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BOWMANVILLE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Bowmanville Bee

Newsletter Spring 2021

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yay, for the Springtime Weather!

Hi, neighbors! I hope everyone is enjoying the slow movements of spring coming alive and the early stops and starts to warm weather. We have a great spring issue, so let me give you some highlights.

In March we held our Spring Community Open Meeting via Zoom. Many of you participated in a discussion by the BCO Board of what was going on within our committees and with property developments in our neighborhood and heard a few words from Congressman Mike Quigley.

The BCO wants to thank all of the Bowmanville residents who came out on Saturday, April 24, for the BCO 2021 Earth Day Cleanup Event. Mother Nature was kind and held off the rain, and it was so wonderful to see so many of you, including BCO Board members and their families, on a Saturday morning. We had close to 30 neighbors help to beautify our blocks, and we are very appreciative of your support!

The BCO Board has been discussing what summer in Bowmanville might look like in terms of events. We got word that the City was allowing permits for garage sales again, so we jumped on that great news to bring back our Annual Street Sale, which will be held on Saturday, June 5. The Events Committee immediately started planning for the event, securing households to participate, and setting guidelines to make sure everyone continues to follow the social-distancing and mask-wearing protocols, so that everyone stays safe.

In the Winter issue, we mentioned that the Bowmanville Bee is 25 years old this year. We thought it would be fun to celebrate the newsletter by highlighting some things that happened in Bowmanville over the years, and to showcase stories from those of you who have been here since the Bee began to fly. We're still looking for stories that tell what life in Bowmanville was like "back then," what community issues people were talking about, or just what fond memories the neighborhood holds.

In this issue we have a few articles from past Bees that I hope will spark a memory or two. If you would like to be interviewed or contribute to the next issue, please email comm@bcochicago.org.

In looking through past issues of the Bee over the past 25 years, I found an article printed in 1995 about one of our neighbors, Susan Salidor. She is a children's singer/songwriter, with a long history of being in the business of performing, creating, and giving back in a musical way to her community. I sat down with her via Zoom to learn more about her and what life looks like today compared with when that article was published in the Bee many years ago.

The BCO is continuing our tradition of awarding two \$500 college scholarships to two Amundsen High School students. We currently accepting essays and will award the scholarship this summer. For more information see page 7.

On a sad note, BCO Treasurer Craig Hanenburg is leaving our neighborhood to move to Indiana for a great job. He will be leaving in June and transiting off of the BCO Board at the end of this year. Craig has been on the Board for way too many years to count and has been a great neighbor, fan of the BCO, gardener, and friend to many people in our community. He has been a big help to me, and he will be truly missed. We wish him much luck.

Well, let's continue to enjoy the weather and our community! Until then, see you around the neighborhood!

Mona Yaeger

President

With these seeds....

...I give you a flower, I give you a garden,
So as years pass and arteries harden,

And joints grow stiff and knees grow weak,
And aging makes the world seem bleak,

Go outdoors and plant some seeds —
Earth, sun, and water are all one needs.
A dig of the hoe, a turn of the spade,
Before you know it your garden's made!

Neighbors will "ahhh and friends will "oooh,"
To see what a few small seeds can do:
Carnation, monarda, poppies and tansy
Zinnia and daisies, verbena and pansy.

Think of all that you'll discover
Creatures that fly and crawl and hover,
That live on the ground or in the skies,
Caterpillars, hummingbirds, and butterflies.

Dig in the dirt, weed at leisure,
Through this work, you'll find great pleasure,
You find more connection to Mother Nature,
And perhaps learn binomial nomenclature.

And when your garden's praise is sung,
You'll find your garden's kept you young.

But years from now when life is through,
The best truest thing to do
Is lay you down 'neath the garden bower,
And you, too, my dear, shall become a flower!

Editor's note: Bowmanville neighbor Diana Leifer originally wrote this to accompany a gift of seeds for the birthday of a friend and fellow gardener, and she thought it was appropriate to share for the season of planting seeds.

State Representative Greg Harris - 13th District

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Let's Save Bowmanville's Ash Trees!

By Laura Sabransky

My view through the windows of my second-story Bowmanville home is of the branches of a majestic honey locust tree. Every spring for the last 13 years, I have delighted in seeing the delicate fern-like fronds sway gently in the breeze, and have appreciated the tree for providing beauty, privacy, shade, oxygen, and a connection to nature. It's my urban treehouse.



Imagine my concern when I saw a post from the [Save Your Ash](#) group on NextDoor Bowmanville, that a significant portion of our neighborhood's parkway trees are at risk of dying because

the City of Chicago has discontinued [Emerald Ash Borer](#) (EAB) treatment for ash trees, which comprise approximately 30% of the city's urban forest in our area.

We do not yet have a Save Your Ash group in Bowmanville to help save ash trees on our public parkways. I am forming one and hope you will join me. Email SYABowmanville@gmail.com to learn more.

Emerald ash borers are beetles that chew through an ash tree's water- and nutrient-conducting tissues, strangling the trees. When the city of Chicago began inoculating trees against EAB in 2013 there were 94,000 Ash trees on Chicago's parkways. Today, only 52,000 remain. Eventually EAB causes all trees it infects to die.

The current city administration's plan is to stop inoculating Ash trees, allow them to die, then remove dead and infected trees — which would leave swaths of parkways bare — and slowly replace them with saplings of other species. Also, millions more in taxpayer dollars would be spent to remove and replace trees rather than treating the largest and oldest trees and selectively removing smaller and infected ones.

Cutting down the trees would mean that many right outside our doors that deliver happiness and health to our daily lives (see [Trees make us happy! – Sterling Journal-Advocate](#)) will likely die within a few years, and it will be decades before mature trees replace them. Did you know we have trees to thank for reduction of crime, as well as increased test scores among students? This article highlights the value of keeping elder ash trees alive

in Bowmanville: <https://news.wttw.com/2020/03/04/ash-tree-last-stand-chicago-and-why-it-matters>

How you can help

Luckily, the group of concerned Chicago citizens volunteering with [Save Your Ash Campaign](#) have created a more cost-effective and sustainable solution, and it must be funded and implemented by the end of this summer to be the most effective before EAB infestation spreads.

Right now, we need Bowmanville neighbors to:

Identify ash trees that have a metal tag on the trunk, indicating they had received EAB treatments in the past. Identification of tags on the street side is easy (see photo). When you find one with a red tag, measure the tree's circumference, and note the tag number and address.



Share the information you collect with your group leader — that's me for now! SYABowmanville@gmail.com

Donate to Save Your Ash and/or ask others to donate. You may donate toward a specific tree and/or toward other trees in Bowmanville. Donations are being collected by our partner North River Commission and are tax-deductible. Go to northrivercommission.org/saveyourash/ and designate Save Your Ash-Bowmanville and/or a specific address of the tree.

After tree identification data is collected, the next step will be to choose EAB treatment specialists to come out and identify which trees are eligible for treatment, and treat the trees. The treatment lasts three years. Without city funding, paying the treatment companies will fall to us.

Please join the effort to identify Ash trees in Bowmanville by getting in touch with me at SYABowmanville@gmail.com

It's a great family activity and way to get some exercise. We will divide up Bowmanville into smaller areas, and provide you with a sheet to identify trees and flyers to inform neighbors. If you can dedicate a few hours during the next couple of months, we can find out how many Ash trees in Bowmanville need to receive treatment, and Save Our Ashes.

Visit <https://www.heartofincolnsquare.org/save-your-ash> for more information.

Winnemac Park Fireworks Survey Results

In the Fall issue of *The Bee* we reported that, in the wake of the 2020 Fourth of July fireworks in Winnemac Park, some area residents raised the question as to why this event — an unpermitted activity conducted by unknown individuals, in violation of state, city and Chicago Park District laws — is allowed to take place.

To learn more, the Winnemac Fourth for All Committee asked this question of the Chicago Park District, four community organizations representing neighborhoods around the park, and the aldermen for the 40th and 47th wards that touch the park (Andre Vasquez and Matthew Martin, respectively). The aldermen told us they wanted a reading from the community on the topic.

So last November an online survey (SurveyMonkey platform) was distributed via social media as well as flyers to homes on the periphery of the park and to park users. The survey included seven multiple-choice questions and two open-ended opportunities for comments.

Response to the survey was robust: 531 people participated, with a 95% completion rate (a measure of survey quality is completions). Additionally, 276 participants offered their comments in the open-ended questions.

Key findings

- 66% of survey respondents have been to the park to watch the fireworks, and another 23.4% can see or hear it from their homes.
- 42.9% are concerned about spectator safety, as well as about debris left behind; 41.2% have no such concerns about safety, noise, fire hazards, and debris.
- 30.1% say that noise adversely affects either a person or a pet in their household.
- 51.7% feel that police enforcement of Chicago Park District codes prohibiting un-permitted pyrotechnics is *unnecessary*; 33.1% feel the law should be enforced, and 15.2% are not sure.
- 56.4% do not know of another place to watch fireworks; 43.8% do know of other venues.
- 49.9% believe the fireworks should continue as is; 19% would like to see it continue *with professional management and permitting*; and 31.1% would like an alternative event, such as a concert or laser light show, or that the park remain quiet on July 4 (40 respondents).

When presented with these results, the Chicago Park District said that our aldermen are responsible for telling the police to enforce the law. The aldermen reject doing so, given how roughly half of respondents favor the status quo, but suggest individuals can petition the police through CAPS, the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy. We registered our concerns through the CAPS intake form on March 4 but have yet to receive a response.

Liability issues

According to a personal injury attorney interviewed for this project, “strict liability” legal standards for injuries and losses due to this “ultra hazardous activity” apply to the individuals responsible for the fireworks and the Chicago Park District. A city pyrotechnics license requires operators to have a \$1 million insurance policy; to be clear, this event is unlicensed and is therefore uninsured.

Anyone who would like to receive a PDF of the full survey report/analysis with comments can request it at stfrunners@gmail.com

Editor’s note: Winnemac Fourth for All is an independent endeavor, unaffiliated with the BCO.



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MEET YOUR BOWMANVILLE SMALL BUSINESS

Pure Barre Lincoln Square — More than Just a Workout



We are pleased to welcome our newest BCO Business Member, Aija Brameus, owner of Pure Barre Lincoln Square at 2309 W. Lawrence Avenue. We invite you to stop in for a visit or call Aija at 773-654-3799 to learn more about their fitness programs. Or go to the studio's website, Facebook page, www.purebarre.com/il-lincolnsquare, @PureBarreChicagoLincolnSquare, or Instagram page, @purebarrelincolnsquare, for more information.

In a recent interview, here's what we learned about Aija and her studio.

What year did you open your business in Bowmanville?

I have been the owner since March 2021 (the studio has been in business since 2017).

Please tell us about the history of your business. Pure Barre is a boutique fitness franchise with more than 500 studios across North America. Pure Barre technique focuses on small movements that result in big changes. It targets strength, cardio and flexibility for people of all fitness levels and ages, giving clients "own" time to transform the body and mind. Pure Barre is more than a workout, it is a lifestyle and community where clients inspire and empower each other's fitness and lifestyle goals.

What motivated you to have your business in/near Bowmanville?

I have been a client at Pure Barre for 6 years. I fell in love with the workout, results and community. When our family moved from Texas to Chicago, I had two requirements: a great high school and a Pure Barre studio. Bowmanville had both of them. I started at Pure Barre Lincoln Square as a client, then became a Pure Barre teacher. At the beginning of this year, I was given an opportunity to purchase the studio, and I did not have to think twice. My husband and I became official owners of the studio on March 2, and every day I head into the studio with a big smile.

What should the community know about your services/products?

Pure Barre Lincoln Square is quite unique in that our teachers are all local residents and engaged in the community. Our studio has currently more than 200 active clients, the majority of which are residents of

Lincoln Square, Bowmanville, Andersonville, Ravenswood and North Park.

Pure Barre has a very strong community, each studio is individually owned and is considered a small business. We are always looking for ways to support other local small businesses. The reason our studio got through the COVID shutdowns was because of the support from our clients, who stayed with us throughout the 2020. Most of last summer and fall you could see our classes at Welles Park, where we welcomed many observers and active participants of all ages.

How would you like to engage with the BCO and our community?

As the pandemic slowly comes to an end, we are looking forward once again to be present at community events, street festivals, pop up events, fundraisers. Pure Barre supports many different causes, and we are happy to have open discussions and collaboration with other businesses in the community. We are also offering private classes both at our studio, virtually or at the client location. Any person who walks through the door of our studio at 2309 W Lawrence Avenue is important, and we are looking forward to welcoming more Bowmanville residents.



For more information about BCO Business Membership, please contact us at membership@bcochicago.org

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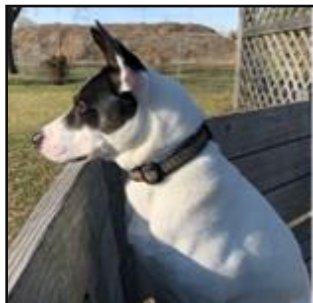
Say Hi to Joey!

Hello to all my neighbors, those with two legs and especially those with four! My name is Joey and I live with my family and their cat Samson on Berwyn. I just turned eight January 10, and I've lived in beautiful Bowmanville most of my life. I was born in Oklahoma (so I'm told), but was rescued by Felines and Canines, the shelter in Chicago where my family adopted me when I was a year and a half.

I lovvve my walks with my mom, Malia, all around our neighborhood and especially like to meet friends at the BCO Green Space when I need to get my zoomies on. We are all so lucky to have such a nice spot in the city to call home, where there are many dogs to play with, a beautiful park where I can have more space to herd my family to keep them in line, and so much wildlife. I am super curious about all the other creatures in the neighborhood, but my mom won't let me get close enough to find out if they are actually friendly.

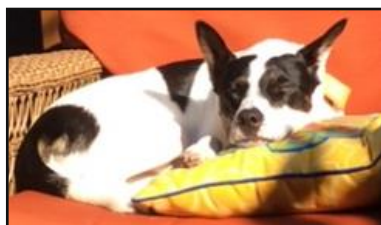
I hope to get to travel with my family this summer when the world gets a bit back to normal. My favorite trip was driving to Oregon in 2016 and staying at the beach for a few weeks.

We could run on the beach without a leash every morning and play in the water, and there were horses and Elk!! I felt like a beast of the forest, it was amazing!



As much I love my family — my mom, Malia, my dad, David, my sister, Leila, and my brother, Noah — I really hope that all this “togetherness” we’ve have this past year can be tempered with some time apart. They NEVER leave, which means I always have to share the couch, and the cat and I are forced to be closer than I would like. Samson is okay, but I’m really the star of the show you know.

If we don't already know each other, I hope to meet you sooner than later — socially distanced, of course!



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

4th Annual BCO College Scholarship

The BCO was proud to announce our 4th Annual BCO High School Senior College Scholarship Program for high school seniors living in Bowmanville or attending Amundsen High School and planning to start college this fall.

A scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to each of two graduating seniors who demonstrate a commitment to making themselves a better citizen and making our neighborhood and Chicago a better place.

Scholarship money can be used as the recipients see fit for books, tuition, or other college-related expenses. The **application deadline for a BCO scholarship is Friday, June 4, 2021 by 3:30 pm.** After June 4, the BCO board will review all applications and decide which two students have earned their scholarships. The recipients will be announced prior to graduation, around the beginning of June.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must:

- Live in Bowmanville (bounded by Western Ave. on the west, Ravenswood Ave. on the east, Foster Ave. on the south and Bowmanville Ave. / Bryn Mawr Ave. on the north) and/or attend Amundsen High School
- Have already been accepted by at least one post-secondary institution
- Provide the name and email address of one reference, preferably a staff member from your high school

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Further information regarding the Bowmanville Community Organization may be found at: bcochicago.org

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Children's Music: The Soundtrack of Her Life

By Mona Yaeger



When the BCO Board learned that the *Bowmanville Bee* was 25 years old this year, Treasurer Craig Hanenburg started sending past issues to the Anniversary Committee to read. One article from a 1995 issue jumped out at me because it was about one of our

neighbors, Susan Salidor, who had back then just released a collection of children's music. Since I was looking for our next neighbor profile, I was excited to read the article and wanted to learn more about her.

Susan was in that issue because she had released "*Little Voices in My Head*" that spring and had been composing music from her home on Berwyn and teaching music to preschool children. When Susan and I met via Zoom, she was still creating music for children and families, but the world looked much different because of the pandemic.

New York City to Chicago to Bowmanville

Susan was raised in New York City in a world of music. Her dad worked in the record business and she began performing as a young girl: "I grew up singing on the streets of Philadelphia at a very young age and continued to perform in regional theater, which included acting and dancing. I went to NYU (New York University), where I majored not in music, but in film and television. I eventually left school and signed on with a musical group and continued down the path of performing." In New York, Susan met her husband, Jay, who was from Addison, IL. He, too, has a creative background, and they met when she was cast in one of his plays. When his mother became ill in 1984, they came back to Illinois to help out.

"I lost my mom when I was 20 years old," she says, "so I understood the importance of wanting to be there for your parents."

After moving to Chicago, they got married (celebrating their 35th anniversary this year) and Susan continued to perform. She was fortunate to be cast in *Candide* at the Goodman Theater, among other things. They lived in Andersonville for a few years but settled down in Bowmanville in 1992. "I stopped acting after I got involved with the group Voices, which was a political group. We sang at rallies and being a part of that led me to be more aware. I also went to back to school and finished my degree, in education."

Singing for Her Child

"When I had my first daughter, I went looking for music for her but soon realized I couldn't find anything I wanted. So, I started writing songs for her. When we put her into preschool, I had been writing children's songs for a while, and her preschool teachers asked me to teach music. I didn't know how to teach it, but I knew music, so I started on that journey. Really, that is how most people get into this field."

As Susan's music career evolved, she continued to write songs and eventually released her first CD, "*Little Voices in My Head*," in 1995. Her husband, Jay, co-wrote a song, and a couple of her songs featured her young daughters, Hannah and Hope. For 13 years she put out collections of children's music that showcased all sorts of music, including a song about Ruby Bridges that was featured in the first edition of Ruby Bridges' autobiography, "*Through My Eyes*," as well as Jewish music honoring her late father, Leonard.

Then she started writing material to accompany the music and be included in the album. Her most recent work is "*One Little Act of Kindness*," about which she says: "This song and book came about as a way for me to help children understand how kindness can help the world. It came out of my need to level set after the past four years."

The Importance of Early Childhood Teachers

Besides writing and teaching children, Susan also taught at Columbia College. "I taught a music course to graduate students as part of the Global Education Master program for two years. I loved it, I loved working with teachers, especially preschool teachers. I think that early childhood teachers are amazing heroes. They start our children off on that educational journey, and what they do is so important."

I had been working with preschool teachers and children and performing all around Chicago, but then COVID-19 happened, and my work dried up. But during this time, it gave me the time to reflect about the world, which is how I came to write my recent book, but also to know that children's music is important. Giving songs to children, to uplift people — especially people of color — was for me important more than ever."

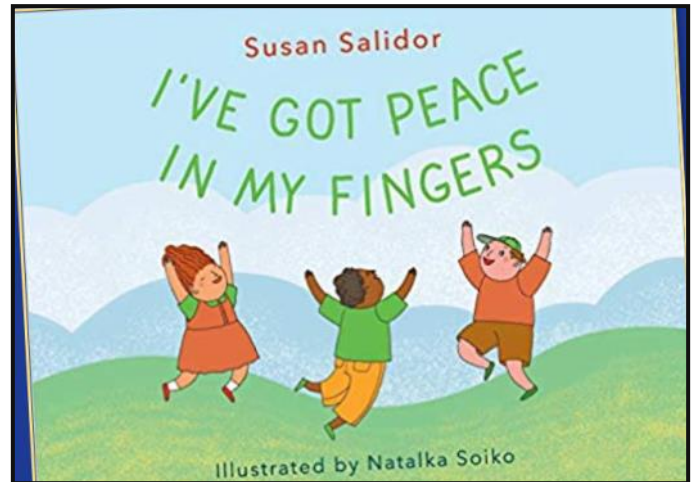


MEET YOUR BOWMANVILLE NEIGHBOR

What's Next

As I started to realize that we had been chatting just a little over hour, I wanted to know what was next for Susan. I had learned so much about her life, her performances, and her family. For example, that she had volunteered for Refugee One after having taught ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Truman College, that she is now teaching ukulele classes via Zoom every Wednesday night (with songs from Broadway musicals), and that all of her books are self-published.

"That's a great question, what's next. Once the pre-schools start to reopen, I will go back to teaching. I'll also continue to write children's songs and books, volunteer, get involved in a political way in the 40th Ward, and eventually be able to go out to have a great dark beer!"



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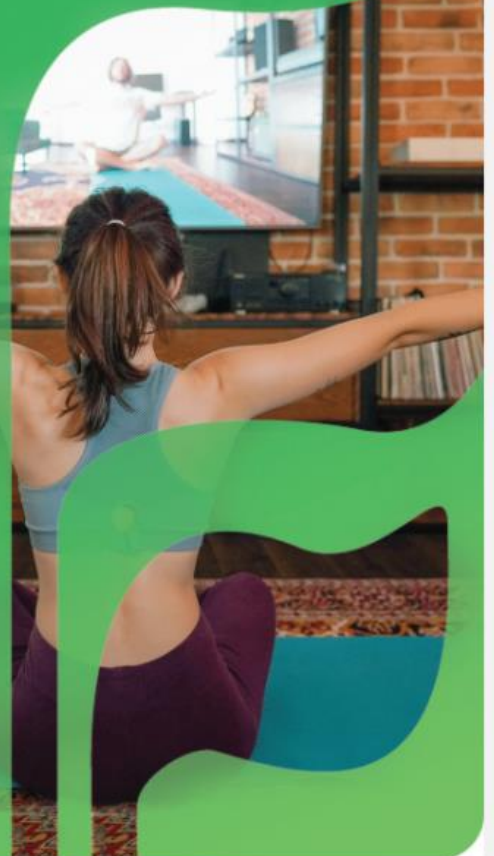
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Getting Downtown in the Good Ol' Days

by LeRoy Blommaert

Lincoln Avenue (earlier known as Little Fort Road) was Bowmanville's principal access to the city for much of its early history. Public transportation in the form of electric-powered streetcars, however, did not reach Bowmanville until the late 1890s.

Trolleys that ran on Lincoln Avenue branched at Irving Park. One branch continued north on Lincoln and terminated at Foster, but the terminus was called "Bowmanville." (See photo postcard taken circa 1907.)

That branch was later extended a few blocks north to Berwyn (April 16, 1914) and then to Peterson (July 26, 1931). The other branch went north on Robey (present day Damen Avenue) to Balmoral, then east on Balmoral to East Ravenswood Park (present day Ravenswood Avenue) and then north on Ravenswood for only four blocks (5400 to 5800 north) to the Rosehill station of the Chicago and North Western North Line, which was just south of Cemetery (now Rosehill) Drive. The northern ends of both lines were within walking distance of many Bowmanville residents.

According to Alan Lind (*Chicago Surface Lines*), the Robey (Damen) branch was opened by the North Chicago Electric Railway (another of Charles Yerkes properties) in 1897, approximately five years after horse cars first ran on Clark between Lawrence and Devon, and roughly four years after trolleys first ran on Broadway; however, the 1899 *Rand McNally Guide* does not show the line. The authorization to operate on Robey and the other streets was granted by the Chicago City Council in July 1896 (*Chicago Tribune* July 24, 1896).



Public transportation on Western Avenue to Bowmanville did not come until much later. Again, according to Alan Lind, the basic line between Roscoe Street on the North Side and 77th Street on the South Side was not through-routed until September 5, 1911. It was extended north to Lawrence Avenue on October 28, 1912, and then to Bryn Mawr on October 18, 1915.

It was only this later extension that had any practical benefit for Bowmanville residents. To go downtown they could then change from the Western Avenue trolley just south of Lawrence to the "L" at the Western Avenue station on Leland. (The Ravenswood "L," now the Brown Line, had opened on March 18, 1907.) However, it was not until CTA took over both the "L" and the streetcars that they could get a transfer. Before that they would have had to pay a full additional fare. This was also true if they took the line that ran on Damen and changed to the "L" at the Damen station, which is just south of Leland, or took the Lincoln Avenue line and changed at the Western station, which was just a short half block west at Leland.

BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION —25 YEARS CELEBRATION

Bowmanville Bee Back in the Day



June 1989

The BCO held an election of new officers in March.

The newly elected President is **Kenneth Sajdak**; Vice President, **Cynthia Burgin**; Treasurer, **Leonard Spade**, and Secretary, **Margie Lickfelt**. The officers will serve a one-year term.

May 1988

Townhouses

As many of you already know, the Leider Greenhouse property on Balmoral and Leavitt has been sold and plans are under way to construct a 40-unit townhouse development on the property sometime this summer. We are in the process of arranging for a final presentation from the developers. We will keep the community informed as to current developments in this matter.

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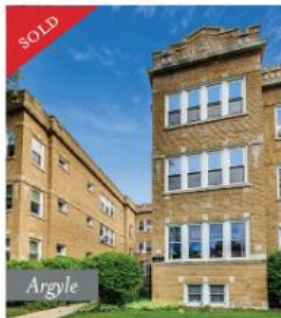
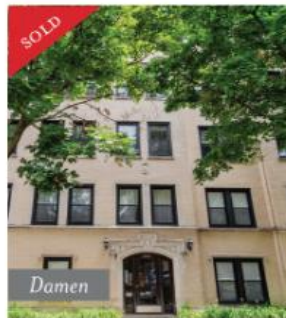
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BOWMANVILLE BEE SUMMER 2006

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All Aboard the Free Loop Tour Train



The Chicago Architectural Foundation and the Chicago Transit Authority have partnered with the Chicago Office of Tourism to create the Loop Tour Train and includes a rail tour of Chicago's historic downtown Loop neighborhood. CAF docents present the history of the 130-year-old downtown area and the "El" system on this 40-minute tour. The train circles the Loop three times while riders view the beautiful downtown areas that are otherwise hidden amongst the tall buildings.

Tickets for the Loop Tour Train are available at the Chicago Office of Tourism Visitors Information Center in the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street at Michigan Avenue and are free upon request. Loop Tour Train tickets are available on the day of the tour only and are issued on a first come, first served basis when the Chicago Cultural Center opens at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays.



The Loop Tour Train began running on May 6th and is available through September 30th. This 40-minute tour departs every Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 12:20 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. from the Randolph and Wabash Chicago Transit Authority elevated train station.

For more information on the Loop Tour Train call, (312)744-2400 or visit

www.cityofchicago.org/ExploringChicago.

If you know of any other free and fun places to visit or things to do around town that you would like to share with others, please give us a call or send details to News@bcochicago.org.

Spin around the 40th Ward

Highlights of Town Hall Meeting - May 15, 2006

- Bowmanville is part of the 20th Police District and our neighborhood continues to enjoy one of the lowest record of criminal activity in the City of Chicago.
- The Griffin Theater has entered into an agreement with the City of Chicago to purchase the property on Foster Avenue that used to house the 20th District Chicago Police station.
- A new traffic light is scheduled to be installed at the intersection of Western-Berwyn/Bowmanville which should help ease some of the traffic congestion there.
- The "Shared Sidewalk Program" is still available. If interested, contact Alderman O'Connor's office directly at (773)769-1140.
- Chicago vehicle stickers may be purchased at Alderman O'Connor's office, 5850 N. Lincoln Avenue, on June 8th and July 6th from 10:00 a.m. To 6:00 p.m. (check or money order only payable to Office of the City Clerk).

Hi Neighbors,

Here is a look at some statistics for the past 3 years.

For 2006, based on average sale prices, I'm seeing a steady increase for Single Family Houses & 2-4 Flats, and a leveling for Condos and Townhomes. Our neighborhood is experiencing a lot of activity and I would expect 2006 to be a banner year.

**Buying or Selling,
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Real Estate Sales in Bowmanville: 2003 thru 2005

	2003	2004	2005	% Change '04 - '05
Houses Sold*:	19	20	15*	
Average Price:	\$414,700	\$420,250	\$457,600	9%
Average Days to Sell:	41	45	105	
Condo/Townhomes Sold:	31	31	31	
Average Price:	\$263,950	\$305,250	\$339,700	11%
Average Days to Sell:	91	62	78	
2 - 4 Flats Sold:	12	14	14	
Average Price:	\$431,450	\$452,250	\$510,450	13%
Average Days to Sell:	64	76	59	

Some figures have been rounded.

*Excludes New construction

Data Source: Multiple Listing Service of Northern Illinois



Check out...
BowmanvilleLiving.com



BOWMANVILLE GARDENING NEWS

Bowmanville Bee Summer 2006 & 2007

Community Gardening Schedule Announced

Sharpen your shovels, grab your kneepads and spend some time getting to know your neighbors in the Bowmanville Community Gardens this summer.

Beginning in June, neighbors are invited to join in helping us maintain our beautiful gardens on the second Wednesday evening and fourth Saturday morning of each month through October:

Second Wednesday of each month

6:30 p.m. till dark

June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, & October 11

Meet in The Bowmanville Garden at the intersection of Leavitt, Balmoral and Bowmanville.

Fourth Saturday of each month

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, & October 28

Meet in The Bowmanville Garden at the intersection of Leavitt, Balmoral and Bowmanville.

GreenNet Awards Hardscape Improvement Grant to Bowmanville Garden

A \$300 grant has been awarded for the creation of a rock retaining wall in the Bowmanville Garden by GreenNet, a coalition of non-profit organizations and public agencies committed to developing joint efforts to improve the quality, amount, use, and wide geographic distribution of sustainable, green open space in the City of Chicago. Special thanks to BCO Gardening Committee Chair Tom Kennedy for his efforts in obtaining this improvement grant.

Watch for details regarding the retaining wall installation in the next issue of the *Bee*.

NeighborSpace Profiles Bowmanville Garden

A profile of the Bowmanville Garden—which was created 10 years ago by a few passionate gardeners and has expanded ever since through the volunteer efforts of the Bowmanville community and generous contributions of manpower and other resources by non-profit organizations such as Green Corps and GreenNet—will be added to the NeighborSpace website. Check it out at www.neighbor-space.org/about.htm.

Thank you to all of the neighbors who showed up on Saturday, May 20 for the annual **Garden Clean Up Day** at The Bowmanville Garden. Thanks to your efforts, the weeds are on the run!

Questions? Send an email to gardening@bcochicago.org or stop by the garden on any second Wednesday or fourth Saturday this summer. We look forward to seeing you there!

Birdwatching at Rosehill Cemetery

Spring is one of the best times to see large varieties of birds because we are in a major migratory path. Chicago lies between agricultural areas (where there are few trees) and Lake Michigan so birds get “funneled through” on their way north. Heavily wooded areas are the best places to sight birds and Rosehill Cemetery is a prime bird watching area. According to Joe Lill, the President of the Chicago Audubon Society (www.chicagobirdsociety.org), 199 species of birds (including the bald eagle) have been sighted at Rosehill.

The complete list is posted on the BCO website www.bcochicago.org. You can also find more information about individual birds at several websites including the Chicago Botanic Garden's www.chicagobotanic.org/birds. A field guide such as Roger Tory Peterson's “Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America” is a must have if you want to be able to identify birds quickly.

Which birds should you look for? Early migrants such as red-winged blackbirds, woodcocks, and sandhill cranes arrive in March. April brings kinglets, phoebes, and flickers. The onslaught of color really hits in May with warblers, tanagers, and orioles.

You can attract birds to your backyard with feeders and birdhouses. While sparrows seem to make up the majority of birds at feeders, house finches, juncos, white-throated sparrows and the occasional rose-breasted grosbeak also show up. Patience and a pair of binoculars will help you differentiate the more unusual birds.



"Great things happen when people work together. Life changing things. Life affirming things. Our gardens are a small example of this."

Tom Kennedy

BOWMANVILLE SUMMER BEE 2006

Dining in and about Bowmanville*

One of the great things about living in the city is that restaurants are within walking distance. Residents of Bowmanville have a variety of eating establishments to choose from in terms of atmosphere, ethnicity and price range. In no particular order, the eating establishments are:

Yes Thai (5211 Damen, 878-3487) - This BYOB Thai restaurant offers friendly service and affordable cuisine in a cozy, intimate atmosphere. The menu offers traditional Thai options like chicken with warm peanut sauce, spring rolls and mixed vegetable stirfry with steamed rice. Dining al fresco is available during the warm weather.
Hours: 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. Meals typically cost less than \$10.

Dorado (2301 W. Foster, 561-3780) - This cozy storefront features a festive, colorful dining room that's accented with Latin-flavored artifacts and artwork. Bestsellers include the creamy corn soup with green onions and crabmeat, and the roasted pork tenderloin with Cajun sweet potatoes and brandied guajillo pepper cream sauce.
Hours: 5-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 4-9 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday. Meals cost between \$15 and \$25.

Pauline's (1754 W. Balmoral, 561-8573) - This diner is decorated with posters and memorabilia, and has games on the tables and daily specials on the blackboard behind the counter. This is a traditional neighborhood restaurant that's worth a visit for the killer pancakes and omelets.
Hours: 6 a.m.-3 p.m. seven days a week. Meals cost less than \$10.

Volunteers Needed

The BCO is looking for volunteers to help with membership outreach, events, planning, bookkeeping, development, gardening, the newsletter, etc. If you're interested, or just want to find out more, please contact any of the officers of committee chairs listed in this Bee.

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Leadway Bar and Gallery (5233 N. Damen, 728-2663) - In addition to serving food and drinks, this bar also features live music and an art gallery. Typical bar food is served as well as pork chops, quesadillas and salads.
Hours: 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday through Friday; 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. Meals cost less than \$10.

San Soo Gap San (5247 N. Western, 334-1589) - Traditional Korean fare and sushi are offered daily at side-by-side restaurants. A dozen or more sides--green onions, glass noodles, kimchee, beets, fish, bean sprouts, baby bok choy, rice and more--accompany marinated meats such as beef short rib, ribeye, pork, chicken and adventurous options like broiled octopus or squid.
Hours: 9:30-6 a.m. daily. Meals cost less than \$10.

Bobbie's (5305 N. Damen, 271-6488) - Typical bar food: sandwiches, chili and daily specials.

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Pauline's Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

Congratulations go out to Ron and Pauline Messier, owners of Pauline's Restaurant, as they celebrate 10-years of "serving" our community. Pauline's is located at 1754 W. Balmoral Avenue (Balmoral and Ravenswood) and is known for its generous servings and cozy atmosphere.



Ron and Pauline are Bowmanville residents and are devoted supporters of the Bowmanville Community Organization. They have generously contributed to the organization in many ways, including pioneering the first community garden now located on Bowmanville and Leavitt, initiating and hosting the very first Halloween event out of their garage on Summerdale, host the Volunteer Recognition celebration every year, and generously providing the ice cream for the BCO Ice Cream Social, which is celebrated annually and enjoyed by many.

Stop by Pauline's to offer your congratulations on their 10-year anniversary and thank them for all they do for our community.

Read more about Pauline's in the next Bowmanville Bee.

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.

BCO MEMBERSHIP— JOIN TODAY!

JOIN THE BCO OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 ANNUALLY
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: \$50 ANNUALLY

Questions? Email: membership@bcochicago.org

Membership Makes it Happen!

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