

# **Bowmanville Bee**

# Newsletter Summer 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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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Ahh... Summertime in Bowmanville!

I hope it has been a good one so far for everyone in the neighborhood. With the city of Chicago opening up in June, many people have been able to plan time away from their homes. My husband and I made trips to Wisconsin and Nebraska to see our family. We had not be able to do that since 2019.

### **BCO Summer Events**

Summer is usually when the BCO has all of our annual events. Up first was the **BCO Street Sale** in June. WOW — was that a fun event!! We had over 100 houses participate. I guess that is what happens when you shelter at home for 18 months and clean out your basements and closet. I spent the morning walking the neighborhood, checking in with sellers, handing out maps, and meeting with Congressman Quigley. Our Events Committee did a great job of planning and making the event successful. As always, thanks to Laura Schmidt who did a great job again of chairing the event. See more about the BCO Street Sale on page 2.

Amidst a great deal of uncertainty around when the city would ease restrictions on gatherings this year, the BCO Board decided that the Bowmanville Garden Walk would be postponed until 2022. This one of our most laborintensive events, which takes at least four months to put together. Back in the spring, not knowing when the city would be open, it did not seem a good idea to hold an event that might not offer the great experience that neighbors, visitors and Garden Walk hosts have come to expect. The departure of longtime Garden Walk chair Craig Hanenburg, who left Bowmanville after nearly 30 years and moved to Indiana, also set back planning. We thank Craig for all the work he put into organizing our neighborhood's signature event, and we will work with the community to ensure that the Garden Walk returns to its full glory next summer.

Now, as we head into the last part of summer, the BCO has decided to restart our **First Fridays** get-togethers. We held our first one on Friday, August 6, at Nobody's Darling located at 1744 W. Balmoral. This new business took over the spot where Joie de Vine was located just down from Pauline's. We are so excited to welcome this new black, woman, LGBTQ+ owned business.

And our fun end of summer event, the **BCO Summer Social**, takes place August 21 in a new location — on Ravenswood by the Gateway Garden. The BCO Board is so excited to have this event on this side of the neighborhood. We are mixing it up this year with different kid's activities, but still having the kids' band led by Tim O'Donnell and a couple of bands for the adults. There'll be ice cream from Pauline's and beer from our neighborhood breweries, and we hope to also have a food truck on hand.

# **Looking Ahead to the Fall**

As summer winds down and school starts up again. We hope to be able to have our twice-a-year Community Meeting on Thursday, October 14. This year we will seek to replace a few BCO Board members who have or will be stepping down. So, if you are someone who is a doer and enjoys getting involved, please email me at president@bcochicago.org to learn more.

Well, that's about it from me. Again, I hope everyone has a great summer seeing friends and family, enjoying the weather, and having fun at our BCO events.

Until next time, I will see you around the neighborhood.

Mona

BCO Fall Open
Community Meeting
October 14, 2021 @7:30pm
Mark Your Calendars

# **Notes from the Biggest Street Sale in BCO History!**

The Annual **BCO Street Sale** made an incredible return to form on Saturday, June 5, following a one-year hiatus due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19. Over 120 sellers participated, and Bowmanville's streets were filled with thousands of shoppers from all over the city. It was the largest sale since the event began in 1996.

For many, this was the first taste of post-pandemic life, and more than one shopper remarked on how exciting it was to be "returning to normal." The weather cooperated as well — a hot and sunny 92-degree day in Chicago.

New this year was an interactive feature that let shoppers view a map of sellers on their phones. And Sweet Virginia's Kitchen, 5131 N. Damen Ave., joined in by selling charcuterie boxes assembled especially for the event. Visitors to the neighborhood included U.S. Representative Mike Quigley and 40<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Andre Vasquez.

# A Big Win-Win for All Involved

Laura Schmidt, who has overseen this event since 2018, says: "I love the Street Sale because it gets the whole neighborhood engaging with one another after being cooped up for far too long. And then, of course, there are the bargains – which is everyone's favorite part! The sellers get the double benefit of making some extra cash while getting rid of unwanted stuff. A win, win, win for everyone!"

Sincere appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible. As with other BCO events, much effort goes into making the Street Sale a success. From hanging posters around the neighborhoods, delivering yard signs and packets to each seller, and walking around on the day of the event to welcome visitors and check in on each sale, our volunteers made this day a success.

We are always looking for helping hands around the neighborhood. If you're interested, please email events@bcochicago.org. The next BCO Street Sale will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022.







# Congratulations to the 2021 BCO Scholarship Winners!

The BCO Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BCO High School Senior College Scholarship Program for students at Amundsen High School. The winners for the Class of 2021 are Makayla Caldwell and Vanessa Vasquez.

Congratulations to you both! The Bowmanville Community Organization and our entire community wish you well on your future endeavors!



**Makayla Caldwell** plans to attend the Seneca Foundation Program, which teaches the fundamentals of software engineering, and then continue on to earn a Bachelor's in Computer Science.

"Coding is fascinating to me because you have to see the big and small picture at the same time. It requires a lot of problem solving and creativity. I am a musician, so I can relate with both the technical and creative aspects of coding."

During her high school years, Makayla has volunteered as a foster caretaker for Forever Fortunate Felines and the Tree House Humane Society, which help animal shelters keep pace with animal rescues, while helping kittens socialize and become good companions.

Makayla plays the cello and was part of Amundsen High School's "The String Ambassadors Program," which allows students to bring their instruments to Chap-

pell Elementary to inspire children to learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument. She also volunteered with The People's Music School in Uptown to help raise funds to provide free music education to needy students.

\*\*Continues on page 4\*\*

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# Congratulations to the 2021 BCO Scholarship Winners!

Continued from page 3

Vanessa Vasquez, a Bowmanville resident, aspires to help people and be part of the health care industry by becoming a Registered Nurse through the Nursing program at Malcolm X Community College.

"I feel that I'm a person who always tries to find a way to help people. I really care about people, and I just enjoy being there for them and helping them feel better, and helping their families be happy and not suffer anymore."

Vanessa has volunteered through her church to help those without homes or adequate food by helping with food drives at a local senior citizen home. She plans to work this summer to help fulfill her dreams of attending college and helping her family.

Congratulations to all Bowmanville 2021
Graduates!





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# **BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENS**

# **Beautiful Bowmanville Gardens**

One of the many things that makes Bowmanville such a great neighborhood and a hidden gems, is our green spaces. This year is turning into one of the greenest of years with all the rain and sun so far this summer. Just

take a walk around the neighborhood, you can see how wonderful everyone's yard looks including the 4 green spaces maintained by the Garden and GreenSpace Committees. This article ran in the Winter 2020 issue. It's so good, it makes sense to run it again.

Did you know that Bowmanville has four green space areas? As the image and numbers below show, we have two areas that house our

veggie plots, a beautiful pathway along Bowmanville Ave at Leavitt, and the GreenSpace on Bowmanville Ave at Bell Street. We also have a small bump-out area at the entrance into our community at Berwyn Ave near Western that's beautified with flowers and other plants.

spaces are not common in most Chicago neighborhoods.

Plus, our green spaces are managed by the BCO and the wonderful neighbors who over the years have stepped up to help maintain them. This enables us to make sure these spaces serve the community.

> But having these amenities means that keeping them in good condition is up to us. These spaces take many hands and hours to keep green, weeded, and enjoyable for all to share. This is where neighbors like you come in.

As we move into 2021 (2022), the BCO is seeking

volunteers who are interested in gardening, teaching, and helping to manage and maintain our green spaces. If you are interested in volunteering for the Garden Committee, please send an email to gardening@bcochicogo.org. Our green spaces — and everyone in Bowmanville — would greatly appreciate that.





# **Urban Pooch Champion Corner**



# Pet Profile – Flynn the Cat



October 18, 2019 was the day I met my best friend, Flynn. I'd always wanted a kitten, but my living situations and lifestyle did not allow for that. However, that Fall I was having a difficult time with mental health issues and my therapist and I both agreed that the companionship, camaraderie,

and responsibility a feline friend would provide would be beneficial.

So I obtained my landlord's permission, purchased a litter box, litter, cat food, and some toys, and headed down to the shelter after work one afternoon "just looking" at adoptable kittens. My friend had loaned me her cat carrier because I wanted to be prepared "just in case."

I entered the kitten room and initially was interested in the first kitten that ran into my lap, a two-month-old. However, when I got to talking to the adoption counselor it was revealed that I would need to adopt two kittens if I took that one. So, we returned to the kitten room and a sweet orange boy climbed out of his bed and walked into my lap. The counselor said "that's Flynn, he's very sweet but usually shy around potential adopters. He likes you." When he began to purr, I knew I liked him too. I was told I could take him alone as he was six months old at the time, which is still a kitten but old enough that a lot of development has taken place over the past months.





Bringing Flynn home was one of the happiest times of my life. He enjoys running around my house, playing with balls and wand toys, running through his two-way cat tunnel, and curling up in my lap to watch TV or sleep. He also loves sitting at the windowsill and watching the dogs, children, and walkers of Bowmanville go by. He is often sitting when I get home from work and when he sees me coming up the steps, jumps down from the window and sits by the front door.

On sunny days, I tend to sit on my front porch and visit

with neighbors and friends, and read or listen to a podcast — something I began during the initial days of the COVID shutdown and have maintained because



it is my happy place. Flynn is an indoor cat but usually sits on the window seat and keeps me company, observing and enjoying his surroundings.

Now Flynn is two and has developed such a sweet and silly personality. Nothing makes me happier than spending time with him, and the unconditional love we share. Folks often say that humans rescue animals by adopting them, but I truly believe Flynn and I rescued each other.

### **NEW**

Urban Pooch Training & Fitness Center SPORTS ANNEX.

Located at 5401 Wolcott (and Balmoral). It's 3,900 sq ft of Pure Fun, including an amazing Premium Grass Turf floor and more classes such as Agility, Disc, Nose Work and other sports classes.

Come check out the new space!



Unique to Chicago, Urban Pooch Training & Fitness Center is a state-of-the-art 10,000 sq. ft. facility that offers training, fitness, agility and daycare . . . with many classes you won't find anywhere else. Our award-winning trainers can solve any behavior issue. We are located at 5400 N Damen, corner of Balmoral.



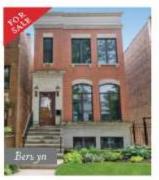


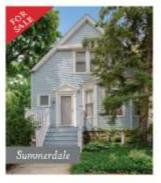
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# MEET YOUR BOWMANVILLE NEIGHBOR

# A Neighbor in the Community – Block by Block is Our Strength

# By Mona Yaeger

Since joining the BCO Board 6 years ago, I have often written in the President's Letter about what a hidden gem our neighborhood is and how unique this community is compared to others on the North side of Chicago. For this edition of *Meet your Neighbor*, I spoke to Noelle Braun-Etheridge about our community and neighborhood and how she is engaged not just on her block but also how she came to be a part of Bowmanville.

Noelle and her family live on the 2200 block of Farragut Ave. They have been on this block for 18 years and been involved in one way or another in the community either on the BCO Board, on their own block or as a Block Captain. As I have start each of these features, I wanted to know more about Noelle, her background and how she found our neighborhood.

# My Story is Simple

"I was raised in the East coast in the Connecticut and the D.C. area. When I came to Chicago, my goal was to only live here for 2 years, but that ended up lasting much longer – 25 years. I meet my British husband while I was in Chicago, got married and we ended up in Uptown during the early part of our marriage. Once we became pregnant, we started looking to buy a home. We looked for 2 years. One day the broker we were working with mentioned Bowmanville – Lincoln Square. Once we saw the house, it really checked all the boxes, and we knew when we walked in the door this was it. Here we are today – 18 years later with 2 kids".



# **Building Community on the Block**

"Once we moved in, we really had not connected to people on the block yet. But after settling in, we realized with a true hidden gem we had moved into. I wanted to find a way to connect and increase community – that was by having a block party. I started knocking on doors to met people. I took down their contact information and created a distribution list to share with everyone. From there, I shared the list, asked for donations to get the 1<sup>st</sup> block

party started and even created a block newsletter. Laura Schmidt was one of the first neighbors to join up. A former neighbor had given us a check for \$1,000 from his mom who had grown up on the block but had passed away. The check was her way to support the block party. His mom had lived here her whole life and would have love the party and being involved. Our block party is meant for all of the neighbors to feel included, no matter your backgrounds or interests. This summer will be our 13<sup>th</sup> year for our block party".

### Bowmanville Neighborhood - Getting Involved

Noelle and I talked a lot about being a part of the neighborhood and what community means. At one point, Noelle was on the BCO Board and held a few different roles. "I got involved because I became connected to Claire Shingler and she asked me to join the BCO. I was on the Membership Committee which was really the Welcome Committee. When new neighbors moved in, we would bake a banana bread and deliver it to new home owners. That was fun because I got to meet more people. I know it can be hard to get involved when you have young children and your family is active, but I always try to think about how I can contribute to the community". I told Noelle, that was kind of how I got involved with the BCO. Not having any children, I knew I wanted to meet people once we moved into the neighborhood. So, I heard about the Summer Social and sought out the Chair to ask how I could help out. Ann Scholhamer was the Chair at that time and welcomed me to her 1-person team. From there, I got involved and have been on the Board for 6 years.

Another way Noelle and her family gives back to the community is through their activities. Her husband, Rob is a retired semi-pro soccer player. He coaches women's soccer and teaches at Loyola Academy; so their passion for soccer turned into creating a youth soccer summer camp. For the past 11 years, they have offered 2 -3 summer sessions at Winamac Park. And when COVID hit, they turned their basement apartment into an Airbnb to help people find a place to work from home while working from home. **Getting Involved in 2021** 

Talking to Noelle like so many of the other neighbors featured in these articles, it continues to excite me to know how much passion people have for our community. One of things we talked about was how to get neighbors involved. "As the neighborhood has changed over the years, it can be hard to get involved especially if you have young children. But then try to find something that you can share with others either on your block, helping out in the gardens, or joining the BCO Board. I'm always thinking about things I can do for and with the community."







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# BOMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZAITON —25 YEARS CELEBRATION



One of the fun things about celebrating the Bowmanville Bee, is finding all of these cool articles about our community. Check out this interesting past article about the Bowmanville baseball stadium. Who, knew?

12- and 16-inch ball playing

# When Bowmanville had a Baseball Stadium

BY FRANCIS PHILIPP

reighborhood old-timers like myself will no doubt remember the old Hilburn Stadium, formerly located on the 5400 block of Wolcott Avenue. The memories I'll share here are my own and those of BCO member Fred Rheingans.

The stadium was located in the 50th Ward at the time and was named after Alderman Frank Hilburn. Fred remembers the park operating from about 1935 until 1950. Admission was 25 cents, and most games were played under the lights.

The stadium was used by the Windy City league, girls softball teams and local neighborhood softball teams. Donkey ball and other activities also took place there.

According to Fred, seating capacity was about 250 people. Chicago sports writer Bob Burns announced games, and Fred himself served as substitute announcer until Uncle Sam and the army called him in for World War Two. Fred was on a number of softball teams that played at Hilburn, including Lloyd's Realty and

Riback's Pharmacy, then located at the corner of Oakley and Foster Avenue. He also umpired at other local games around the city.

I remember the stadium having a much larger capacity than the 250 that Fred recalls. I went to the park when I was in grammar school. Not having any money (allowance was then a foreign undecipherable word), my friends and I would try to sneak by the Andy Frain ticket taker. That not being successful every time, we would then iump the high wooden fence. At that age everything still seemed tall to me.

Teams were sponsored by manufacturers of products. Many beer companies sponsored teams, and

one women's team was sponsored by Brach's Candies.The team was called the Brach's Chicks. At that lime there were many women's teams, probably because lots of guys were overseas fighting the war. The fun times were when the game was played on the backs of donkeys. It was a big deal then and people always looked forward to it. Jerry Colonna once performed there.

He and Bob Hope once had a comedy act together on radio and in the movies. Jerry sported a big black bushy moustache and had big eyes like a couple of poached eggs. He would roll his eyes like you wouldn't believe. Colonna was the smart aleck and Hope was the straight man.

The last one out of the park please turn out the lights.



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# BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION -25 YEARS CELEBRATION

# Bowmanville Bee Winter 2011



# Arts & Culture

# Artists & Friends Breathe New Life Into Berwyn Tunnel





Give a nod to Old Man Winter as you stroll through The Berwyn Tunnel, a painted and mosaic public artwork that continues to engage, enchant and involve area residents on both sides of the passage under the Metra tracks at Berwyn Avenue.

This community driven project took the neighborhood by

storm in October, when admirers flocked to the scene to pitch in, observe and offer encouragement. Special thanks to all the volunteers and artists, including the project's leads, Sarah Laing and Amy Zoeller, who have donated hours of their time to making the tunnel the beauty it's become.

Financial contributions from the BCO and WANT organizations, as well as from neighborhood benefactors, have helped with materials and professional assistance. A large portion of what's needed was raised by the BCO at the Fall Festival in October (Page 13) and through tile workshops. The city paid for and completed all of the site prep. But it remains a work in progress, with the completion of the east entry planned for Spring 2011.







A Final Tile Making Workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 4-6 PM at Let Them Eat Chocolate, 5306 N. Damen. All are invited – even those who have already have pieces on the wall!

And there are still other easy ways you can become part of the project:

<u>>Make a Tile!</u> Join the Feb. 24 workshop, create a tile of your own and leave a lasting mark on the mosaic. Tiles are \$10 each and you don't have to be an artist to make a unique contribution.

<u>Make A Donation</u>: We are looking for individuals and businesses to help cover the remaining \$1000 required to enable completion of the project. No amount is too small!

### >Work on East Entryway Mosaic Installation:

A schedule will be published once the thaw begins in the Spring. Many hands will be needed, and there's plenty of creativity for everyone.

# The Birth of Bowmanville

Bowmanville was established in the 1850's by a developer named Jesse Bowman in the area now bounded by Foster, Lawrence, Western and California. It was later discovered that Bowman's title to the land was not legal and buyers were forced to repurchase the land. Bowman, meanwhile, had skipped town.



Legal setbacks did not stop the area from developing into a bustling settlement. It became a stopping point for farmers delivering their goods to markets in Chicago. At one time, there was even a Bowmanville Hotel located at Lincoln and Ainslie.

How our neighborhood came to be called Bowmanville is not clear. Legend has it that the crooked street was named after the crooked realtor, and the surrounding area became known as Bowmanville.

Reprinted from the Bowmanville Bee Fall 2007

# **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 <a href="mailto:news@bcochicago.org">news@bcochicago.org</a>.



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 <a href="membership@bcochicago.org">membership@bcochicago.org</a>. 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.

# **BCO MEMBERSHIP— JOIN TODAY!**

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