 responses were received, 231 of which (30%) were from Bowmanville residents. Another 211 were from people living south of Foster Ave, 192 from west of Western Ave., and the rest from east of Ravenswood or north of Peterson. Answers grouped by area were much the same as the overall results shown below.

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents were overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal — 88% said they did NOT support a charter high school on the cemetery site.
- Most respondents considered a school the least suitable of the three uses (church, school or senior living facility) permitted on the site by a restrictive covenant on the property. A senior facility was considered the most suitable.
- A majority of respondents thought existing schools were doing a good job, and roughly 90% were concerned that a charter high school would draw funds from neighborhood schools and work against them.
- Of the respondents with children, 85% did not consider the proposed charter school a viable option for their children.
- Nearly 90% of respondents were concerned that the proposed school would generate traffic, parking or environmental problems, and that the school could grow beyond the planned size or be given access to Bowmanville Avenue.
- An even higher percentage (93%) of respondents said that further expanding the neighborhood's permanent greenspace important was important to them for the community.

MANY ADDED COMMENTS

Survey respondents made a total of 1,923 comments, most of which could be summarized by these statements:

- There is no need for the proposed school; our existing schools are safe, solid, and continuing to improve. They need community and government support.
- Charter schools are not a good idea and the proposed one would negatively impact existing schools in the community.
- The proposed school would also negatively impact the community at large.
- Greenspace is important and hard to come by— better to leave this space open and use CPS funds to invest in neighborhood schools.

GreenSpace Think Tank

Join one of these sessions to brainstorm on future greenspace acquisition

Sunday Aug 23 at 4pm

Monday Aug 31 at 7pm

location TBA

RSVP to greenspace@bcochicago.org

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We're all winners!

Living in a neighborhood where people care about gardening makes it better for all of us. So we would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's Garden Walk and congratulate those who were recognized with gardening ribbons (listed below at left). The judges also presented the following special awards:

CONGRATULATIONS!

Gardens were evaluated by judges on such criteria as design, creative use of plants, and neighborhood enhancement.

BLUE RIBBON (90 to 100 points)

Mary Stoppert & Carmen Perez
Patrick Brandell
Lydia Sievert
Russ Klettke
Leavett Wofford & Tom Kennedy
Alan Kaminski

RED RIBBON (80 to 89 points)

Maria E Velazquez
Maria R Velazquez

WHITE RIBBON (70 to 79 points)

None this year

GREEN RIBBON (69 points or less)

Jean Niederman



Continued Excellence in Gardening Award. Jim Hannon on Bowmanville Avenue won a Teal Ribbon for his beautiful mix of landscape and container plantings that create different outdoor rooms and tranquil resting spots.



Pierre Poinsett Improvement Award. In honor of Pierre, a Garden Walk Judge for seven years, Jeff Graves and Jack Beaupied on Summerdale were awarded a Gold Ribbon for adding a suggested water feature.

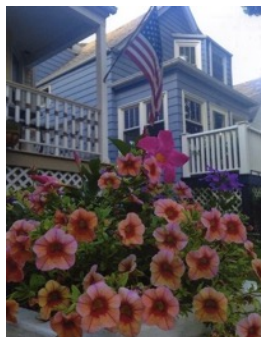
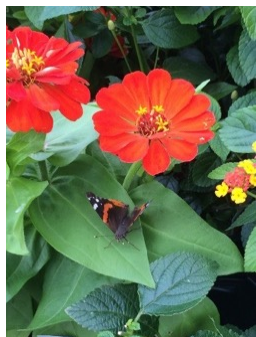


Inspiration Award. Wendy Fairchild on Farragut was recognized for her lovely garden and encouraged to enter again next year in the ribbon review category.



Pauline Messier Garden Hospitality Award. The 2015 award went to Scott and Ernestine Galassini on Hoyne Ave., who provided lunch for the judges and were recognized for the best use of bourbon in garden cocktails!

The Garden Walk included a photography contest, in which 17 photos were entered. The winner was "Landed" by Billy Kuczek (below left), which will be used in the 18th Annual Garden Walk next year on July 9, 2016. Second place went to "Mam B's Magical Butterfly Garden" by Sally Bianca Berkia (below center), and third place to "Patriotic bloom" by Charlie Sell (below right).



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Garden Walk 2015

We especially thank our generous sponsors and volunteers, without whose support the Walk would not have been the success it was:

GARDEN WALK SPONSORS

Gethsemane Gardens for Best in Show and Best Photo prizes

Thybonny Paint and Wallpaper for paint sticks used to create our walk map fan

Jeff Graves NorthEdge Group and **Matt Mitchell Insurance Agency** for BCO summer events and walk map printing

Ben's Noodles and Rice for food at the Awards Party

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Barbara O'Connor of The O'Connor Hebson Group

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Women and Children First

VOLUNTEERS

- Patricia Morin, Reuben Rios and Linda Blaser, for being the Master Gardener Review Team (below at right); they judged nine gardens and provided five Master Gardener consultations
- Robert Nicklas, for guiding the Master Gardener Judges around the neighborhood
- Barry Kafka for designing and laying out the walk maps, and the Berwyn Book Club, for gluing handles into the fans
- Welcome table staff, for their time and willingness to help out
- The U of I Extension Master Gardeners, for staffing the "Ask a Gardener" table
- The BCO Gardening volunteers, for spiffing up all three community gardens for the Walk
- B.A. Church and Peter McFadden, for restoring the West Gate Garden and planting roses in the parkway.



The biggest kudos go to Craig Hanenburg and Billy Kuczek (at right), for organizing the Walk, hosting an awesome Awards Party for participating gardeners and volunteers, and making visitors feel very welcome. The food, wine, desserts and conversation were wonderful! Participants (like those at left) enjoyed the awards presentation and a chance to socialize with each other. Thank you, guys!

Thanks, too, to Alderman Patrick O'Connor and his wife, Barbara, for stopping in to the Garden party and bringing custom made cookies that had a flower photo made of frosting — beautiful and delicious!





Wild Bowmanville: How to keep the critters in check

Wildlife (and rats) are attracted to food and safe habitat. So if you want to keep them away, you need to make it difficult for them to access food or places to hide, nest or bed down.

- Don't feed squirrels, raccoons, deer, or other wildlife.
- Remove pet feces quickly, as this is a source of food for rats.
- If you feed birds, install feeders that keep squirrels out. Don't allow bird seed to accumulate on the ground where it can attract rodents, raccoons and opossums. Use thistle seed instead of sunflower seeds or corn to attract song birds instead of animals. Try safflower seeds (squirrels don't like them) instead of sunflower seeds.

- Feed pets indoors when possible. If pets must be fed outside, bring food dishes in overnight and clean up any spilled food.
- Keep garbage stored properly. Make sure your lids are always on the carts.
- Don't place food scraps in your garden. If you compost your food scraps make sure they are not accessible to animals.
- Clean your outdoor grill regularly.
- If you have fruit trees in your yard, harvest or dispose of all ripe fruit.

To keep wildlife from getting into your house, seal all gaps or holes in the structure and put screens or barriers over chimneys, soffit vents, or attic exhaust fan

vents and other openings. Prevent access to spaces under decks and foundations. Close all doors, pet doors and unscreened windows from dusk to dawn. Also:

- Stack firewood away from buildings or fences and on a frame that keeps wood at least two feet above ground. Only store as much firewood as you will use in a reasonable time.
- Remove tall grass, brush piles, debris and dead trees from your yard.
- Deny access to your roof by trimming nearby tree branches. There should be a minimum of 10 feet between tree limbs and your home (squirrels can jump distances of up to 10 feet).

Source: web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/prevent_resources.cfm

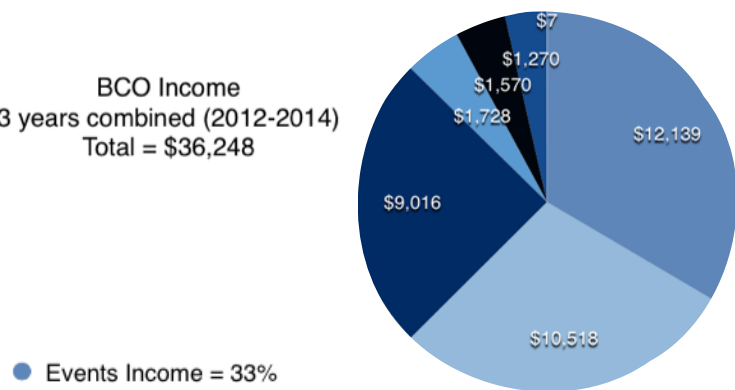
BCO Financials - a 3 Year View

The graphs shown here give you a snapshot of the financials for the Bowmanville Community Organization over the previous three years (2012-2014). The BCO is in increasing strong financial shape with positive cash flow and reserves. This allows us to pursue important initiatives like supporting our neighborhood schools. Our active member roster is above 200 households. Giving is up, with the 'addt'l contributions' category showing an increase since we implemented online membership payments and renewals. Printing costs for the Bowmanville Bee continue to be paid with income earned from advertisers. We hope you will patronize them whenever possible. Overall, our events P&L is increasingly positive, with the bump in 2014 coming from the new Oktoberfest event. Note that GreenSpace funds are still maintained separately and P&L for that project is independent of the general BCO fund.

THANK YOU for your stewardship of your community organization. Your support, coupled with volunteerism of so many neighbors, makes Bowmanville a great place to live. Every little bit (of time or money) helps us to thrive. Don't miss out on being a part of it.

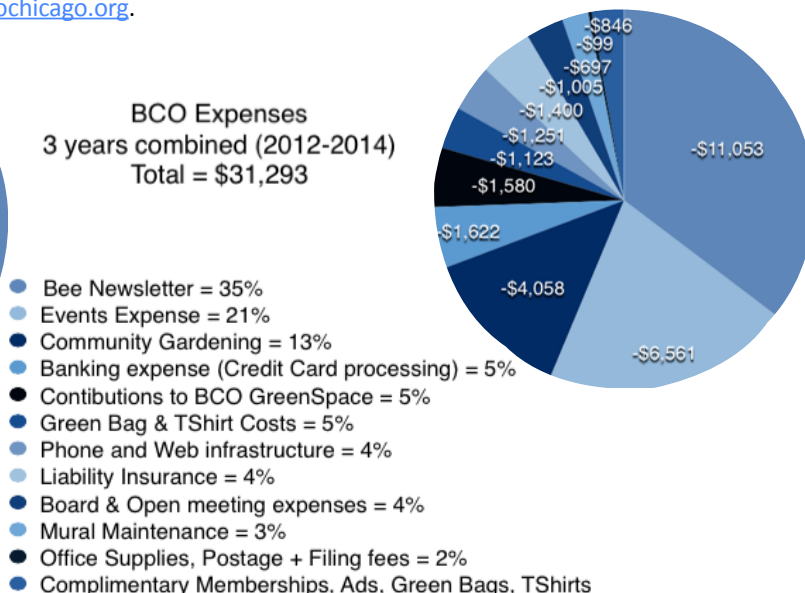
Membership Makes it Happen! Join or renew online today: www.bcochicago.org.

BCO Income
3 years combined (2012-2014)
Total = \$36,248



- Events Income = 33%
- Bee Newsletter Income = 29%
- Membership Income = 25%
- Addt'l Contributions (member & business) = 5%
- Gardening fees and fundraising (excludes Garden Walk) = 4%
- Other Fundraising (Green bags & TShirts) = 4%
- CD Investment Income = <1%

BCO Expenses
3 years combined (2012-2014)
Total = \$31,293



- Bee Newsletter = 35%
- Events Expense = 21%
- Community Gardening = 13%
- Banking expense (Credit Card processing) = 5%
- Contributions to BCO GreenSpace = 5%
- Green Bag & TShirt Costs = 5%
- Phone and Web infrastructure = 4%
- Liability Insurance = 4%
- Board & Open meeting expenses = 4%
- Mural Maintenance = 3%
- Office Supplies, Postage + Filing fees = 2%
- Complimentary Memberships, Ads, Green Bags, TShirts

Farragut Neighbors Know How to Party!



Charlie guessed it right,
116 bars!

On June 27, neighbors along the 2100 and 2200 blocks of west Farragut held their annual block party — and it was truly a blockbuster, attended by about 285 people, some from neighboring blocks (by invitation only). Noelle Braun Etheridge, who heads the planning committee for the party, says it's one of the things she likes most about living in Bowmanville:

"We initiated this party 9 years ago, and it truly is one of the highlights of our block that has made it a community people love and flock to from other blocks. My younger daughter stands outside her bedroom window first thing in the morning in great anticipation of the day. She is out among the group of kids and adults as they are setting up before 9 a.m. It is truly a very

special day for us, and personally very meaningful as I see many happy, friendly and new faces year after year."

Jane Hirt, who staffed the welcome tent, echoes this sentiment: "It's great to be able to come together as neighbors, socialize, watch the kids grow up and have a good time. We're already looking forward to next year's party!"



Farragut neighbors enjoying refreshments

(Left to right: Chris Baldwin, Barbara Kraetsch, Colleen Glascott, Wendy Fairchild & Laura Moser)



Tim O'Donnell (R on bass) and friends liven up the party



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BCO Gardening Notes

The BCO Gardens have been blooming! Though it has been cooler and wetter than normal, many plants are enjoying and thriving in this weather. The rains have reduced the need for watering and increased the need for weeding.

Thank you! to everyone who has helped with garden cleanup and maintenance this summer.

The BCO received a new "Bowmanville Garden" sign, created and gifted by artist Frank Ciucur, owner of the Leadway Bar & Grill at Damen and Farragut. It has been on display outside Leadway, but look for it at a new location soon!

The Westgate Garden has endured water main construction on Berwyn this summer. Did you notice neighbors B.A. Church and Peter McFadden cleaning up the area in preparation for the garden walk? Thank you!

The strawberry season is over, the red raspberries are ripe, and the green grapes will soon be purple. All are welcome to enjoy the community garden common areas but please observe 'No Picking' from veggie beds (all are maintained by families assigned to each space).

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SUMMERTIME

by Miriam Shearn (age 6)

Let's go to the beach.

I love the beach.

Let's make new friends on the beach.

"Hello Mr. Crab."

Our friends are nice, just like us.

The beach is my all-summer-long vacation.

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Let Your Little Light Shine!

By B.A. Church

As I was walking home one evening, I became aware of how dark my street in Bowmanville seemed. The 2300 block of Berwyn has many wonderful mature trees, but their leaves block a considerable amount of light from the city street lights, making it difficult at times to see the sidewalk and your surroundings. I realized that this is also true of many other streets in our neighborhood, except in the winter when the bare branches are bare allow the light to shine down to the walks and adjacent areas.

One simple way to brighten our streets is to turn on our porch lights. We now do that as soon as it starts to get dark. Not wanting to waste energy, we have switched to the new energy-efficient bulbs. You can also buy light-sensitive fixtures that turn on and off by themselves.

Bright streets and sidewalks are safer because we can see who is there, coming and going, and we avoid accidents by seeing irregular heights, bad cracks or holes in the sidewalk we might otherwise miss and trip over. A well-lit streetscape is simply safer and gives us an overall sense of well-being as we are walking through the neighborhood.

Think about it and turn on your porch lights when it gets dark. Passersby will thank you for brightening their paths!

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Join us on Instagram!

By Lauren Stacks Yamaoka

Want to share neighborhood photos and videos with other Bowman-villagers — or see what they're sharing? Just visit www.instagram.com/bcochicago/ and join in on the community-building!

BCO is excited to announce the launch of its official Instagram account, **@BCOchicago**. Instagram is a social media platform that allows users to share photos and videos with their followers. The BCO Instagram page provides

another great way to connect with your neighbors, share area events and adventures, and spread local news and updates, with a focus on photography.

Once you visit our Instagram page, be sure to click on the "Follow" link, so you can see the latest and greatest in Bowmanville. To learn what a photo is about and who posted it, just click on it. If you see a "Load More" button at the bottom of the page, clicking it will enable you to see more postings. And be sure to tag us (using **@BCOchicago**) in your pictures of our beautiful neighborhood and its happenings, so we can see what you've posted — like these! We have 100 BCO Instagram followers and counting. Join us!



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(312)241-7049

Janet Newell

janet@seniorlivingexperts.com

LEARN MORE @ SENIORLIVINGEXPERTS.COM

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE BCO'S GARDEN WALK AND SUMMER SOCIAL

KEEP *your* COOL!

**CALL JEFF GRAVES FOR ALL
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Check out my Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/JeffGravesRealtor



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.

Contact
news@bcochicago.org

Bee Counted — Advertise!

Card-Sized \$25

3.5"W x 2"H

Quarter Page \$75

3.5"W x 5"H

Half Page \$150

7.5"W x 5"H

For further information, or to reserve space in the next issue of the Bowmanville Bee please contact

ads@bcochicago.org or
(773) 349-2268

Deadline for the Next Bee: SEPT 3

Help Deliver the Bee!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Contact (773) 349-2268
news@bcochicago.org

Need another Bee?

You can find them at the following local businesses:

- Byline Bank
- The Book Cellar
- Claddagh Ring
- Speedline
- Let Them Eat Chocolate
- Green Sky
- Pauline's

BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION — MEMBERSHIP FORM —

JOIN THE BCO OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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

Bowmanville Community Org Treasurer c/o Dan Chapman

2109 W Berwyn Ave, #1N

Chicago, IL 60625

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 ANNUALLY

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

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email(s) _____

Areas where I can help out in the coming year:

- Event Planning: ☐ Street Sale ☐ Garden Walk ☐ Summer Social ☐ Fall Event (TBD)
- ☐ 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)

Aug 12	Gardening Evening	6:30pm until dusk
Aug 12	CAPS Meeting (5400 N Lincoln Ave)	7pm-8pm
Aug 15	BCO Summer Social - Ice Cream & More!	12-4pm
Aug 22	Gardening Day	9:30-3:30pm
Sept 3	Fall Bee Deadline	
Sept 9	Gardening Evening	6:30pm until dusk
Sept 17	BCO Board Meeting	7pm
Sept 19	Bowmanville Okto.beer.fest	3-9pm
Oct 7	Gardening Evening	6:30pm until dusk
Oct 14	CAPS Meeting (5400 N Lincoln Ave)	7-8pm
Oct 22	BCO Fall Open Meeting and Election	7pm
Oct 24	Garden Workday	9:30-3:30
Nov 15	Veggie Gardens 'Put to Bed' Deadline	



*Contact secy@bcochicago.org for BCO Board meeting locations as they change monthly