



# Bowmanville Bee

## Newsletter Spring 2020

The Bowmanville neighborhood is bordered by Foster, Rosehill Cemetery, Ravenswood and Western.  
Visit our website at [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org).

### Who's Who in the BCO

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Our New "Normal"

Well, where to begin? It's been a crazy start to 2020. This time last year my President's letter was about leaning in and volunteering in our community for BCO events and activities. Today, as I write this, what is happening in our neighborhood, in Chicago, in the 40th Ward and throughout the world changes how we see things and what we do. COVID-19 has changed how we go about our daily lives, how we treat one another and how we will move forward. We don't know what the future will hold or when we will be able to see each other again closer than six feet apart, but what I do know is that everyone in Bowmanville has been doing their part to keep their families and neighbors healthy.

### Shelter in Place

From what I've seen, everyone is doing a great job in observing the social distancing rule while walking their dogs or going out for a walk. But that doesn't mean we haven't been saying hello to one another or catching up to make sure everyone is doing okay. I love seeing people who I have not seen before because most people were at work downtown or in the suburbs. I love how neighbors have been creative with helping their kids get out and explore the neighborhood with things like finding dinosaurs and riddles in front windows or creating their own games.

I'm glad to hear that we are supporting our local small restaurants and breweries to help them keep going in this difficult time, and many blocks have created email lists or Facebook groups to keep in touch. Alderman Vasquez has done a great job in keeping the ward up-to-date on how people can help out. He created a Neighbor Network group to do calls or email check-ins to people who may not have a close family or any family and formed a Sewing Guard to make masks for retail workers and other front-line folks. There have been sing-a-longs as well — Lean On Me was on Saturday, April 17 and I Will Survive was on April 25.

### Upcoming Bowmanville Events

Also at this time last year, I would talk about our upcoming events: the BCO Street Sale, Friday night beer-pouring at Midsommarfest, the Garden Walk, and our Summer Social. As of right now, I'm not sure where we stand with these events. But as we receive guidance from the city officials about summer social events, the BCO Board will discuss what we will do about our events.

### On the Bright Side

The Garden Committee has created a social distancing plan for the gardeners so they can still garden and do "workdays". The BCO Board's 3rd Annual High School Senior College Scholarship Program will take place, through which we will award a \$500 scholarship to each of two Amundsen High School Seniors. We are now accepting applications and essays (see page 16 for the link), with a deadline of May 22, 2020 by 3:30pm. Winners will be announced during the first week of June. Good Luck!

### Some Final Words

We are all in this together! As we move into Summer, we will keep being the best community on the Northside of Chicago. We will continue to support one another and our local businesses, look out for one another, and socialize with one another (at least six feet apart, of course). So, keep doing what you are doing, wave and say hello on your daily walks, and pitch-in when and where you can.

Until next time, I hope to see you around the neighborhood—at a safe distance!

Mona Yaeger,

BCO President

**Earth Day Activity - Yard Clean-up Contest! Remember to submit your photos to our [Facebook](#) Community Page. Winner drawn May 12th**



## Communications Committee Stay Informed!

## Events Committee

## Gardening Committee

## Membership Makes it Happen!

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



## Public Art

Bowmanville's community newsletter, *The Bowmanville Bee*, is published quarterly with the goal of sharing the neighborhood buzz and promoting local business. Managing Editor Tim Noworyta, Layout Editor and Ad Manager Ann Scholhamer work closely with BCO members and neighbors to gather and present the local stories that help make Bowmanville the unique and proud community it's become. The Bee urges the submission of relevant content to [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org). **If you are good with layout and would like to get involved, we could use an extra set of hands. Current layout is done using MAC's PAGES software OR Microsoft Publisher.**

**The Communications Committee** provides many ways for the BCO to connect to the community and for the community to make its voice heard through the BCO. These include our website, Facebook page, quarterly newsletter (the Bowmanville Bee), online and email eBlasts for timely or urgent announcements. We also manage our BCO hotline (773) 349-2268 and have joined twitter! Contact: [comm@bcochicago.org](mailto: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! Each year we continue our **Annual Street Sale in early June, Bowmanville Garden Walk in early July, and Summer Social Mid-August. If you can help let us know! We need help to make it happen.** We are always looking for new twists for annual events and new event ideas. Following our informal Bee Social concept, we also have a First Friday's happy hour series underway—check the calendar on the last page for information. **Contact** [events@bcochicago.org](mailto:events@bcochicago.org) with an idea for a next Bee Social or to pitch in on any event.

**The BCO Gardening Committee** continues to enhance and maintain our community garden spaces. We are thankful for our volunteers and still need the help of the whole community as we endeavor to improve our natural surroundings. We look to the entire community to join our efforts in implementing a sensible and enduring stewardship plan for all of our open spaces. **For more details and to pitch in contact the garden committee at** [gardening@bcochicago.org](mailto:gardening@bcochicago.org) **or on our phone line (773) 349-2268. Please join any workdays when you see volunteers in the gardens.** The scheduled work dates are posted online and included in the Bee's calendar (back page). Join the gardening email list on the BCO website.

**The Membership Committee** focuses on ways to continually engage and support our community and grow our membership base. We reach out to new neighbors and new and renewing members to help match their interests with needs in the community. **Our next Community Meeting is Oct 15, 2020 at Spiteful Brewery.** In the meantime please join in to the great events the BCO organizes and help where you can. Reach out via email at [membership@bcochicago.org](mailto:membership@bcochicago.org). **Get involved, you won't regret it!**

Like public radio, all of our neighbors can freely enjoy the benefits of the hard work of the BCO. But in the end, "Membership makes it happen"! Join or renew today, we'd love to have you! Over 200 community members recognize the value of what the BCO does for this community, and know that it doesn't happen without financial and volunteer support. BCO membership fees are low at \$20 annually.

**The Planning & Development (P&D) Committee** gathers periodically to discuss issues of change, development and improvement of our fine community. P&D interacts with local residents, businesses, and the Alderman's office to influence the evolution of our community. The P&D committee meets as issues arise. **Reach out to the chair of P&D with ideas and feedback or to join the committee's email list** [planning@bcochicago.org](mailto:planning@bcochicago.org).

The BCO acts as a steward for the green space at 5384 N. Bowmanville Avenue and our community gardens along Bowmanville and Ravenswood Avenues. We also continue to look for opportunities to expand and improve on green space in our community. We need your help as we continue to move forward with our goal of ensuring Bowmanville is one of the greenest, most livable communities in Chicago. **We are currently working on the expanded Gateway Garden at Ravenswood. Please contact** [green-space@bcochicago.org](mailto:green-space@bcochicago.org) **to get involved.**

**The Public Art committee** was formed in 2010 to explore the idea of a mural in the Berwyn pedestrian tunnel at Ravenswood. A restoration of the painted interior was done in the Summer 2016. Interested in working on neighborhood art? Contact [publicart@bcochicago.org](mailto:publicart@bcochicago.org) to get involved or to share new ideas.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## A Word from Our Alderman Andre Vasquez

Hey Bowmanville Community,

I don't think any of us thought we would find ourselves in this crisis we find ourselves in. We are anxious. We are nervous. We are isolated.

Many of us have friends, family, or coworkers that are afflicted by this virus, whether it's by being sick, or by losing their livelihood as a result of the very necessary stay at home order that has been implemented by Governor Pritzker.

This crisis has hit each of us in many different ways, but everyone single one of us has been affected by it. In that shared struggle, what I have seen, however, is the best of community. I've seen neighbors picking up and dropping off groceries to neighbors that need it. I've seen people ordering food from local businesses in support of what has become a challenging business to be in. I've seen neighbors volunteering at our local food pantries so that all of our people can be fed during this time.

I was fortunate to have met so many of you as I was knocking on doors and visiting block parties before all this. It is extremely heartwarming to watch your efforts via social media.

It is my also my unique honor to utilize the platform of the ward office to help organize and uplift those efforts with initiatives like our Neighbor Network! Through that we have seen hundreds of neighbors organize to reach thousands.

I want to thank the Bowmanville Community Organization for doing so much already, and for staying connected through this isolation, which is invaluable especially as the days pass under this pandemic.

It is the network that you all have built that allows us to reach more neighbors so that together, we can power through this thing.

Please know that we will make it through this and that together, we will address the systemic problems that have been brought to light in this moment.

We are together. We are connected. We are one community.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my office for help. It is our privilege to serve!

Andre Vasquez  
40th Ward Alderman  
Pronouns (He/Him/His)  
Ph: 773.999.3313  
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[www.40thward.org](http://www.40thward.org)

### State Representative Greg Harris - 13th District

1967 W. Montrose Ave. Chicago, IL 60613  
Ph: 773/348-3434 Fax: 773/348-3475 [Greg@gregharris.org](mailto:Greg@gregharris.org)



**Thank you Bowmanville Community Organization for  
your service to our community!**

[www.GregHarris.org](http://www.GregHarris.org)



## MEET YOUR BOWMANVILLE SMALL BUSINESS

### LaGrow Organic Beer Co: Sustaining Healthy Soils, One Sudsy Pint at a Time

In late 2018, the Colorado-based Brewers Association published a report noting that Chicago's metro area is home to more breweries (167) than any other U.S. city. Although Bowmanville is among the Windy City's smallest neighborhoods in terms of area it is home to four breweries, including: Half Acre, Spiteful, and, Smylie Brothers and one truly unique craft beer brand — LaGrow Organic.



LaGrow Organic Beer Co. (5435 N. Wolcott Ave, co-located in Smylie Brothers' production facility) was founded in 2016 by brothers Jamie, Jack and Sam LaGrow (L to R in photo). The Michigan natives — and long-time Chicago residents — are craft beer fans who became home brewers and then carefully researched and executed a plan to launch a family-owned craft operation. In less than four years, the LaGrows have cultivated their passion for great beer and a

sustainable, organic lifestyle into the Midwest's best-selling USDA-certified organic beer brand.

The brothers brew five different beer styles which they proudly declare as "pure, premium and uncompromised": India Pale Ale, Citra Blonde Ale, American Pale Ale, Lager, and Imperial Stout, available in 16-ounce cans. Their deeply-rooted devotion to three principles guides both recipe development and the brewing process: source pure ingredients, provide premium refreshment, and operate with the uncompromised values of an independent, family-owned brewery.

"Pure" really speaks to how our ingredients translate into a flavor experience," says Jamie. "Customers are often pleasantly surprised by how clean and refreshing our beers are."

His brother Jack notes that finding all-organic ingredients is their greatest procurement challenge. "All of the malts, hops and even the yeasts we use in our recipes are from certified USDA Organic sources. That means the ingredients we purchase for our beers are grown in soils on which no prohibited substances—like synthetic fertilizers and pesticides—are applied for at least three years prior to harvest," says Jack.

"Conventional, non-organic brewing recipes have many other options," adds Sam. "The newest and most unique hops—those are all going to be for conventional beer only. We're trying to change that."

The LaGrow's "adopted brother," Jim Javenkoski, who leads the Business Development & Sales efforts for the brewery's four-person team, is a food scientist and a devoted advocate of sustainable, regenerative agriculture. He offers some perspective about the beer brand's unique impact on the value chain. "We like to call it 'from seeds-to-suds'," says Jim with a laugh.

"Every can, case and keg purchased by our customers incrementally increases the demand for — and value of — the organic grains (for malting) and the organic hops which we buy from farmers who are committed stewards of the soils and watersheds on their land. By brewing and selling our beers, we are enhancing a positive feedback loop which functions like a direct re-investment for the resilience of our local and regional food systems."

Bowmanville's residents can amplify that effort by ordering LaGrow Organic's beers for free home delivery any day of the week. Product and ordering details are available on the brewery's Web site: <https://www.lagrowbeer.com/purchase-for-delivery.html> To request additional details about LaGrow Organic's beers

send them an email: [hello@lagrowbeer.com](mailto:hello@lagrowbeer.com).

Photo credits: Tina Brown | [tinabrownstudio.com](http://tinabrownstudio.com)



## MEET YOUR BOWMANVILLE SMALL BUSINESS

### CORNERSTONE DENTAL OF LINCOLN SQUARE

Dr. Mark Zieba opened his dental office located at 2328 W. Foster in late 2019.

Follow his practice on social media:

Facebook—Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square

Instagram: [cornerstonedental.chicago](https://www.instagram.com/cornerstonedental.chicago)



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COMMUNITY NEWS



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**Back in 2009** we were dealing with a different type of crisis but resulting in similar concerns and challenges. Communication was crucial then, and it is essential now.

**THROWBACK 2009 BEE AD**

Should I be buying a home right now?

I'm thinking of selling my home, but should I?

Believe me, you are not alone with your questions about the real estate market right now. Every situation has a different solution. Challenging times call for an experienced Real Estate Agent and I can help you sort it all out. I have been helping Bowmanville buyers and sellers for over 5 years.

Call me and let's find a solution together.

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**In 2020** I now have over 16 years' experience helping both buyers and sellers in Bowmanville and northern Chicago. Finding a solution *together* has some new challenges but remains as important as ever!



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## The 22nd Anniversary Bowmanville Garden Walk

Summer is a magical time in Chicago and the Garden Walk in Bowmanville is a great way to enjoy a summer walk with friends and neighbors. This year, due to Covid-19 we may postpone until 2021. Bowmanville's Garden Walk event offers visitors a friendly venue of hospitality and many opportunities to engage in the beauty of the neighborhood and enjoy our local breweries and restaurants.

Typically, residents who enter their home garden location have the option to receive a free consultation of their garden from Master Gardeners of the University of Illinois Extension Program on various criteria including design, creative use of plants, and neighborhood enhancement.

The Bowmanville Garden Walk usually features 15 to 20 residential gardens and the three BCO community garden locations. Go to the BCO website [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org) or the BCO Facebook page to see updated information about the Garden Walk or its postponement to a future date.

Consider helping us compile all past 21 years of Garden Walk Photos into a book or online gallery.

There are hundreds, maybe thousands of pictures from the previous 21 years of Bowmanville Garden Walks.

And for the past 13 years our garden photo contest selected a photograph to represent the event in publicity. Last summer the winning photo was from Emanuel Lopez who also was awarded the 2019 Best in Show garden. If you are interested in helping us with this project, please contact the BCO at [Gardening@bcochicago.org](mailto:Gardening@bcochicago.org).



"Summer In Bowmanville - by Emanuel Lopez

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## Urban Pooch Champion Corner

### Meet Pumpkin—A Syrian Hamster



Hello, big friends! I am Pumpkin, a small, fluffy and very sweet Syrian hamster, shown here sitting on the foot of one of my owners. I'm almost two and a half years old and have mostly orange long fur that has become whiter and grayer over time. My owners, Jen,

and her teenage daughter, Chloe, got me from a crazy hamster breeder in Illinois. The other big person in the house is Steve, Jen's husband and Chloe's dad. But he mostly stays away from me.

Chloe, who lives in my room, kindly lets me run around in her (I mean, *my*) room. I especially love exploring the closet late at night when she is supposed to be in bed with the lights off but spends time with me, instead.

Here are some of the things I most love to do:

- ◆ Sleeping all day, buried in my nest of bedding
- ◆ Waking up at night, and running around in my giant plastic ball all over the first floor
- ◆ Eating foods, like fresh clover, sunflower seeds, and lettuce, and those squishy blue things (blueberries);



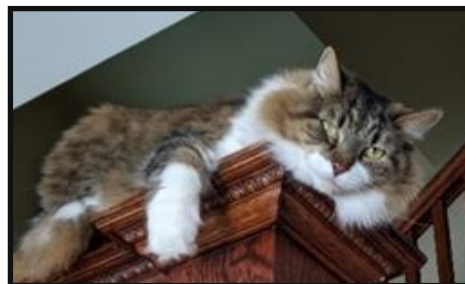
and those hard, crunchy orange things (carrots) are good, too

- ◆ Exploring new places, with one of my big friends watching me for protection, as I am very little and can get lost easily.

I have teeth but do not bite. I need to keep gnawing all of the time, or else my teeth will grow too long. So, crunchy foods are really good for me to eat. My owners say the cutest thing is that when I first wake up, I yawn, my mouth opens, and you can see all of my teeth!

I have a pouch on each side of my mouth. They are really handy for shoving big seeds and large blueberries in my mouth and eating them later.

My big people have three cats, but they mostly stay away from me, especially when I am in my plastic ball running around and bumping into things. One of the cats, Lucy, is very friendly. She sometimes comes to check on me during the day when I am asleep in my cage, buried in my bedding.



Our friendly cat, Lucy

I love my house in Bowmanville and wouldn't live anywhere else! I especially love it when my owners go on walks around

the neighborhood, and bring me back fresh, tasty, and delicious clover for me to munch on! I don't know about you, but I think the clover tastes much better in Bowmanville than in other parts of Chicago. It's just another reason why I love living here.



*If you would like to have your dog, cat, bird or other pet featured in our next "Pet Profile," please submit a short article (500 words or less) about your pet and yourself, including some things you like most about Bowmanville and two or three pictures of you and your pet, to [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org) by July 3, 2020.*

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## Sassy Pants Ms. LaRoux

By Michele Pellegrino

My name is Sassy Pants Mimi LaRoux, aka Cairn Terrier. I have what you'd call "pure Terrier SASS." I'm a feisty, dishwater blond, with ears that could signal the fire department to a five-alarm barn burner. And while some would call me stout, there's no shame in that. I am *very* popular in Bowmanville — just ask the kids I help get safely to Chappell school each morning. I sit pretty, tilt my head into the soft little hands that rub my face and scratch my belly, cooing "Hi Mimi, you are such a good girl."



My next biggest fan is Darcy, the Crossing Guard who yells, "Mimi how you doin', girl!" Darcy gives me the best rubs, and I stare at her with my big brown eyes and lower my head while she gives me a gentle kiss between my ears. I'm so good to her, that's just my generous spirit.

After the hullabaloo of greeting the kids and making Darcy's day, Mom and I head over to Bowmanville's Winnemac Park and boy, do I cause a scene! My wag-friends are so overjoyed to see me, they throw themselves at me. I'm very gracious, I would never let my fame go to my head, but it's important to give the people what they want — Sassy Pants Mimi LaRoux!

Mom says I'm the *best* grass roller around, and she's not wrong. I want to really dive in the most delectable stink, but mom says, "No Mimi, that smells like..." well, her word starts with an "S" but given this is polite company I won't repeat it. My wag-friends and I are sensational butt sniffers, and only occasionally does a scruffier go overboard. Most wags understand how it works, sniff once, create the sniff circle, hop, chase, mission accomplished and on to the next wag.

Bowmanville is special as twilight lowers the sky's light. Mom and I greet the neighbor, and one has stolen my heart: Billie. I think I scare Billie, because he always runs when he sees me, but that's just because I love him exuberantly. Now if the truth be told....although I love Billie, his Dad has the juiciest, lip smacking supply of LAMB. I do not exaggerate; his lamb is the *jam*. If I could get my hands on his supplier, I trade an entire month of Peanut Butter Dream bones for ONE BAG.

Oh joy, we are headed to the Green Space! Come on Mom, let's run (we trot for mom's sake) this baby doll has sticks to chomp! Wait...I smell Harley! "How you doin' Chihuahua boy?" Harley gets a kick out of my pet name for him and we guffaw.

Well, Harley guffaws — a lady never does that. I tee-hee, just saying, "Mom *loves* throwing me sticks and it's just plain fun to plant my ample bottom and chomp those sticks to pieces!"

Well, that's a day in the life of Sassy Pants Mimi LaRoux. If we haven't already met, I hope we can do that soon.



**In Memoriam:** Reese: May 9, 2011 – March 30, 2020

Our beloved companion, Reese, a mix of Great Pyrenees and Golden Retriever, enjoyed nearly nine years of life in Bowmanville. She made her debut on the 2012 Garden Walk poster, when she was just eight weeks old, four days after being adopted.

Reese brought joy and comfort to many, always eager to meet a new person. Winter was her favorite season, and she loved to play in the snow. Reese died suddenly from a genetic heart condition and will be greatly missed.



## Floral Bar: For the Love of Landscaping and Flowers

By Mona Yaeger

Leah Mulder is young, fun and excited about plantings, flowers, and making areas beautiful, especially in Bowmanville. Since moving back to Chicago and into our neighborhood, Leah is excited about continuing to build her floral design business, Floral Bar ([floralbar.com](http://floralbar.com)). She has been working with clients for the past 12 years, building beautiful gardens at their homes, developing roof-top gardens, and creating flower arrangements for many brides.



Leah grew up in Grand Rapids, MI where she attended Calvin College. While in school, she majored in nursing, but an internship in Chicago changed all that. There she discovered that working with plants was what she really wanted to do as a career and her love of plants took over. So, when she came back to Michigan, she changed her major and never looked back.



### Starting a career in landscaping

Once Leah graduated, she found a job in Chicago and worked for a landscaping company focused on rooftop and container gardens for businesses and residences. After working there for nine years, she took a job in Evanston to learn another part of the landscaping industry. After staying there a few years, her long-term plans started to crystallize around garden landscaping and working on specialty gardens. "My focus is using native plants, specializing in sustainability elements like using ladybugs and praying mantis as insecticides."

Know someone amazing? Someone with an interesting hobby or occupation? Perhaps there is a person in Bowmanville you greatly admire.

Please write in to [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org) to suggest a person to be interviewed, with a brief explanation of why you think this person would be great to profile, so we can all get to know them!

My business is my pride and joy and flows from my love of working with clients and creating beautiful designs. I use organic flowers and work with growers in Michigan who share my philosophy. I love helping people create garden spaces as an extension of their living space and hope to grow my business into more of an exterior design for the outdoor space.



"One of the many things I love about landscaping is how intriguing the plant world is and how it soothes and rejuvenates us. During this COVID-19 crisis, we especially need nature — it's essential for the human spirit. So, if you don't have space where you live for a garden, consider a container garden with plants for each season or even a vegetable garden, if you get enough sun."

### Living in Bowmanville

"I love this neighborhood; having tree-lined streets in this neighborhood in such a busy city is great! We are perfectly tucked in between Andersonville and Lincoln Square. It's great to be able to walk to both nature and city things. I lived Edgewater for five years, then tried to move back to Michigan. But after doing my internship here, and now living and working here, I consider myself a city girl".

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**PRINT SPECIALS**



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Little Libraries Make Book Sharing Easy

**By Beth Emperor**

For many of us, one of our first memories as a child centers around going to the library, whether at school or in our community. How wonderful it was to sit legs-crossed on the library's worn hardwood floor or rug and hear the spine of your book creak as you paged through it with your imagination running wild! There were so many books to choose from, the hard part was deciding which to check out and which to leave for another time.

Looking back, those days seem simpler and more magical. But with the advent of Little Free Libraries (visit [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) to learn about setting one up) throughout the country and right here in Bowmanville, the experience of discovering by chance a delightful book can be recaptured.

Little Free Libraries are typically sponsored by households, but some people put up a sharing library on their own. Most little library boxes look like small houses on a post with a glass door to protect the books. As you can see from the photos here of some little libraries in and near

Bowmanville, many have beautifully decorated exteriors, and all of them make book sharing easy — and fun.

People can leave books for those of all ages or take a book for free. Each visit can be a new adventure. Sometimes you may find other generosity like treats around Halloween or recently, food and paper products for those in need.

You have to admit, there's a little thrill when you spot one of these "book houses" while out on a walk and peer through or open the door to see what discoveries may lie ahead. I've found some wonderful reads this way.

We would love to hear about the books you chose while out and about in Bowmanville. You'll find little libraries on Farragut, Summerdale, Balmoral, Catalpa and elsewhere. Share your little library story with us at [comm@bcochicago.org](mailto:comm@bcochicago.org) and with your permission, we'll post it on the Bowmanville Community Organization's social media pages!



## 2020 BCO Garden Season Opens with New Challenges

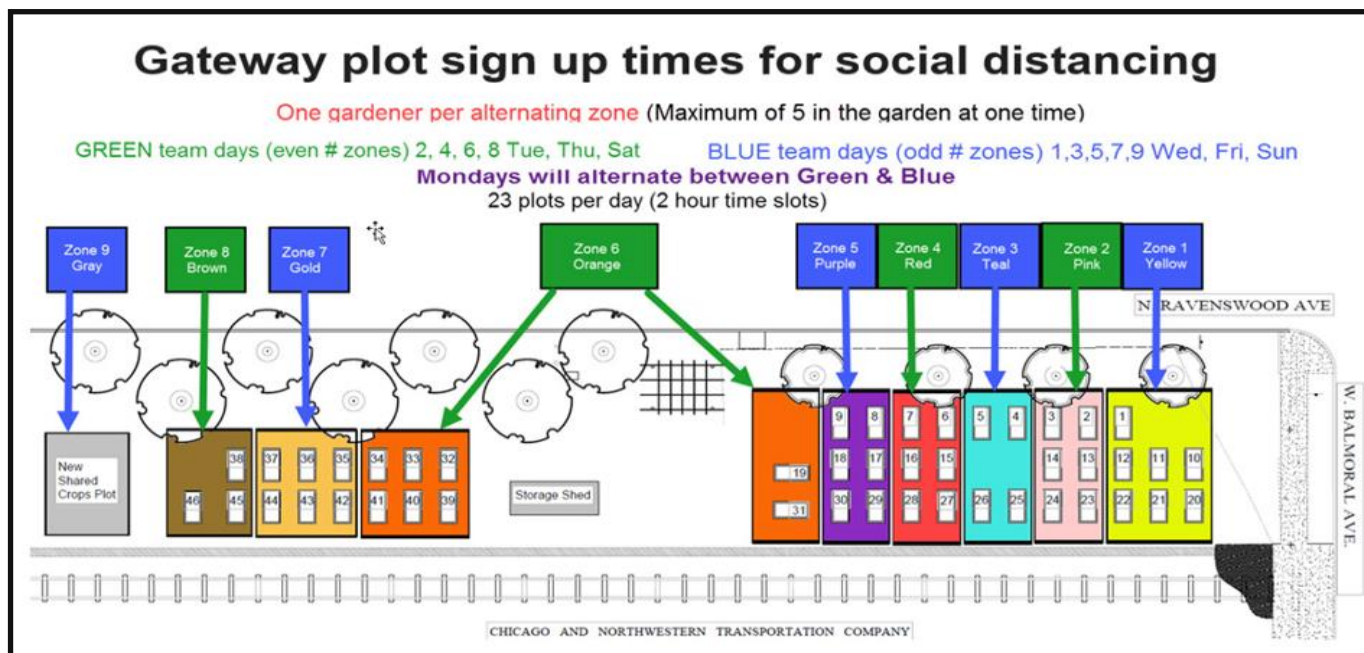
By Craig Hanenburg and Barb Chaklos, Gardening Co-chairs

The BCO Gardening Committee met in January and February to plan the 2020 season and we launched the annual Veggie Plot signup in February. The plot applications came in quickly, and after the plots were all assigned, we had 26 people on a waiting list. Then Covid-19 and the stay-at-home order became the new reality.

To keep the gardens open, a social distancing policy was crafted with NeighborSpace, which helps the BCO gardens with legal advice, insurance and other resources. To implement the policy,

Also, in accordance with NeighborSpace Covid-19 Guidelines (shown on signs posted in both Gardens):

- \* Only one gardener can be in a zone at a given time.
- \* No more than five people can be in the Gateway Garden (NeighborSpace agreed to modify the Guidelines to allow this number because the garden is so large), and no more than three people can be in the Bowmanville Garden, at the same time.
- \* Veggie Plot gardeners must stay at least 6 feet away from



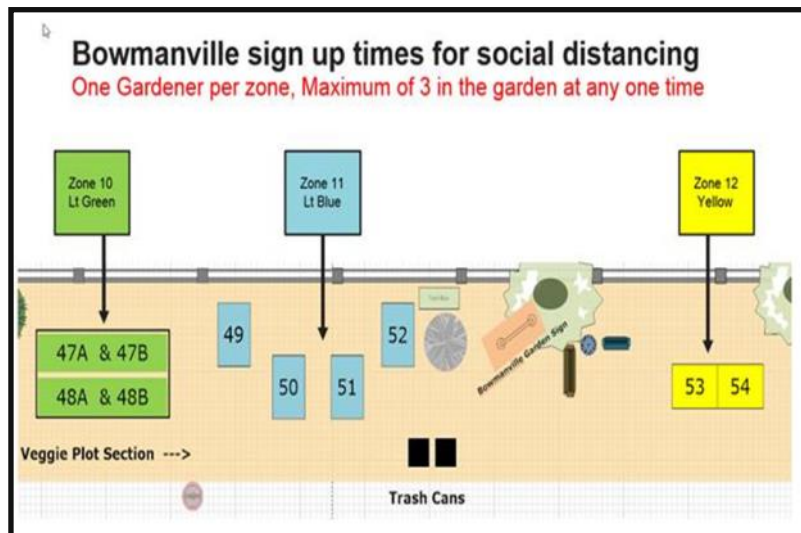
the Gateway Garden along Ravenswood has been divided into nine zones, grouped into two categories. In each category, gardening is allowed only on alternating days, so that there is always an open zone between those in which gardeners are tending their plots. To tend their plots, gardeners must sign up for a time slot on the days that gardening is allowed in their zones. (See map below.)

There is a similar system for the Veggie Plots in the Bowmanville Garden, which has been divided into three zones. One gardener is allowed in each zone, as the three sections on Bowmanville are already separated.

each other. The Gardening Committee will continue to hold virtual Zoom meetings. Educational programs for the gardeners will also be conducted as Zoom meetings until it is safe to congregate again.

One new feature of the Gateway Garden for 2020 will be the addition of a shared growing area where the gardeners will work together and grow vegetables for all to share. Planning is underway!

Additionally, the Gateway Expansion Committee is working on first stages to build out the common park-like area for the community to use. This common space that surrounds the veggie plots







## Thoughts on Sheltering at Home in Bowmanville

By Amy Alznauer



Dear neighbors, Lately, I have been thinking about this wonderful little story by the late dancer and children's book writer Remy Charlip, titled *Fortunately*, about a series of unfortunate and fortunate events. And lately, all of our lives have taken this form, trying to hold the fortunate against the unfortunate to keep ourselves sane. Here are a few of my family's:

**Fortunately**, even though we've been shut in our homes like everyone else, my family had been taking long walks to Rosehill every day. Once, two lovely neighbors guided us, walking six feet ahead, to the family of great horned owls that shelter there.

**Unfortunately**, Rosehill has now closed their gates to the public.

**Fortunately**, last fall on the very day I was contemplating what to do with my unused garden plot in front of my house, a neighbor showed up at my door like an angel and asked if she could plant 1000 tulip bulbs there. So, instead of walking to Rosehill, I now only have to open my door to see beauty. Walk by the 1900 block of Summerdale and take a look. Soon they'll open and be glorious.

**Unfortunately**, my children can no longer go to school.

**Fortunately**, their teachers are superhuman beings who continue to teach with joy and passion. Two of their teachers along with the school principal actually showed up in front of our house (just as I was writing this!) with banners and books as gifts, calling out to us, "We miss you!"

**Unfortunately**, my church St. Gregory the Great was already going through a hard time before the pandemic hit – being forced to merge with another church or possibly even close its doors forever.

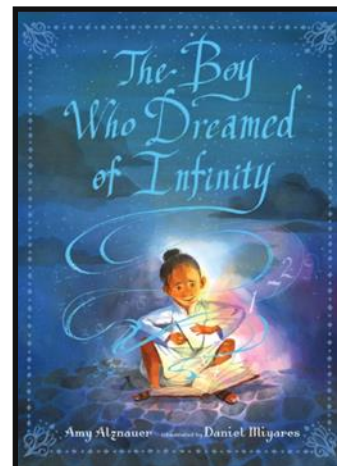
**Fortunately**, beautiful things still happen through that community – an ongoing effort to bring about a merger to save the church from closure, check-in calls to the elderly, children's stories broadcast to families, book groups via zoom, a refugee choir hosting virtual rehearsals, and prayers.

Reading back over this list (just a fraction of the true list), I realize that the thing that is really keeping me going is how people are responding to this crisis with love and bravery

and community spirit. More than anything else that gives me hope that when we are finally back to normal, we will have a world worth returning to.

In my own little corner of that world, I am working to shepherd two children's books into the world, that fortunately are being published this spring.

They are the product of a decade of hard work and loving attention by me, two different amazing illustrators, and two different children's book presses.



The first is *The Boy Who Dreamed of Infinity* (Candlewick Press), illustrated by Daniel Miyares. It tells the story of Ramanujan, a poor Indian boy who overcame all odds to become one of the greatest mathematicians the world has ever known.

The second is *The Strange Birds of Flannery O'Connor* (Enchanted Lion Books), illustrated by Ping Zhu. Like the other book, this is also a story of hope. In spite of severe illness, O'Connor became one of the few women writers to rise to literary fame before 1960. And even more, she was a person who was never afraid to stare the darkness down and still managed to find light.

**Unfortunately**, these books are coming out now. Sales at independent bookstores are down 85% and the libraries and schools are closed.



**Fortunately**, at a time when art and stories of hope are so greatly needed, I know many good people (like the ones here in Bowmanville who plant tulips and look for owls and care for their neighbors in need), who are helping me get the word out.

So, thank you, neighbors, for being there to keep our world beautiful. Stay safe,

be well and look forward to a time when we can meet in person again.

*Editor's note: To find out more about Amy Alznauer and her children's books go to her website, [amyalz.com](http://amyalz.com). And for all your book buying, please consider supporting our neighborhood store, Women and Children First (on Clark at Farragut), which has a great online ordering option (go to [womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://womenandchildrenfirst.com)), or the new initiative [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org), which supports all independent bookstores.*





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## Heroes on Our Front Line



Thank you to all of our health care workers for your unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our community.

In these challenging times, you are true heroes. We are forever grateful for your care, compassion and dedication.

[SwedishCovenant.org/covid](https://SwedishCovenant.org/covid)

Swedish Hospital

Part of  NorthShore

## The Last Little Bits



Due to COVID-19, the BCO has decided to postpone the Street Sale. Depending upon further suggestions for future socializing by the Mayor and Governor, we felt that keeping our neighbors and neighborhood safe is the right option.

### BOMANVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Please consider giving your time to help keep our green spaces GREEN! Email [gardening@bcochicago.org](mailto:gardening@bcochicago.org) if you can lend a hand.

### BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 3RD ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLOARHIPS

The Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) is conducting our annual scholarship offer to AHS seniors. Here is the link - [BCO Scholarship Form - 2019-2020](#) to apply. Deadline to submit your essay is Friday, May 22, at 3:30. We look forward to reading your applications! Winners will be announce during the firs week of June.



## BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

## —MEMBERSHIP FORM—

JOIN THE BCO OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Now you can join or renew ONLINE at [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org)!

Or return this form with your check to:

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

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 ANNUALLY

Questions? Call (773) 349-2268 or email [membership@bcochicago.org](mailto: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  
☐ Other Events/Festivals ☐ First Friday Bee Social
- ☐ Finance ☐ Gardening ☐ Bee Delivery  
☐ Membership Outreach ☐ Planning & Development ☐ Greenspace Initiatives  
☐ Public Art Initiatives ☐ Communications (Newsletters, Email-blasts, Facebook)

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

What year did you move to Bowmanville? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in a: ☐ House /2 Flat ☐ Multi-Unit >2 UnitsIn your household, please tell us **how many** residents are:

Adults (18-65) # \_\_\_\_\_ Seniors (over 65) # \_\_\_\_\_ Children (Under 18) # \_\_\_\_\_

What types of new BCO programming would interest you?

Comment or Feedback: \_\_\_\_\_

Articles for the Bee are  
Always Welcome

Have a story to tell, a  
horn to toot about a  
good neighbor we should  
know about, or an article  
to contribute? Submis-  
sions from all ages are  
welcome. Please contact  
us at  
[news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org).

## Bee Counted-Advertise!

## Sizes and rates per issue:

## Business Card

3.75" x 2" \$25

## Quarter Page

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## Half Page

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advertisers.

For further information or  
to reserve space in the  
next issue of the Bowman-  
ville Bee, please contact  
[ads@bcochicago.org](mailto:ads@bcochicago.org)

## Help deliver the Bee!

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

## Need another Bee?

You can find them at the  
following local business-  
es:

- The Book Cellar
- Speedline
- Pauline's
- Norwood Car Wash
- Claddagh Ring

## BCO 2020 Calendar of Events

Committee descriptions on page 2 or our website [bcochicago.org](http://bcochicago.org) for eventsMay 5-16 Gardening Work Days: Email the  
Garden Chairs for safe social dis-  
tancing requirements

June 6 Bowmanville Street Sale: TBD

June 3 CAPS Meeting @ St. Gregory's  
7-8p Church/Gym: TBDJune 5 First Friday: TBD  
5-8pJune 9- 11 Gardening Work Days: Email the  
Garden Chairs for safe social  
distancing requirementsJune 12 Andersonville Midsommerfest:  
Postponed to AugustJune 20 Ravenswood Renegade Craft  
Beer Fair: TBD

July 3 Summer Bee Article Deadline

CHECK OUT THE BCO WEBSITE! [bcochicago.org](http://bcochicago.org)