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BOWMANVILLE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Bowmanville Bee

Newsletter Winter 2021

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

Who's Who in the BCO

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Zach Markin

Colleen Scroll

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David Schuette

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome 2021!

Out with the old year and in with the new year! I'm sure the new year has been welcomed by many folks. As we are now getting closer to spring, we can hopefully look forward to shedding our winter coats, dusting off our spring jackets and starting to look forward to what the year will bring us.

In the first couple of board meetings this year, we realized that the *Bowmanville Bee* is 25 years old. We thought it would be fun to celebrate the newsletter, the types of happenings that was going in Bowmanville, and to showcase stories from many of you who have been here during that time.

In the meantime, I want to introduce our four new BCO Board members and share a few words from them about our neighborhood and why they joined the Board.

Zach Markin and his young family, who live on the 2100 block of W. Farragut, moved here from Logan Square in Spring 2019: "I joined the board to meet new neighbors, take an active role in the community, and help plan our great events. I have enjoyed the camaraderie, the parks and green space, the breweries, and the relative cleanliness of our neighborhood."

Colleen Scroll has lived with her family on the 2200 block of Farragut for the past 7 1/2 years: "The reason I joined the BCO Board was because I was asked and thought it would be a good way to learn more about the community. I'm enjoying meeting more neighbors — hopefully in person at some point this year. I love how friendly everyone is when I walk around the neighborhood. I also enjoy living so close to Winnemac Park, especially during normal times when the playground and pool are open."

Alysia Stiles Kinsella "My family and I have lived in Bowmanville since 2011 on the 1900 block of

Farragut. I have always wanted to be more involved with the BCO but never felt I had the time. As my kids are older now and a little more independent, I hoped I would be able to get involved more. I am excited to learn more about the community and the opportunities available for getting to know my neighbors throughout Bowmanville. I also hope I can contribute new ideas! I love the sense of community in our small section of Chicago. We seem to look out for each other and care about members in our area, even when we may disagree. I love how we are continuing to improve the area with public spaces for people to enjoy and (hopefully soon) community events to gather and meet each other."

David Schutte and his family have lived on Balmoral between Wolcott and Winchester for the past three years: "I joined the BCO as soon as I moved into the area with my family, and I looked for an opportunity to join the board as soon as I could. I'm most excited about membership — letting more people know about the benefits of this organization for individuals, families, and the community. I enjoy the uniqueness of Bowmanville! In one walk you can go from the bustle of Foster, to gardens on Ravenswood, over to the Greenspace on Bowmanville to climb rocks — and stop at any of the great neighborhood businesses along the way."

Well, we have several great articles to read in this issue, and I hope you will enjoy them. If you lived in Bowmanville 25 or more years ago, please email us any great stories you may have to share to be put in the next several issues to mark the Bee's 25th Anniversary.

Until then, see you around the neighborhood!

Mona Yaeger

President

New Bowmanville Book Club

With winter and COVID restrictions in full effect, keeping busy and trying to socialize with friends and neighbors can be quite difficult right now. That's why it's the perfect time to join a book club, especially one in which your neighbors participate!

The first meeting of the Bowmanville Book Club will start at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 1, when we will discuss our first novel, *Mexican Gothic*, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. This is not a BCO-specific group but will be run by members of the community who are interested.

We will meet via Zoom at that time on Monday evenings either weekly or biweekly, depending on what participants would prefer.

If you would like to participate, please email Lacy Marlow (lacyannie@gmail.com), who will then send you a calendar invite for the meeting.

Also, if you have recommendations for other books to read, please feel free to send her your suggestions or have a list ready when the group meets.

Remembering 400,000 Souls

As part of the National COVID-19 Memorial Service on Tuesday evening, January 19, families on Berwyn and Faragut observed 10 minutes of silent prayer and lighted the sidewalks with luminarias in memory of the more than 400,000 Americans who have died so far from COVID-19. Neighbors on other blocks also lit candles and turned off their lights to honor the victims. Hopefully, this pandemic will end soon.



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The BCO Fundraising Campaign

The BCO launched our fundraising campaign in Fall 2020. Thank you to those who donated. But we are still in need of help. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation of any size. The easiest way is on our website: www.bcochicago.org.

Thank you from the BCO Board of Directors

COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy Anniversary to the Bee!



Does this old Bee banner from the 1995 Winter edition look familiar to you? If so, congratulations! That means you have been in the neighborhood for many years and have much to share with all of us who are newer.

The BCO is pleased to announce that this year we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of publishing our beloved Bowmanville Bee newsletter, which has faithfully chronicled the BCO and our neighborhood through the efforts of countless volunteers. Longtime BCO leadership and members who have been participating since the organization's beginning deserve recognition and gratitude for their service.

Those of you who have lived here for a long time have interesting family stories, especially generational ones, about the history of Bowmanville that we would treasure. Many of you have insights on the changes and developments that have occurred through the years that we would love for you to share with all of us.

We all know this is a great neighborhood, and your memories will add a deeper sense of appreciation of all that we have accomplished over the past 25 years. This is truly worthy of a great celebration.

If you have some good ideas for stories, memories to share, suggestions on how to celebrate the Bee, and especially if you like to be interviewed for the purpose of giving you or your family's oral history, we would love to hear from you at comm@bcochicago.org by April 10. We will be kicking off our celebration with stories in the Spring edition and continuing all this year with a fond look back at our history in various ways, culminating in an Anniversary Party at the fall October meeting. Looking forward to hearing your thoughts.

- Barbara Kraetsch, Bee Celebration Committee

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Letter from Alderman Andre Vasquez

Happy New Year, Bowmanville B-Hive!

As I reflect on the past year and the myriad of challenges facing our families, our community, and our city, there are some bright spots that I want to make sure to touch on as well.

Across the 40th Ward, members of the Neighbor Network, our volunteer program, mobilized in support of ward residents by making senior wellness calls, organizing a school supply drive, delivering groceries, medication, and masks to those in need, and by activating a team of sewers to make reusable cloth masks for community members. It was inspiring to witness the ways neighbors came together. Here are some Neighbor Network highlights, by the numbers:

- Over 350 volunteers signed up in response to COVID-19
- Sewing Guard made more than 2,000 reusable cloth masks
- Call Crew made over 15,000 Wellness Calls to seniors
- Field Team delivered over 22,000 face masks to neighbors
- Student Supply Drive helped 100 students prepare for the new school year

- Organized ten "Pitch In for the Parks" clean up events with over 100 volunteers

We also had our share of successes in the past year here at the 40th Ward and in Bowmanville:

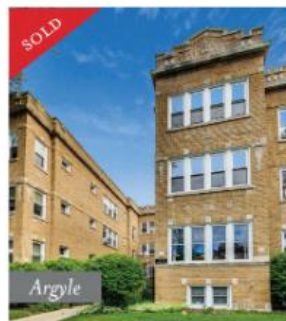
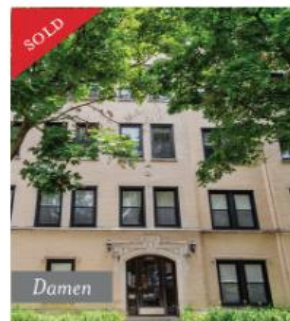
- Our second annual Peoples' Budget Menu Program elected to appropriate \$100,000 towards the creation of a Dog Friendly Area in Winnemac Park.
- In Bowmanville, we were able to move the Bureau of Forestry's tree shredding operation so that it is no longer stationed in the ward.
- Together with Communities Partnering 4 Peace, a violence prevention outreach organization that is based in the 40th, we utilized an alternative approach to public safety when gang activity was increasing around Foster and Damen over the summer. CP4P was integral in resolving conflicts before they escalated.
- The 40th Ward is part of the new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) pilot program, which legalizes/facilitates the building of coach houses and more affordable housing units.
- We began work on the Lincoln Avenue North Arts District by developing the Ainslie Arts Plaza, in partnership with the Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce.



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The 40th Ward has a number of exciting plans on the horizon in 2021. Make sure to sign up for our newsletter at 40thward.org, where we'll share updates on the following projects:

- Devon/Clark Streetscape
- Western Avenue Corridor Study
- Catalpa/Clark Public Space Development
- Lincoln Avenue North Arts District Development
- Lawrence Avenue Streetscape

During a time when many are struggling with the uncertainty of what the future may hold, I am inspired by the leadership in our community, and the BCO is a shining example of folks coming together and taking pride in their neighborhood. I look forward to more conversations (hopefully in person and not just on Zoom) with BCO members.

Your input has helped guide our ward and it's been an honor to work alongside you all, as your alderman to improve our community.

As we start the New Year, I will continue to put the same amount of effort and focus to keep moving forward and building on all we have accomplished thus far.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,
Alderman Andre Vasquez, 40th Ward

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Urban Pooch Champion Corner

Meet Iggy



By Rebecca Meyers

In 1990, my husband and I rescued Iggy, a cousin's iguana that had outgrown its tiny aquarium. We took it home and built an enclosure with multiple living levels including

pea gravel, astro turf, heated rocks and tree limbs that would allow Iggy plenty of room to flourish. To our surprise, Iggy laid 30 eggs on our cousin's 30th birthday. Of course, they weren't fertilized, but we were thrilled to know that Iggy (now Ignacia) was healthy and happy enough living in captivity to have this natural event occur in her life.

Ignacia grew over the next seven years from 12" to 48" in length while relishing lettuce, strawberries and blossoms from our Rose of Sharon shrub. Occasionally we would let Ignacia roam in our sunroom filled with our cacti collection. One day, she dug out all of the dirt from a 5' tall cactus planter. We thought surely the plant would die, but delightfully, she stimulated that stagnant cactus to flower and within a couple of weeks we were enjoying giant blooms for the first time.

Did Ignacia know something about plants that we didn't?

Besides stimulating cacti to flower and presenting gifts on birthdays, Ignacia would go into a Zen-like trance when she was stroked above her nose. She'd point it straight

up in the air, close her eyes and be still just like a statue. Jokingly we were even able to balance things on her nose. During the height of Dave Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks, we envisioned a trip to NYC to demonstrate how she could "balance the check-book." Alas this did not happen, but Ignacia continued to amaze with her bizarre antics including snoozing under a warm radiator and climbing up woven blinds on a sunny day.

She stayed with us until she passed on in 1997.

We were lucky to have such a friendly and healthy reptile. Ignacia was such a magnificent example of a Green Iguana, we had her taxidermied. To this day, she sits proudly in our living room where she continues to bring happy memories and smiles to our faces.



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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

How I Got Through Quarantine

By Collin Callahan



Like many Chicagoans, when Governor Pritzker announced a mandatory shelter in place order at the end of March 2020, I was alarmed but remained hopeful things would soon return to normal. As talk shifted from ‘flattening the curve’ to “achieving herd immunity,” it became apparent that I would need to develop some new hobbies to stay sane.

Traditionally, my passion involves exploring the immensely diverse, vibrant and spirited live music scene that thrives in Chicago. With our independent music venues shuttered by government lockdowns, I set a personal ambition to discover new music by listening to one full album (LP or EP) every day. The lost art of listening to a record cover-to-cover may seem out of date in an era of personalized playlist curated by algorithms. However, this exercise of listening to a full album each day reminded me of how I developed a love for music at a young age.

Here are some of the albums I’ve particularly enjoyed during quarantine: *Punisher* by Phoebe Bridgers, *Saint Cloud* by Waxahatchee, *Youth Pastoral* by Ben Seretan, *Back to the Party* by Sam Russo, *Skeleton Coast* by Lawrence Arms, and *No Dream* by Jeff Rosenstock. Worth checking out if you want to hear some great new vinyl. Musicians purposefully sequence albums to flow and grow from one track to another. Like a story albums typically have a climax and a resolution. Mix tapes and playlists have their place, but the album is a cohesive confrontation with the artist’s complete creation. Simply put, the album is how musicians intend for listeners to consume their art.

An extended benefit of this daily listening ritual is that my musical palate has flourished in a time when open mindedness and tolerance for differing opinions is in short supply. Could music be the key to getting us out of our confirmation biases and away from the outrage that seeps through the pores of social media? Perhaps. An expanded musical appreciation may well present a step toward acceptance, patience and respect for others outside of our normal circles, from the mosh pit to the orchestra pit.



Editor’s note: Collin, who resides at Berwyn and Ravenswood, has been a proud Bowmanville resident since 2015. He can often be found exploring Winnemac Park with his wife, Christy, their 2^{1/2} year-old daughter, Corinne, and their mini Goldendoodle, Harold. Collin also likes to spend his time flipping through vinyl at Laurie’s Planet of Sound, meeting friends at Simon’s Tavern, or playing bass in the worship band at Park Community Church in South Rogers Park.

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An Artist Among Us in Bowmanville

By Mona Yaeger

When I started this neighbor-profile feature in the Bee last summer, I didn't really know that I would find such wonderful hidden gems. But of course, being in a great city and in a great community, why wouldn't I? For this third installment, I would like to introduce to you Mary Stoppert. Mary is a retired professor of art who taught at Northeastern University and an amazing artist in her own right. Art can be so many things — as the saying goes, “Art is in the eye of the beholder.” The time I spent a cold Sunday afternoon with Mary and her spouse Carmen in their Bowmanville studio spoke volumes to why I love art and how I miss seeing great works in our local museums.



A Bowmanville Resident for 25 years

At the very start, I learned a surprise piece of information about the space where Mary and Carmen's home now stands: “When we bought this property 25 years ago, it was a gravel parking lot, and a gas station was on the corner. The owner of the gas station used this lot to park cars they were working on. We bought the property in March 1995 and broke ground that July. We designed the house so we could have our studio in the basement, but not have a basement feel. That's why the ceilings are 8 feet high.”

And what a great studio space they both have to work in! Mary began our interview by walking thru her process and what she is currently working on. “I'm fascinated by measurement and measuring time. When I'm working on a piece, I think about the environment I want the piece to live in. As you view my work, you will see lots of circles. When I find a piece, I do my research and learn its history. Then I think about how I want to move forward.”

She showed me this really interesting piece she has been working on, a hygrometer from the 19th century. It's an instrument that used horsehair to measure humidity. I had not seen anything like it — it was really cool. Once she found this piece and did the research, her next approach is to introduce something organic or natural to the piece for the environment that it will be living in. As

she walked me through her process and showed me another piece, I was excited to learn more about the person behind the work.

According to the Research

Before each Bee issue, our editor sends out an ask for articles. Back in the fall, we got an email about Mary from Carmen. So, when I started to do my research after she agreed to be interviewed, I realized that research can only tell you so much. If you visit Mary's website, it will tell you that she is a mixed media and sculpture artist, who was a professor at Northeastern University. She worked as a Gallery director for many years, and the site lists her one-woman and group shows. She has shown her work locally, regionally, and internationally. She has a master's from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and an undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University. But this basic stuff is never the human story.

Mary grew up in Middleton, Michigan. She was the only girl in a family of boys and her parents were educators in a town full of people who mostly worked for Dell Chemical. Her undergrad degree was in education, to please her parents, even though they did support her interest in art. But at that time, girls were encouraged to get an education with a degree that could support them until they got married. “As a girl, I was good at making art. My parents bought me a drawing table and I took art classes every Saturday. In junior high, I had a great art teacher. He taught us the more mature aspects of the art world and art making. He was a big influence — a modern man in a non-modern time. When I was older, finished with grad school, and making my way as an artist, I won a National Endowment Award for Art. My dad came into town to see ceremony. He finally thought I was going to be ok — that I didn't need a husband (to be safe and stable). Because growing up my options were to get married or teach”.

That struck me as interesting. I had a sister who was an artist, trying to find a way to support herself and make the art she wants to make. I wanted to know more about how Mary created her path in the art world. “When I graduated with my masters in 1968, it was a rough time in Chicago and in America. Martin Luther King had been in Chicago, there were riots, and the women's rights movement was growing. I was the only female

MEET YOUR BOWMANVILLE NEIGHBOR

An Artist Among Us in Bowmanville

grad student in the sculpture program. The guys in my program ignored me, but I had an advisor who was great and very supportive. That helped.

"Eventually in 1973, myself and a group of women artists came together, not from a feminist viewpoint or a political one, but because of our work and as a way to support one another. We founded a group and named it after Artemisia Gentileschi, who was an Italian artist. Three of us submitted our work to a juried show at the Art Institute, and we won. We were seen as equals with the men.

"From there, I started to build relationships. The way to do that was to get your work seen when curators came to town. Back then, that is how you got your work into museums for a show or to be a part of gallery shows. Marsha Tucker, a curator who founded the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City, went to see my work when she came for a visit. She had heard about me. From that meeting, I was able to build a relationship with her and several other curators to get my work seen.

"Another local art dealer, Phyllis Kind, who owned the Phyllis Kind Gallery in Chicago, loved my work as well, but it wasn't always easy. A different woman-owned art gallery, where I had some work but sold only one piece, made it known that she would rather push men artists instead of women artists, because she felt that the men needed to support their families."

The Art of Teaching

Mary was a Professor of Art at Northeastern University from the 1970 to 2000, a department chair in 1998, and ran the art gallery on campus from 1985 to 2000. I asked her about her time in academia and what she enjoyed.

"I taught 3-D art, design, sculpture, which included welding, construction and casing. I loved running the gallery, I loved curating art, I saw it as happy 'stocking.' Northeastern was a school where the average age of students was 25 and older. I enjoyed it, but I wanted to know where all the young women in art were. I was fortunate to teach two women artists, Kelly Hensen and Beate Minkovski, who was coming back to school after raising five kids. Later, in 1992, Kelly and Beate founded Women Made Gallery, a nonprofit whose goal is to cultivate, promote and support the work of female-identified artists.

I was happy and proud to be a part of that."

Her Closing Thoughts

"In my career, women were always there from the start. There was woman sculpture instructor who was doing big things that I wanted to do; I admired that. I also had a female advisor and mentor in graduate school. So, I always knew that supporting one another was important. Women need to help women — pay it forward."



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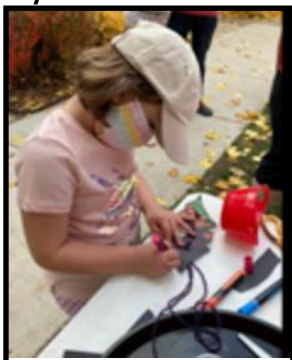
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STEM/STEAM Saturdays — Fun Learning on Summerdale

By Diana Leifer



If you happened to be strolling along the 1800 block of West Summerdale of a Saturday this past autumn, you may have noticed a group of kids and adults masked and gathered, at appropriate social distance, around a table, behind which an adult was conducting what looked like a class of some sort. What,

you may have wondered, was going on?

What was going on was a STEM/STEAM Saturday session. What exactly does that mean? In the past several years, school systems have introduced innovative curricula to encourage the study, by boys and girls alike, of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and eventually adding the A for arts (STEAM).

Very Non-Virtual — and Fun!

Shannon Hoag is an actress, voice over artist, and marvelous mother of two young boys, both CPS students relegated to virtual learning by the COVID-19 pandemic. She and her husband, Kyle Hamman, storyteller, filmmaker

and owner of KBH Media, felt they could enrich their children's educational experience by presenting live and lively outdoor science demonstrations, and invited other children and parents to join the fun.

And fun it was. The first few sessions focused on chemistry with demonstrations of exothermic chemical reactions. To everyone's delight, Shannon produced Elephant Toothpaste by combining hydrogen peroxide, dry yeast, warm water, liquid dish soap, and a bit of food coloring in a 16- oz. plastic soda bottle

(www.littlepassports.com). Oh, the squeals of delight as the kids saw a column of colored foam gush from the bottle and accumulate on a tray! Shannon encouraged the children to touch the bottle to feel the heat generated by the chemical reaction, referring to the term exothermic. She cautioned that the "toothpaste" should not be put in the mouth, but was definitely safe to play with, and that they did.

A few weeks later, Shannon presented a physics lesson, highlighting Newton's laws of motion. For example, using Popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and bottle tops, the youngsters made catapults and launched candy



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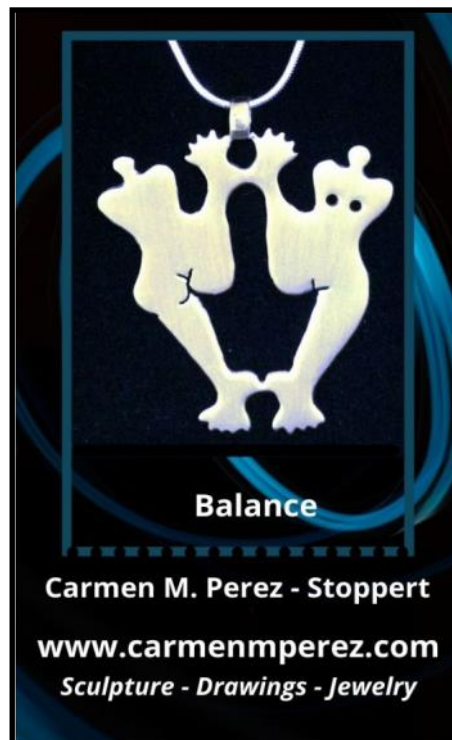
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pumpkins to demonstrate Newton's Third Law of Motion, which states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In the catapult pushing down on the short end of the popsicle stick is the action, and the flinging forward of the pumpkin is the reaction. A Newton's Cradle (Remember those? If not, www.sciencing.com.) also demonstrated the third law, as well as Newton's law of conservation of energy. The clever hands-on activities vividly demonstrated these scientific laws in a way a simple lecture could not.

The Art of Bats

Parents who attended these sessions were equally delighted, and in a discussion which followed, it was suggested that the arts also be incorporated into STEM Saturdays.

Continue on page 14



STEM/STEAM Saturdays — Fun Learning on Summerdale

Continued from page 11

What followed was a biology lesson about bats. Included was a PowerPoint presentation on the only flying mammal, citing interesting facts and figures. Did you know, for example, that the smallest, the Bumblebee bat, weighs less than three Skittles, and the Flying Fox, the largest, has a wingspread of six feet; that some bats can fly 100 mph; and that there are over 1,200 different types of bats in the world?

After the zoology portion of the lesson, Shannon read aloud the lovely story, *Stella Luna*, about a baby bat who becomes separated from its mother and is adopted by birds. Her acting gifts were on full display as she made the story come to life for the audience, young and old alike, who sat at rapt attention, listening to the tale unfold. The session was capped off with an arts and crafts project in which the children had an opportunity to make paper bat puppets to hang from the ceiling. When the strings are pulled, the bat flaps its wings!

Delicious Way to Learn

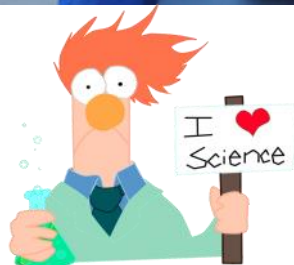
As autumn waned, we were able to fit in two more sessions before the weather rendered outdoor lessons unfeasible. Calling on my own background in the Culinary Arts and using portable, single-burner butane stoves, I conducted two hands-on cooking sessions with the children and parents. The first focused on the making of crepes — mixing the batter, cooking, flipping, and folding them around a choice of fillings including Nutella and raspberry jam, and topping them with whipped cream. I don't know what folks enjoyed more, successfully flipping their crêpes or eating them. I'd wager to say they got a lot of pleasure out of both, and the children even enlisted passersby to make their own crepes, too.

Our final STEAM session involved learning how to make omelets. Joined by neighbor, Cynthia Brown, like myself a graduate of the Washburne Trade School Chefs Training Program — and a former chef — we instructed attendees on a classical method of making the delectable egg dish. Once the eggs were properly formed and folded over

grated cheddar cheese, everyone enjoyed a late lunch of their omelets accompanied by an oven-baked French toast and washed down with hot chocolate.

We hope that all who participated will retain the facts and skills they acquired during our STEM/STEAM Saturdays. Who knows, someday, some of them might become teachers, scientists, or even make breakfast or dessert for their parents or children! And we hope that you, too will be inspired to hold your own educational activity sessions for your neighbors and their kids.

Meanwhile, we look forward to be able to resume our STEAM/STEM Saturdays come Spring.



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Gateway Winter Gardening Pilot

By Members of the Garden Committee

You may have noticed some interesting looking structures at the Gateway Garden this winter. These are cold frames some of our gardeners have set up as part of our winter gardening pilot.

What is a cold frame? Well, while some plants, like tomatoes and peppers will grow only in the full heat and sun of summer, others, like lettuces and cabbage, are much more tolerant of the darker, colder months. With the right care, these plants can thrive both before and after the typical growing season. In some cases, plants may be able to persist all through the winter.

A cold frame, rather than leaving plants out in the cold, acts like a mini-greenhouse, providing plants with the shelter, access to light, and protection from dry air that they need to survive the winter and get an early start on the spring.



Due to a perennial interest among our gardeners, the BCO garden committee has initiated a pilot project to allow a handful of gardeners to experiment with different cold frames on their beds. Pilot participants each proposed and set up their own frame on their bed at the garden. These frames come in a variety of designs and sizes. Some are homemade and some are store bought. Similarly, gardeners are experimenting with a variety of plants and planting times. The goal of this pilot is to gain insight into what does and doesn't work for winter gardening, begin building experience with winter gardening amongst the gardeners, and, most importantly, to extend the fun of the garden into the darkest season of the year.



At the end of the winter, the gardeners taking part in the pilot will share their lessons learned with the garden committee to take into consideration during future discussions of extending the growing season for a larger number of gardeners. At the very least, we can hope to see some greenery in the garden earlier than ever this coming spring!

Bee-utifying Gateway Garden

Robert Swizlow and his wife Rebecca, who live on Ravenswood, are long-time residents of Bowmanville and have supported the BCO and our Gateway Garden from the beginning. Robert has a business called Point Display and Design, <https://pointdisplay.com/>, and one of his products is laser-cut metal art designs.

He crafted the Bowmanville Bee logo into a metal gate topper and made these lovely "Bee" ornaments for all the gates at the garden. Thank You Robert for your very generous donation of art to the Gateway Garden!



BOWMANVILLE GARDENERS

Let There Be Tulips!

By Nicolette Jurgens-Tamminga

The cold grey winter of the Midwest seems to last forever, but it is the optimal weather for bulbs to hibernate in anticipation of bringing us prolific blooms in the spring.

In fact, as you read this, there's a raised flower bed on Summerdale near Winchester where 1,000 exotic tulip bulbs are tucked in the ground patiently waiting for the warmer temperatures of April and May — you may have seen the one planted there last year blooming in unison this past spring. These bulbs were planted by me, Nicolette, your Bowmanville neighbor and owner of Heartseed Flower Farm.



Our primary market includes flower shops and flower designers (our flowers are prized for weddings, anniversaries and other special occasions), as well as farmers' markets and our neighbors in Bowmanville and Andersonville, to whom we directly sell and deliver. We'll even deliver flowers locally to others with a gift card of your choice, if you like.



And Other Flowers, too!

Started in 2019, Heartseed Flower Farm is a sustainable cut-flower micro-farm (only a quarter of an acre) in Bridgeman, Michigan. There we grow the types of flowers you would see in specialty flower shops, such as fancy tulips, lisianthus,

ranunculus, eucalyptus, amaranth, stock, and many others. To grow them, we use sustainable farming methods, including amending the soil with organic materials and employing a no-till method when possible to encourage a healthy and happy biome for bees, bugs, and plants.

I began farming to fulfill a dream to work outside of the corporate world and away from a desk job. I am fortunate to have generous in-laws who encouraged me to begin farming on a small portion of their land in SW Michigan. Feeling the soil between my fingers, watching flowers flourish, and creating something beautiful to brighten another's day is the most satisfying job I can think of doing.



How the Tulips Came to Summerdale

While out walking a couple years ago, I noticed a raised bed on Summerdale (I live up the block with my husband, Jason, and son, Lieuwe) that hadn't been used during the past growing season. I knocked on the door and asked if I could borrow the plot to grow tulips and ranunculus. The owner was delighted, and now I am fortunate to be able to bring some of the Michigan farm to our neighborhood.



If you're looking for a bit of cheer in April and May, Heartseed is offering a four-week tulip share for Bowmanville neighbors, through which you'll get a different bouquet of tulips to brighten your day once a week for four weeks. For details, check out Heartseed's Instagram (@heartseedflowerfarm) or website (www.heartseedflowerfarm.com), where you'll find more information about what we offer. Happy "flowering"!

BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES



Bowmanville's community newsletter, *The Bowmanville Bee*, is published quarterly with the goal of sharing the neighborhood buzz and promoting local business. We work closely with BCO members and neighbors to gather local stories that help make Bowmanville the unique and proud community. The Bee urges the submission of relevant content to news@bcochicago.org.



The Communications Committee provides many ways for the BCO to connect to the community and for the community to make its voice heard through the BCO. These include our website, Facebook, the Bowmanville Bee, Instagram and email eBlasts. Contact: comm@bcochicago.org.



The Events Committee is one of the best ways to meet neighbors throughout the community, and have a lot of fun while you're at it! Each year we continue our Annual Street Sale in June, Bowmanville Garden Walk in July, and Summer Social in 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. Contact events@bcochicago.org.



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.**



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. Contact greenspace@bcochicago.org



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. Not a BCO member, go to our the BCO website to join. Contact membership@bcochicago.org. **Get involved, you won't regret it!**



The Planning & Development 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. Contact planning@bcochicago.org.



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. Want more public art? Contact publicart@bcochicago.org to get involved or with new ideas.

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