



**BCO**<sup>®</sup>  
**BOWMANVILLE**  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

# Bowmanville Bee

## Newsletter Summer 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 A New Kind of Summer

As we slide toward the end of summer, it has not been what any of us would call ideal. This is not the summer we all hoped for, but all of us are continuing to do our part to keep COVID-19 from spreading, because we know the pandemic is not over.

### Changing Our Events

The BCO Board has done our best to put together events that made sense based on social distancing. We held a neighborhood spring cleanup and a Yard-Cleanup contest, won by the neighbors on the corner of Summerdale and Leavitt. We held Zoom calls with LaGrow Organic Beer Company on their Operation Sapling Salvation project, aimed at saving and replanting saplings. Board member Jeff Graves of @Properties Real Estate sponsored trash bags in three places in the neighborhood for people to grab and use to pick up trash. Thanks for everyone who participated in these Earth Day activities.

We also moved our First Friday event on June 5 to a virtual format via Zoom. Half Acre Beer Company partnered with us to discuss how the shelter-in-place directive was affecting them and what they were planning to do moving forward. We also tasted their new beer, Tome Hazy Pale Ale, and heard a little music from a neighborhood band, Resounding Wayves.

### Membership Makes It Happen

One of many things BCO Board members and I often discuss is how to increase our membership, and what drives people to join the BCO. So, here are a few things that we do outside of the events which should help you to understand why you should join the BCO (if you haven't already).

We have a Planning and Development Committee that's responsible for keeping an eye out for new developments or rezoning requests. We work with the Alderman's office to understand the nature of the ask, we try to get in contact

with the seller or builder to ask questions, and we notify the neighbors around that re-zoning

request. We create flyers with all the information, hand deliver them, and monitor any comments or replies. We also are a part of the rezoning calls held by the Alderman's office.

In addition, we have developed and awarded two \$500 scholarships to Amundsen High School seniors heading off to college. This is our third year of awarding this scholarship, and we are proud that we are able to do so because your membership dollars help fund this.

We continue to provide upkeep on the GreenSpace on Bowmanville Avenue. This summer the GreenSpace Committee has done some great work on finishing out the original plans with a new stump stomp, plantings, and river rock area.

Our Welcome Bag program was developed about four years ago to greet new residents who purchase homes here. And our twice-a-year Open Meetings at Half Acre Beer Company and Spiteful Brewing with beer and food provide another opportunity to meet neighbors, government officials, and new business owners, and hear what the BCO has been doing. Last but not least, the Bowmanville Bee newsletter. Four times a year we write articles about our neighborhood and neighbors, support local businesses, and provide updates.

### 2020 Events Canceled

Due to COVID-19, the BCO was not able to put on our annual events, Street Sale, Garden Walk, Summer Social and our fundraising event with Andersonville's Midsommer Fest. These events along with your membership dues help us do all of the things mentioned above. And without these events, we are having to reevaluate our financial health. We will be starting a fundraising campaign this year to support and replenish our operating expenses.

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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. Managing Editor Tim Noworyta, Layout Editor Mona Yaeger 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), Instagram 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 October 15 via Zoom.** 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. That idea became reality very quickly! A restoration of the painted interior took place Summer 2016. If you see graffiti in that mural contact [berwynmural@gmail.com](mailto:berwynmural@gmail.com). You can also contact [publicart@bcochicago.org](mailto:publicart@bcochicago.org) to get involved or with new ideas.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*...continued from page 1*

We hope your generous and supportive contributions will aid us in continuing the work that we do.

Any amount small or large is appreciated. You can donate on our website [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org).

#### Lots to Read About

I'm proud to present this issue because, despite COVID-19, we have been doing a lot this summer. Our Wednesday Walk-Abouts started in June, the Gateway Garden Expansion Committee has been working hard on the community space, and we've awarded two college scholarships, whose recipients are highlighted here.

You'll also find the graduation speech from Amundsen High School's Valedictorian, as well as articles highlighting a new neighborhood business, and marking the passing of some neighbors.

So, enjoy this Bee, and I will see you around the neighborhood!

Mona Yaeger



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## BCO ANNUAL FALL COMMUNITY MEETING & ELECTION

**Thursday October 15**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

The meeting will be held  
virtually via Zoom.

Details to come on  
Facebook and  
BCO Email blast



COMMUNITY NEWS - IN MEMORIAM

**Ashod "Mr. Ash" Baboorian, July 26, 1939 – July 3, 2020**



Since 1980, "Mr. Ash" was the owner of Ash's Magic Shop at 4995 N. Western, a landmark of Lincoln Square and a mecca for practicing and aspiring magicians. Best known as a magician — he performed for five Illinois Governors and appeared frequently on "Bozo's Circus" WGN-TV show — Mr. Ash was also for many years a bridge inspector for the state, as well as a country-western singer (which he really wanted to be). He is survived by his wife of many years, Bonnie (nee Rocks), sons David and Eddie, daughter-in-law, Michelle, and grandson, Adrian.

Mr. Ash was born in Kirkuk, Iraq, to a family of Armenian refugees from Turkish persecution. His mother was a schoolteacher and his father, an Armenian Orthodox priest. He came to the U.S. in 1960 and became a citizen while serving in the U.S. Army at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, where he fell in love with country music. He was very

proud of both his U.S. citizenship and his Armenian heritage, and visited Armenia several times.

Mr. Ash and his shop were the subject of a 2014 documentary by Brian Gersten, "**The Amazing Mr. Ash,**" which was the basis of a 2015 article by Patty Wetli, "**The Amazing Mr. Ash and His Magic Shop Get Star Treatment at Film Fest,**" which has some great photos of Mr. Ash and his shop. And there's a wonderful story about him and how he got into magic, "**Mr. Ash's Wonder Emporium,**" by Nara Schoenberg, Chicago Tribune, 2008. If you'd like to know more about this much beloved person, neighbor and magician, who will be missed and fondly remembered by many, be sure Google the above highlighted in black or read his obituary, where friends share their memories of him.



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**Robert J. Cawley, December 13, 1938 – June 20, 2020**



Bowmanville lost a friend and neighbor this past June. Robert J. Cawley, or "Bob" to his friends, moved to the Bowmanville area in 1952. He was a big fan of our block parties and loved giving candy to the children on Halloween. Fishing was also a love of Bob's. He spent many a day at our lakefront pulling them in large and small. When the fish weren't biting he had a great time visiting with the friends he had made over the years at the harbor.

Bob worked at The Lincoln Park Conservatory for 32 years and took pride in their many awards. His good friend Kelly hit the nail on the head when she said, "Bob either liked you or he didn't. I was lucky."

Staying on Bob's good side was easy: 1) Stay off his lawn. 2) Don't make a lot of racket. 3) Do not put dog poop in his trash can. So, Bob, here's a prayer for you:

*May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at you back,  
May the sunshine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields,  
And until we meet again, may God Hold you in the palm of His hand.*



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## Urban Pooch Champion Corner

### Bea's Adventures in Bowmanville

My name is Beatrice, aka Bea, and I'm a black lab mix. I came from Paws Chicago. My new mom brought me to my new home in June 2017 in a big machine with wheels. She let me go into an area with green stuff that smelled really nice. I think this is what they call a yard. Sure hope this new mom has food.

Turns out my new mom's name is Joan. She took me to this neat place called The Green-space. What a great place it was. I ran, sniffed, and rolled in something that made Joan stand away from me. There was another dog doing the same thing I was, so I went over and introduced myself. We became fast friends. Her name is Dixie.

Th next day Mom and I took a walk down a street called Summerdale. Hmmm I thought, this is a very nice street. All of a sudden this thing called a "bike" almost ran over me! The human pushed hard on something to make the bike stop. Mom was afraid the bike was going to crush me, so she dropped the leash to save me.

I began running and just kept running until my Mom was gone out of my site. Somehow I found Bowmanville Ave. Then I saw my front porch. This is home! Still shaking I decided to wait and hope that Mom would come and find me. As I looked down the street I saw a crazy-looking human running towards me. Oh wow! It's Mom! She must be

happy to see me. I got hugs and kisses like you wouldn't believe.

Since that day life in Bowmanville has been very good. I made more friends like Avery, who is older than me and knows a lot of things. Together we take long walks as she teaches me new streets like Farragut, Berwyn, and Hoyne. Franny is a new friend. She's younger than me and knows nothing so Avery and I will show her the ropes.



*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 September 10, 2020.*

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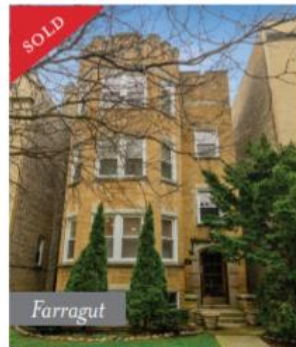
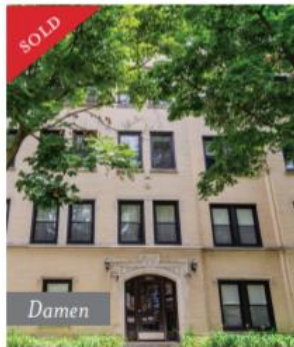
## COMMUNITY NEWS



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## The BCO is Launching a Fundraising Campaign

The BCO has done a lot this summer despite COVID-19. But because of the pandemic, we have had to cancel our events to make sure we keep our neighbors and neighborhood safe. Our annual summer events included: Street Sale, Garden Walk, and Summer Social and one of our biggest & funnest (is that a word?) Andersonville's Mid-sommerfest Friday beer pour. These events help generate funds for our operating expenses tied to our community programming like:

- Upkeep all of our Gardens and greenspaces
- High school scholarships program, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Welcome bags for new neighbors buying into Bowmanville
- Zoning and development updates
- Hosting our twice a year open meeting at our local breweries.

We are launching a fundraising campaign this summer and are asking for your support to help us continue these programs. We hope your generous and supportive contributions will aid us in continuing the work that we do. Any amount small or large would be appreciated. If you are able to help out, please go to our website [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org), click on the **online payment button** on the homepage.

**Thank you** from the BCO Board of Directors!



## Bowmanville Residents on the Healthcare Front Line

There are many things about 2020 that we never could have predicted. And there are many careers and there are professionals that we may not have paid much attention to until the pandemic hit and changed how we care for ourselves and our neighbors.

One of those careers is healthcare and the professionals who dedicate their lives to helping us become healthy and stay that way. We are privileged to know three healthcare professionals who live in Bowmanville. Here's what they told us about our community and how their day-to-day lives changed because of COVID-19.

### **STEPHANIE H., NURSE PRACTITIONER (DNP)**

A Bowmanville resident for three years, She lives in the 2200 block of Foster Ave. and works for Northshore University Health Systems.

**What do you enjoy most about this neighborhood?** I most enjoy the overall nature of the community. I love the walkability and the friendliness of the people. My husband and I volunteer with the Gateway Garden and really enjoy tending to our veggie plot. Bowmanville is a hidden treasure of Chicago. We have loved living here.

**What was your role before the pandemic?** Before the pandemic, I worked a 9-5 job in an outpatient clinic for Northshore University Hospital Systems. I would see and treat patients, specifically those with atrial fibrillation (AFIB) or atrial flutter.

**How did your work duties change?** Since the Pandemic, my work duties have changed immensely. Outpatient clinics were shut down in March and all visits were to be conducted via tele-medicine, which was a challenging and frustrating experience. As a healthcare provider working in cardiology/ electrophysiology, face-to-face visits are very necessary.

At the end of March, I was given the choice to either take unpaid time or be entered into the Labor Pool. A few short days after choosing the Labor Pool I received an email stating that I was needed in the COVID ICU at Glenbrook Hospital, which is Northshore's designated COVID hospital. Every patient there is COVID+. I felt scared, but ready to take on this responsibility. I worked in the ICU from early April through mid-June.

The experience was humbling, emotional, and felt surreal. The ICU staff was very supportive, and I am forever grateful for all of their patience and help! Fast forward three months, and I am now back in my previous position with the AFIB Center.

**When you do have a day off, what do you enjoy doing?** On a day off I enjoy taking long walks, playing with our puppy, tending to our garden, cooking nice meals with my husband, reading, and cleaning, which I find a great stress reliever.

**If life could go back to normal what would be the first thing you would want to do?** I would first go and hug my parents, my sister, and in-laws. Then I would choose to go out for cocktails, dinner, and a concert with my closest friends!

### **AMY G., NURSE ANESTHETIST**

Amy has lived on the 1900 block of Foster for the past 13 years. She works in the operating room at Northshore University Health Systems.

**What do you enjoy most about this neighborhood?** I enjoy living in a smaller, quieter neighborhood that is still in close proximity to Andersonville and Lincoln Square.

**What was your role before the pandemic?** Before the pandemic I worked as a nurse anesthetist in the operating room at NorthShore.

**How did your work duties change?** Since elective surgeries were cancelled during the pandemic, most of our department was deployed to the COVID ICU. I hadn't worked in the ICU for 16 years, so everything was very different from what I had previously experienced. The ICU patients were extremely ill, and since it was a new virus, there wasn't a lot of proven care that helped them.

Also, it was incredibly heartbreaking to not have family members allowed to visit the patients. Zoom calls did not portray the grave condition that most of the patients were in. Working in the ICU was by far the most difficult and emotionally challenging patient care I have ever had during my career. Now that COVID cases are trending down, I am back in the operating room giving anesthesia again. We follow strict standards at the hospital to keep patients that are having surgery safe throughout their care.

**How much comfort and support have you received from your neighbors during this time?** My neighbors in Bowmanville were constantly checking in by text and email to make sure I was doing ok. I cannot tell you how much I



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## GIVING THANKS TO OUR NEIGHBORS

### Bowmanville Residents on the Healthcare Front

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appreciated being supported by my neighbors during the pandemic.

**When you do have a day off, what do you enjoy doing?**

During my days off of work, you will frequently find me walking my dog Harley around Bowmanville or doing some gardening at my building. I'm trying to make the most of the summer by being outside, after such a stressful spring spent mostly indoors.

**JAMIE P., CLINICAL COORDINATOR**

Living in the 2000 block of Berwyn since June 2017, Jamie works in the ER department at Northwestern DT Chicago.

**What do you enjoy most about this neighborhood?**

I lived closer to downtown before, so this feels like a real neighborhood. There are great gardens and the peaceful feeling you get when walking around and you get chance to see rabbits free on the grass.

**How did your work duties change?** The ER became empty. People were scared to come see us because they thought from what they heard in the media that we were not taking emergencies. People thought that only

those with COVID could come to the ER. So, our workload dropped.

**How much comfort and support have you received from neighbors during this time?**

It's been awesome! I didn't know how people would react in my building knowing my job. But everyone was great and comforting, no push to add safety rules in the building. And seeing all the signs supporting the Healthcare workers all over the neighborhood was a great comfort.

**When you do have a day off, what do you enjoy doing?**

Mostly being outside when weather permits and completely zoning out by watching Netflix. It's tough to really disconnect and distract myself out of my normal schedule.

**If life could go back to normal what would be the first thing you would want to do?**

Seeing my family who hasn't been feeling safe to see me due to my contact with COVID patients. Traveling again in general.



Thank you to our  
thoughtful Community

For feeding us!

For clothing us!

For protecting us!

For your kind words!

For your prayers!

Robyn oversees the COVID-19 critical care team

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

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## Welcome to Bowmanville, Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square!

We are pleased to announce our newest BCO Business Member: Mark Zieba, Dentist and owner of **Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square**. Mark moved to Bowmanville in 2019 and located his practice at 2328 W. Foster Ave. Please welcome him to the community and the BCO.

We look forward to a long partnership with Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square and encourage you to visit them on Facebook, on Instagram or at [lincolnsquarefamilydentist.com](http://lincolnsquarefamilydentist.com), or to call them at 773-654-3578 to learn about the services they offer. Here's some background information Mark provided about his practice and his decision to locate it in our community.



### History of Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square

I started my career in 2004 at a dental practice in the Lakeview neighborhood. In 2018, after 14 years at that location, I decided to go off on my own and start my own practice. We started construction on our practice in the summer of 2018 and by January 2019, we were open for business. While I felt that this was going to be a great place to build my new professional home, the help and support from the community has truly been amazing.

### Motivation for Locating in Bowmanville

I lived in Roscoe Village for many years with my family. For one reason or another, when my family and I would go out for dinner or explore different neighborhoods, we seemed to always end up in the Lincoln Square neighborhood. Once I decided it was time to start up my practice, I knew this was the community we wanted to be a part of.

### What should we know about Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square?

First, we are a family general dental office. Many people assume we don't see children, but we enjoy treating all ages. Next, we offer all services from basic preventative dentistry, to full mouth rehabs, to Invisalign, to cosmetic services such as crowns and ZOOM! Whitening. We are also in network with most PPO dental networks.

### How would Cornerstone Dental of Lincoln Square like to engage with the BCO?

I am looking forward to being a part of the community in any way possible. I recently learned of the amazing events the BCO puts on and am excited to help and contribute for many years to come. I've always been a big believer in the power of community and that is how I have built my practice through the years.

For more information about BCO Business Memberships, please contact us at [membership@bcochicago.org](mailto:membership@bcochicago.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

## Side Project Coffee, Driving Creative Fuel in Bowmanville

By Liz Gershfeld

Hello friends and Neighbors! I was so excited to learn that Francis Almeda was taking over the coffee shop space at the corner of Foster and Damen. I have known Francis for many years professionally as a graphic designer, as well as a person who has interesting side projects I love to follow. In keeping with his commitment to side projects as creative fuel, Francis' coffee shop is called Side Project Coffee. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Francis (6 feet apart and masked) to discuss his new shop.

**So, how did your soft opening go?** Our soft open was about introducing Side Project to the community, getting to know people, and letting them meet the owners. But it's been nice to have people from the neighborhood come in, and some have been following us on Instagram and telling us they're so excited to have us. Even local businesses around the neighborhood and their owners have been coming by to say hello and have been really welcoming and they're excited which makes us excited.

**What's the story of Side Project Coffee?** Side projects have been a huge part of my life professionally and personally. I don't think I would be here today without side projects. I'm a huge coffee nerd and I'm a graphic designer full-time, so on a slow day at work I Googled "coffee shops for sale," because that's what you do when you're bored at work, and this place popped up. It used to be called City Coffee, which was admired by the neighborhood. So, a month later, here I am with the keys to the coffee shop. I am trying to open up the biggest side project that I've ever taken on.

**What's the role of community for people who are working on their side projects?** I didn't want to open just another cafe that only served coffee. To survive for a brick-and-mortar there has to be something else attached to it, a bigger meaning. So, I kept thinking about that and thinking about that and the importance of side projects and what they mean to me. I felt that it was important to spread that idea to other people in the community. If I could use Side Project Cafe to inspire other people to start their own side project that was a huge part of why I wanted to do this. It's a way I really feel I can give back to the community.

**Tell me about your menu.** We are going to have a simple menu with everything done very well. We want to do what we do really well, that is very important to me. A well-made espresso, a perfect pour-over, to serve a good quality cup of coffee is what I truly care about, simple, and sweet.

**Tell me some of your hopes for this space.** We are going to have a side project wall to showcase side projects from the community. Everything from street-wear to candles to jewelry, prints, illustrators and photography. Everything will be available for purchase. We are also going to carry plants from our friends at Plant Shop Chicago and those will be available for purchase as well.



**Why did you choose this neighborhood?** I grew up in Lincoln Square and my wife grew up in Albany Park. Now we live in the North Park Albany Park area. We both felt like this area could use a coffee shop and we wanted to give back to the community, and this is our way of doing that.

**What's it been like to open a business during a pandemic?** People have been so incredibly supportive and been so incredibly kind. It's easy to second-guess ourselves in opening a business, and that support makes us feel we are doing the right thing. It really makes us feel that we are not alone. At this time there won't be so much hanging out here, but you can come in, get a cup of coffee and maybe get something that you enjoy on our side project wall. I hope it will make people happy.

*Side Project Coffee is located at 5139 N. Damen Avenue. Hours of operation: Wednesday – Sunday 9a. – 2pm.*



## Cheers to the Amundsen High School Class of 2020

The class of 2020 has clearly not had the school year they expected when classes started last fall, but they will have unique stories to tell when they look back. A teachers' strike and COVID-19 were events no one could have foreseen. We are lucky to have Amundsen High School's Class of 2020 valedictorian, Ulrika Brameus, living in Bowmanville. She is a smart, competitive, and driven young woman who has strived to be the best since leaving Texas at the end of her sophomore year and starting as a student her junior year at Amundsen. Ulrika will be a freshman at Boston University this fall, majoring in political science and economics. Her major came from an interest she developed after joining the Junior Role Affairs Council Club during her first years of high school in Dallas. This club exposes students to world problems and inequities in many cultures and groups. When asked her what she is most excited about when starting college, she said, "Meeting new people, being in Boston, reconnecting with old friends from Texas who will be going to other colleges in the area."

### Ulrika's Commencement Speech

"Good evening parents, friends, teachers, mentors, administrators, honored guests, and of course, the Graduating class of 2020. To whom I want to say, today we become graduates of Amundsen High School. The home of the Vikings is now also the home of tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, teachers, musicians, engineers, and nurses, who I am certain will be vital in fighting and conquering any challenges the world throws at us.

"No matter the journey you had to take to reach this day, the challenges you had to overcome, or the late nights you stayed up to finish your homework, what is important now is that we are all here tonight to celebrate our triumphs, our achievements, our victories. We stand here today, or I guess in this case sit here in front of our computer screens, to honor us and our accomplishments over the past four years.

"Graduation marks the end of yet another extraordinary chapter in our lives. It feels as if just the other week, graduation was a whole array of essays, books, and math problems away. But here we are on the precipice of the future. It's not a distant reality anymore like it was when we were struggling to understand Shakespeare or figuring out what an integral was. But our future, it's here. It begins today.

"With this chapter closed, I am certain that many of us are already anxious about starting the next one because, unlike an English book, we cannot skip through the pages of life to see how long the next chapter is going to be. We all have our own book of life that has not yet been written, and every day that passes is another page we write in ourselves. Luckily, as Amundsen graduates, we have been provided

with all of the paper and ink we need to write our own stories. And for that, we thank the wonderful staff that keeps this school running every day.

"No matter what our future chapters will hold, there will be times in our lives where self-doubt will stand in the way of an open door. When this happens, let us all remember the following:

Physicist, Albert Einstein, now considered one of the most brilliant men to ever have lived, did not speak until age 4, and was originally told he would never amount to anything.

Oprah Winfrey struggled as a small-town journalist before becoming the big shot media executive she is known as today. JK Rowling's Harry Potter was rejected by 12 publishers before it became one of the best-selling books of our time.

"Never let anyone tell you that you can't.

"As I close out my speech, I want to leave you with one final thought. All of you hold the power in your hands to create the future you want. My challenge to each of you, and to myself, is to do all that you can do to reach your full potential. If each of you, the class of 2020, can do that, just imagine the effect we would have. The future is truly in our hands, so let's make the most of it. Use the journey ahead of you to fulfill your purpose and potential. Turn your "can'ts" into "cans" and dreams into plans.

"Thank you, and congratulations class of 2020 — we did it!"





## BOWMANVILLE GRADUATES

## Congratulations to ALL Bowmanville Graduates!

Whether a student was graduating from kindergarten, going from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school, becoming a high school graduate, or finishing up college, Bowmanville residents celebrated their family member's graduation, despite the restrictions put in place because of COVID-19. Congratulations to all the graduates in our neighborhood! We are excited that you are a part of the community, and we hope to hear great things about you as you begin the next leg of your journey. All hail to the Graduates!



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## And the 2020 BCO Scholarship Winners Are...

The BCO Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the recipients of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BCO Scholarship, which is awarded to a high school senior at Amundsen High School or to a high school senior residing in Bowmanville. Thirty-three students submitted entries answering questions related to their volunteer service, community involvement, and goals after high school.

Congratulations to Damien Sewell, Jr. and Angelo Tavas, Class of 2020 at Amundsen High School!



**Damien Sewell, Jr.** will attend Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago to pursue a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology, with a certificate in Paralegal Studies. This past summer, Damien became a member of PAACT (Preventing Alcohol Abuse in Chicago's Teens), a multi-agency coalition convened by the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital to combat substance abuse. Damien proposed the development of a group of counselors, called "Generation Zero," whose purpose is to provide guidance and emotional support for young people abusing drugs and alcohol.



**Angelo Tavas** will attend National Louis University with a focus on Business, which he has wanted to pursue all his life. Working for the Chicago Cubs since last spring, as well as at Pinstripes Chicago, instilled in him a desire to get the college education needed to qualify for a higher position within the Chicago Cubs organization upon graduation. Attending school in Chicago while continuing to work will allow for growth with his current employer and enable him to start saving for his future.

The BCO congratulates both students and wish them much success in their future endeavors!

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A photograph of Smylie Brothers Brewing Co. products displayed on a wooden barrel. There are two dark glass growlers and several cans of beer. The cans are labeled 'SMYLIE', 'FARMHOUSE', 'WOLCOTT IPA', and 'WOLCOTT IPA'. The background shows a brick building and a clear blue sky.



## BOWMANVILLE GRADUATES

## Summerdale/Berwyn Celebrate H.S. Graduates on the Street!

By Sara Parikh and Jeff Graves

What do you do when three talented young adults in your neighborhood have their regular high school graduations canceled due to the pandemic? Well, in Bowmanville, you celebrate them on the street!

On the afternoon of June 13 neighbors held a socially distanced ceremony for Eliana Martinez, Owen Ziliak, and Sarah Buttitta on the 2100 block of Summerdale Avenue. Several incredible neighbors planned the whole event. They dropped fliers in mailboxes a week in advance, repurposed the block party "stage" for the ceremony, and pulled off the most intimate, personal, and celebratory graduation one could imagine. The event featured a 100-kazoo "Pomp and Circumstance" procession, an inspiring commencement speech, and touching motivational speeches by the parents and kids, all capped by a beautifully led singalong to Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da, life goes on!

And, you know what? Most people got dressed up, even though the ceremony was in the middle of the street! The kids were in their cap and gowns, their parents in suits and dresses, and many of the 80+ neighbors who came were in appropriate graduation-viewing attire. Not necessarily formal, but definitely not normal pandemic garb (well, except for the face masks). We all brought our own lawn chairs and enjoyed a beautiful June Saturday in Chicago while congratulating our graduates!

We are fortunate to live in an amazing, supportive, and tight-knit neighborhood and block. But that day, we really raised the bar and brought our best selves. And it showed in the love and joy and gratitude that we all felt, including — and especially — the graduates and their families. Congratulations to ALL 2020 graduates!



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## Johnnie Miller — Bowmanville's Singer-Songwriter

By Mona Yaeger

One of the things I love about living in Bowmanville is that you just don't know what interesting people you might find. For example, each morning as I walk my dog, Napoleon, I see this guy walking around the neighborhood — every single day. For a long time, I had wondered about him, but I never stopped to introduce myself. Then COVID-19 hit, and I found out who he was.



Around Memorial Day weekend, I ran into a friend who said that Johnnie Miller was going to be playing and singing in front of his house. "Who's Johnnie Miller?" I said. "You know that guy who lives at the corner of Berwyn and Oakley," she replied. I said, "The guy I see each day walking around the neighborhood with his ear buds in is a singer?" "Yes, and he's really good."

So, finally, when I saw Johnnie again out walking, I introduced myself and asked for an interview. I'm so glad I did. We sat down on a hot June afternoon and I learned a lot about this hidden Bowmanville gem.

### Long-time Bowmanville Resident

Johnnie Miller and his family — parents and siblings — have been residents of Bowmanville since he was a kid. "I've lived here my whole life in this house on Berwyn he told me. "I moved briefly after high school to McHenry county to train Appaloosa horses for a few years. But my whole family lived in Bowmanville during that time and several still do. My sister Mary lives on Farragut in a house that she bought from our other sister. And two of my sisters married a set of brothers who also lived in the neighborhood.

"What I love about Bowmanville is that we are tucked away almost like a suburb. Because of that, I never really wanted to move too far away. I remember how my siblings and I would play in what we called the meadow, which was the back area of what is now Drake Funeral Home, and there was farmland to the east. It was also a very diverse neighborhood.

I had friends from all backgrounds, Syrian, Native American and Mexican."

### Learning the Guitar

My Dad taught me how to play the guitar. He loved playing and loved Big Band music, so because of him my love of music grew. Growing up, on Saturday nights Dad would have friends come over with horns and other instruments and they would play. My Dad was a Chicago Police officer and a carpenter, but Big Band music was his love.

"As I grew up, my brother and I would play together. We called ourselves the Miller Brothers. We played while in grammar school at St. Matthias and into high school at Amundsen at our school dances. As we got older, I thought it would have been great to move out to LA, meet people and see where that life would take us. But that never happened. I got married, had a family, and worked in sales for 30+ years. During that time, I laid down my guitar and didn't pick it up again until I was 40 years old."

### Turning Point

"After working for years in a job that I no longer enjoyed, the death of my friend and sister-in-law (she was only 50 years old) a few years ago, made me realize that life is short. That made me go back to playing. I had always been writing songs, but that was where it stopped. I would write in the car, recording it on my phone while I was traveling for work, and I still write that way now. I have seven notebooks filled with lyrics and songs.

"So, I started doing Facebook Live "concerts," playing my songs at first for an hour. I started to get a small following, then I increased my playing to 1 ½ hours and then to 2 hours. As my following grew, that community of people became fans. It was fun because these were the people who started to come out to see me when I finally started to play locally."

### Getting Noticed

"I also was using Instagram as a way to get my music out there. I got a call from Red Ridge Entertainment in Nashville, who saw me on Instagram.



... continue on page 17



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

**Johnnie Miller— Bowmanville's Singer-Songwriter***... continued from page 16*

They liked what they heard and wanted to talk to me. They ended up signing me to their group. I just had gotten laid off, so I knew this was the best time for me to go for it. I drove down to Nashville, where I worked with their studio session players — guys who played with big name country stars. I knew this was right, because I became really happy as I was making an investment in myself. As this was coming together, I was starting to get noticed in Chicago. Lance Houston, Program Director at Big 95.5 (country music station), called me after hearing one of my songs and asked me to submit something to their Backyard Country series, which features singer/songwriters.

So, with the help of my daughter and the guys at Red Ridge, I submitted my first song, and it got airtime. Then I submitted another one, which also got airtime. As my songs were getting played on Big 95.5, Randy from Village Inn Pizzeria in Skokie was starting to book local bands and singers to play Friday nights. He gave the opportunity to be a part of it. Since then I'm getting people calling weekly

to play on the weekends. I've played at Toadstool Pub in Highwood, Colletti's on N. Central Ave and recently at Firewater Saloon in Edison Park".

**Writing Songs — and Loving It**

"My main goal when I decided to start doing this again was to write and sell great songs. I wanted to be a songwriter. I'm really happy about doing that because I'm investing in myself. In 2019, I wrote 60 songs, and in 2020 I so far have written 30 songs. I released a nine-song album in January and so far, Big 95.5 has played eight of those nine. That's a great feeling".

"If a young person wanted to get into the music business, I would tell them to go all in — this is not a second job. But find out first that you love it. Because you will need to put your whole being into it — it's like starting a business. And you have to believe in yourself. But it's worth the effort because it's rewarding to be able to create something."



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## BCO GreenSpace Gets Greener and More Monarch-Friendly

Since November 2019, the BCO GreenSpace Committee has been working to fully implement and improve the installation plans originally crafted for this interactive nature-scape. Hardscape was installed by renowned landscaper Christy Webber Company on July 6, and there's more to come. Here's the latest summary of what's been done and what will be happening soon!

### Lawn Repair to the Grassy Berms

These were damaged by the lack of adequate snow cover and high-volume usage, and repairing them early in the season was a top priority. On April 28, locally owned Maj Lawncare aerated, over-seeded and fertilized the entire lawn area, paths and berms. The space was closed off to allow for seed to fully root and grow, then reopened for summer usage.

### Rock River Walk and Stump Stomp

Gravel was removed from the Rock River Walk and beautiful "blue" Buckingham Crush slate now fills this bed. Also, large boulders were installed, for stepping and sitting, not unlike the boulders in the council ring in the



The decaying tree stumps an anonymous "donor" dumped along the woodchip bed were removed. The ground was then prepared with a gravel bottom to firmly position and "sink" newly hewn spruce stumps. Our stump stomp is now a perfect test of balance and agility for kids of all ages.

### Tree Planting and Removal

We're thrilled to have planted a White Oak, the state tree of Illinois, near the Northwest corner of the property, just to the West of the pergola benches. An oak tree was selected to pay tribute to and complement the virgin oak savannahs that can still be seen on the grounds of Rosehill Cemetery. Unfortunately, the Redbud plant

ed along the Eastern fence had all but died, it was removed and a replacement selection is under discussion.

### Restoration of the Flower Gardens

This project began on July 6 and included the establishment of a pollinator garden to attract butterflies and other beneficial insects. The flower bed area was tilled, invasive plants and weeds were removed, viable plants were then replanted, and mulch was added. Thanks to an application submitted by Greenspace Committee member Ellen Jurczak, 32 milkweed plants required by monarch butterflies for survival, were obtained for the garden from Monarch Watch ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)), an affiliate program with the University of Kansas Biological Survey.

Monarch Watch focuses on the annual North American migration of the Monarch butterfly, an indicator species for pollinator habitat conservation.

Where weeds once flourished in the sunny bed, we now have milkweed and monarda and will be adding other pollinator plants like yarrow, obedient plant, aster, penstemon, liatris and coreopsis. The shady beds will be refurbished with shrubs to provide food and shelter for birds, with shade-loving plants to flower for pollinators, and with ground cover for toads frequently found in the area.

### New Welcome Sign and Interpretive Signage

After the plantings are completed, some new signs will be installed to let you know all the wonders of flora and fauna you might discover here. From April through October, something will always be blooming in the GreenSpace!





## GARDENING NEWS

## Gateway Garden Expansion Phase II – Community Buildout

By Mona Yaeger

There has been a lot going on at BCO's Gateway Garden along Ravenswood this summer, and it all started with seeking out help from neighboring gardens in late spring. The Gateway Garden Expansion Committee knew there was going to be a big task at hand when the next phase of the project needed to start. That was building out the community space. Last year we focused on the needs of the veggie gardeners, this year was for the community space.

### Seeking Help for the Walkway

When the plans were developed for the space, a walkway was going to be a part of the buildout. With so much space to think about, the Committee reached out to the husband and wife team that developed the WANT garden on the east side of the Metra tracks for advice and help. They were able to give some guidance, but the biggest suggestion was what they did at their own home, which was pouring an aggregate concrete pathway. Once several committee members went to check it



### Construction.

Since this is a community garden and a NeighborSpace garden, and Zera wanted to give back, they offered to donate the labor.

Another element to this perfect storm came in the form of finding out that the concrete supplier Ozinga also awarded grants for work being done in community spaces. So, with a little help from Ann Scholhamer, paperwork was submitted. To the great surprise of all, the grant 50% of the cost of the concrete. By being in the right place at the right time, the extra money was secured to move forward with putting in the fence that the gardeners wanted and is required by NeighborSpace.

Even though a lot has been done, we are still not finished. The Gateway Garden Expansion Committee's next project will be to spend some time in the space, revisit the project list, and see what still needs or should be done according to the original design. Please take a walk by today!



out, it clicked that this was the perfect style for the walkway we wanted. This style is rarely done anymore, and it involves washing away the top layer of the concrete once it's poured to expose the pebbles within the concrete mix. It gives a more natural, garden-like feel to the walk.

### The Perfect Storm

Once that style was decided on, our next step was to find someone to make it happen. The committee was lucky enough to get contact information for the concrete contractor our neighbors had used, and it just so happens that his company was looking for new projects, as they had received assistance from the Payroll Protection Program. So, after a few conversations, an agreement was signed with Zera.



# BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

## 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? Submissions from all ages are welcome. Please contact us at [news@bcochicago.org](mailto:news@bcochicago.org).

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What types of new BCO programming would interest you?

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

## BCO 2020 Calendar of Events

Committee updates on page 2, check website for schedule updates

Sept 10 Fall BCO Bee article deadline

Oct 15 BCO Annual Community Meeting & Election 7:00pm On Zoom

