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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Bowmanville Bee

Newsletter Winter 2022

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Visit our website at www.bcochicago.org.

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president@BCOChicago.org

Jeff Graves

VP@BCOChicago.org

Alysia Kinsella

secy@BCOChicago.org

Craig Hanenburg

treasurer@BCOChicago.org

Beth Emperor

Joan Frausto-Majer

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COMMITTEES

Newsletter

news@bcochicago.org

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gardening@bcochicago.org

Events

Events@bcochicago.org

Membership

membership@bcochicago.org

Planning

planning@bcochicago.org

Communications

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President's Message

Happy New Year Bowmanville!

I hope everyone is starting off 2022 healthy and enjoying the winter weather. We ended the year by welcoming two new members to the Board: Bowmanville residents Donna Martin and Magan Hanrahan. **Meet them both at the BCO Open Meeting March 24th at Half Acre.**

Donna Martin lives on the 1900 block of Berwyn. She grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago and moved to the city in 1998. In 2012, Donna and her husband bought a fixer-upper in Bowmanville and have been very slowly improving it. They still have a kitchen from the 1950s! "I have (lightly used) degrees in Architecture from UIUC and in the Pastry Arts from the French Pastry School," she says. "I currently work as a graphic facilitator, a job that used to take me around the world. I spend my free time baking (obviously), knitting, learning to sew, and working on projects around my old house. I have two energetic dogs, Frances and Olga."

Back in 2016, Donna helped to organize the tunnel restoration project and has been wanting to play a larger role in keeping Bowmanville beautiful, welcoming, and fun, so she decided it was about time to join the BCO. "I'd like to work on bringing more public arts projects to the neighborhood," she says, "so please send in your ideas!"

Magan Hanrahan has lived with her husband and two daughters on the 2200 block of Farragut since 2013. She's thrilled to take on this new role in the BCO that can leverage her passion for organizing activities that bring people together and foster community. Never one to just "be," she joined the Friends of Chappell Board shortly after her younger daughter was born and has been active in the community ever since. During the pandemic, Magan organized the children's 4th of July parade in Winnetamac Park, the Farragut Avenue Easter Egg Hunt, and the Bowmanville Halloween Parade as

safe ways to gather, connect, and celebrate. She has worked in advertising for over 20 years and, in her spare time, she can be found drinking a glass of champagne and engrossed in her latest DIY project. This past summer, Magan became a first-time Cubs season ticket holder AND a first-time BCO Gateway Garden plot owner — the garden gave her much more satisfaction than the Cubs and hopes her success continues into 2022.

The BCO Is Looking for Volunteers. As we start 2022, the BCO Board looks forward to planning our signature events. To make them successful, we need people like you. So, I'm asking for volunteers to help us make our events successful.

4th Annual Bowmanville Neighborhood Spring Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, April 23. Help us clean up our community.

BCO Street Sale is June 4. It has been one of our biggest events — last year over 100 houses participated. We are looking for people to help put together packets, create an online map, put signs in front yards, and day of help.

July 16 (Saturday) is the Bowmanville Garden Walk, now celebrating 22 years. We are looking for a new Chair to partner with a member of the Events Committee to bring back this much-loved event. Planning for it starts early, so if you are interested in learning more, please let us know ASAP.

Of course, **August 20th (Saturday) brings the summer to a close with our Summer Social.** The new location last year on the east side of our neighborhood was a hit. We are seeking volunteers to help with all aspects of this family-oriented event.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send us an email: events@bcochicago.org. And remember, even if you can only help a little here and a little there, we would welcome whatever time and energy you can contribute.

See you around the neighborhood -Mona

The BCO Community Open Meeting

March 24, 2022 @ 7pm at Half Acre

Come to the meeting and get your first beer on us!

Vaccination card and ID required

Message from 40th Ward Alderman Andre Vasquez



Happy New Year Bowmanville Beehive! I hope that each of you and your loved ones have found time to rest and reflect on the year that has passed and the year we have ahead of us. I'd also like to send extra special thanks to the BCO, as you all have always been exemplary in the way you organize and bring neighbors together! We have had our share of challenges in the past couple of years, but we have made it this far and have further to go.

It is a time of transition here at the 40th Ward Office, as we shift our focus to Community Building and Constituent Services here in the ward. We have a new Chief of Staff, Lindsay Tillman, and are bringing on another full-time Director to help build up our volunteer Neighbor Network, which has served the ward well through COVID. I ask that you consider joining, so that together, we can continue to build and lead our community!

In January, the Neighbor Network organized to distribute 20,000 KN95 Masks to our neighbors in need, with the help of volunteers!

Whether at a distribution event at the office, having drivers drop off masks to our seniors and disabled neighbors, or through one of our many institutions here in the ward (schools, community groups, nonprofits, and others), we were able to provide support to those who need it most!

Starting in the beginning of this year, we are also re-launching our Precinct Partner initiative by walking the ward with KN95 masks for those who need it, taking constituent service requests at your door, and keeping you informed of the latest neighborhood updates.

With all of the developments, investments, community events and more, this is a great time to be in the 40th!

Find out more about how you can join the Neighbor Network by emailing us at info@40thward.org, and let's walk these blocks together!



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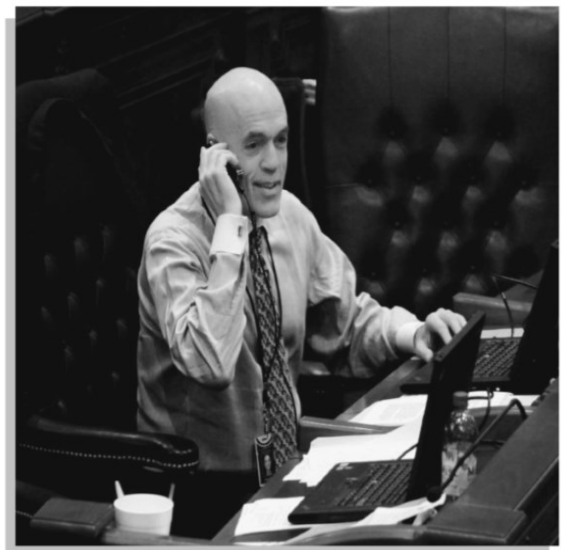
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Thank you Bowmanville Community Organization for
your service to our community!

www.GregHarris.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Make a Plan to Vote: Midterm Primary Is June 28

By Maggie O'Keefe, 40th Ward Democratic Committeeperson

An important part of my work is to educate voters about candidates, and get out the vote through our ward organization, and help the Chicago Board of Elections hire election judges. So make a plan to vote - the next election is the Midterm Primary on June 28, 2022.

"A primary in the summer?" you may be asking yourself. Due to the delay in releasing census data, the Illinois General Assembly passed a law to change the date of the upcoming primary to June instead of the usual date around St. Patrick's Day.

Easier than Ever to Vote by Mail

But that's not the only thing that was passed in the election omnibus. Any registered voter can now become a permanent vote-by-mail voter and receive their ballot for every election without having to apply. If you are a frequent voter, you will receive an application for vote by mail in the beginning of April. Alternatively, you can apply online for a vote-by-mail here: <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/vote-by-mail.html>.

There are a couple of races that will affect Bowmanville residents. First, Illinois Representative Greg Harris, House Majority Leader, announced his retirement in late November 2021, setting the stage for an open primary for the first time in over two decades.



40th Ward Dems Petition Kickoff, Jan 16

Second, Secretary of State Jesse White announced his retirement, and the three candidates in the race hold elected titles: Former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, City Clerk Anna Valencia, and 17th Ward Alderman David Moore. Whoever wins the primary will have big shoes to fill and likely a challenging General election.

You may have already met candidates running for either of these offices. They are currently knocking on doors and asking for signatures for petitions to get on the ballot. For our state and federal elections, voters can sign for all candidate petitions, as long as it is within the same party.

The organization's goal this year is to get a 50% turnout in the June 28 Midterm Primary. That may seem low, but only 34.5% of 40th Ward voters cast their ballot in the 2018 Primary. Our voices and values as Chicago voters are expressed through our Primary ballots. So whether you exercise your voting rights from the comfort of your own home with vote-by-mail, you head out to vote early, or you vote on Election Day, be sure to make your voice heard on June 28, 2022.

Mark Your Calendar for these Important 2022 Dates

March 30	Apply for your vote-by-mail ballot
May 19	Mail ballots sent out and Loop Super Site opens for early voting
June 13	Early voting in 40 th Ward begins
June 28	Midterm Primary Election
November 8	Midterm General Election

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BCO MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sweeten Your BCO Membership with Some “Honey”

The BCO membership committee is delighted to introduce a new way to support the BCO and connect with your community. Now, at any time, including when joining the BCO or renewing your membership, you will have the option of doing so “With Honey” — a nod to the BCO’s bee mascot.

With Honey is an optional add-on package to general membership that enables you to show your support for the BCO and all of the events, activities and community connections we help create. These include the BCO student scholarships, the BCO Summer Social, and this newsletter, as well as collecting feedback on zoning changes, organizing cleanup days, improving our community gardens, and much more.

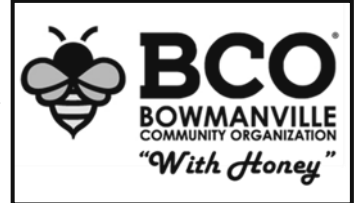
How Sweet It Is!

In addition to supporting the BCO, the With Honey package gets you FREE entry to all BCO public events, such as the Street Sale and Garden Walk, as well as 4 FREE beverages a year at BCO events like the Summer Social where drinks are sold. You can also enjoy two new perks: a direct mailing to you of this quarterly newsletter AND a FREE BCO yard sign to display in your window or yard.

All of these benefits can be added to a general membership for \$75 — a great discount on the value of the combined perks. Plus, you don’t have to wait until your

membership renews. The With Honey support package is good for the calendar year, but can be added at any point in the year.

As an added incentive, when you sign up for it, you will have the option of pushing your membership renewal to April of the following calendar year. For example, if you’re due to renew in May 2022, signing up now for With Honey will push your renewal date to April 2023 — almost a full year free! No perks will be rolled over from prior years.



We are exceptionally excited about this new opportunity to engage with and support the BCO and all it does for our neighborhood. We hope you will consider sweetening your membership With Honey —today. **To do that, and perhaps push your membership to April 2023, go to bcochicago.org/bco-online-payment and select the With Honey package.**

If you have any questions about this new support program, send an email to membership@bco.com. And if you are not yet a member

The BCO Community Open Meeting
March 24, 2022 @ 7pm at Half Acre
Come to the meeting and get your first beer on us!
Vaccination card and ID required

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Finding a Way through the Pandemic



Here at Rogers Park Montessori School, we have extraordinary gratitude for the teachers, staff, students and families who have pulled together as a community to keep us going in this challenging time. Thanks to them, we have been able to provide the best education possible throughout the pandemic.

Our students have been resilient in their ability to stay present to their learning, and we have continuously found ways to support their growth and help them stay connected to their teachers and classmates. For example, we hosted an outdoor movie night in the fall for the school community, have used ZOOM creatively to keep our parent community connected, and have done everything possible to keep our students here on campus.

To ensure a safe environment for our students, everyone in the school has had to wear a mask, submit daily symptom screening before entering the school, wash hands frequently, and maintain a safe distance from others. We required our teachers and staff to be vaccinated when that became possible, and we've encouraged parents to do the same and keep their children home if anyone in the family gets sick. We had a vaccine event at

our school which allowed many of our students to get vaccinated in community with their classmates.

"I am not going to lie and say that it has been easy teaching during a pandemic," says Flavia Yamamoto-Nicolucci, who has been teaching at RPMS for 19 years. "But being at school in the company of the children has been uplifting, rewarding and life changing, for the children and for us teachers. It has meant so much to our entire school community to have been able to stay open as we learn and grow together."



Come and See What We're About

We are delighted to serve the Bowmanville community and would love to tell you more about our proven approach to education. Join us on campus for an upcoming Open House, Friday, February 25. Please RSVP to Emily Tucker at etucker@rpms.org or call 773-271-1700 for more information. We would love to meet you and share more about our school! You can also visit us online at <https://rpmschool.org/>.



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Urban Pooch Champion Corner

Pet Profile—Orzo



Hi, my name is Orzo! I've been in the neighborhood since 2014 and have enjoyed watching my family grow over the past eight years. Back then it was just me, Dave, and Steph — a motley crew of three that lived right next to Winnetamac Park. Since then, we've added three new human members to the family: Connor, in 2016, and identical twins Molly and Tessa in 2021, when we relocated a few blocks north into Bowmanville.

But I got ahead of myself. I'm a mid-sized Goldendoodle of roughly 40 pounds that loves learning new things. It all started with some basic classes at Urban Pooch's Ravenswood location with an excellent instructor named Tilman. I learned so very much and eventually became a certified therapy dog. I would go around to visit seniors and even got to take a few trips on planes. One time, after a long on-plane delay, the pilot asked if I needed to "go out" (of course I did!) and the pilot took me himself. When we came back, he said I was the best behaved dog he has had the pleasure of flying with!

Flying in metal birds is fun, but my more recent interest is agility. I love solving the puzzle of the best and most fun way to run an obstacle course. All sorts of jumps, tunnels, and high-up beams. I didn't even know agility existed until Urban Pooch opened up their second location, on Damen, specifically to show me how awesome it was — or at least I think that's why they did it. It was so much fun to see my instructor Whitney and her

really fast, awesome pup pals each week. At some point a mysterious creature called The Suburbs stole her away, but then I got to meet Robin, who is also a lot of fun. In fact, after a few years of dominating agility at the Damen Urban Pooch location, I needed more space and somehow got a third and larger Urban Pooch location developed on Balmoral. I think it's my smile — they can't resist me.



But I don't just spend my time inside — too much Bowmanville to see and friends to meet. I may be 8, but I've been confused for a much younger pup more times than I can count because I'll always try and play when friends are nearby.

My walks in Bowmanville have taught me a thing or two. For any pups new to the neighborhood, here are a few tips to having the best time in Bowmanville:

There are tons of dog-friendly places and people, so encourage your humans to include you on visits — patios are the best for that. The Gateway Garden path is fun to weave through, but watch for spikey seeds (I have a story about that when you see me)

Find a walking path that leads to free treats, like K's Dugout.

That's all for now — I need to go get in a good snuggle with my humans. But that will be for only a short time, because a pup like me needs space to lay down, have a good stretch, and chill. See you around the neighborhood!



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.

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We are located at 5400 N Damen, corner of Balmoral.

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Come check out the new space!



Sweet Little Critters—Oreo & Hershey



Hi! My name is Oreo! I know what you're thinking, why is a Guinea Pig writing? Well, I want to tell you about me and my brother, Hershey. We were adopted by

our keepers, Corryn and Annette, in November 2020, so I guess you could say we were a pandemic pet purchase. It's been great living with them and their parents, Magen and Matt, on the 2200 block of Farragut. Oh, wait, my brother wants to say something!

Hi, I'm Hershey. Nice to meet you. I'm friendly but shy. I will run away from you unless you have carrots! My brother Oreo is the outgoing one. Well, I'm hungry, and that's all I have to say. So, back to you, Oreo.

Thanks, Hershey. If there's one thing to know about Guinea Pigs, we love food! We eat a huge amount of hay with a couple servings of vegetables each day. You might think it's expensive to buy fresh veggies, but we don't need anything fancy! Just give us your leftover scraps from that crown of broccoli or the ends of celery and red pepper.

When we hear footsteps coming down to the basement, we start squeaking with delight hoping that it's time for a meal! With all that hay, our cage can get messy pretty fast, so we always appreciate it when Corryn or Annette clean it up for us (even though it's more likely to be their Dad!). We stay clean by having regular pedicures (or just our nails clipped!), getting brushed and wiped down, and licking ourselves like cats.



We live a very good life and have fun in our cage, where we have hideouts, toys to play with, and hammocks. In the winter, we like to stretch our legs and run around the basement to get a bit more space than we have in the cage. We especially love summer, because that's when we get to play outside

with our Farragut friends.

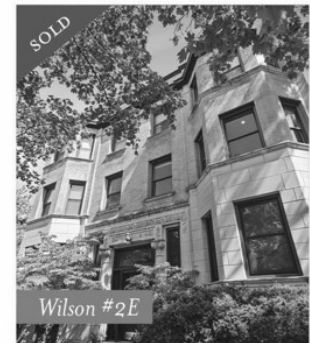
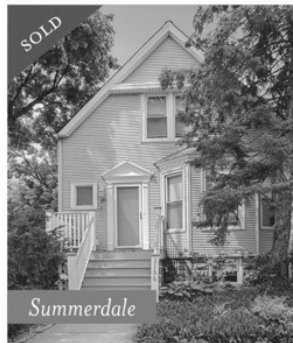
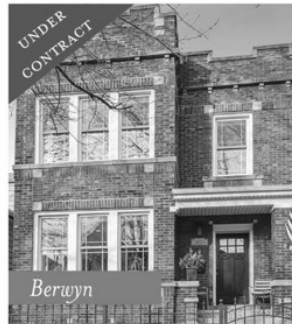
Maybe we'll get a chance to meet you someday. Even if we don't, we'd like you to know that we think Bowmanville is a wonderful place to live!



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A Great Place for New Families Is Now in Bowmanville!



Family Picnic has been a welcoming space for new families to gather for the past eight years. It had long been a dream of the mother and daughter team, Sue Gottschall and Rebecca Nguyen, to create a place that would provide classes and be a community gathering spot for young families.

Originally located in the Ravenswood corridor, Family Picnic happily outgrew that space and relocated to Bowmanville in a beautiful new space at 5306 N. Damen. Since the new center's opening on November 30, Sue and Rebecca have enjoyed hosting classes and groups there.

Family Picnic's support for parents begins with childbirth preparation classes. The center has an exemplary team of doulas to support families during labor and delivery. It also offers a Postpartum Program for families who would like extra support after birth. This program, as well as lactation consultations, is provided at home.

After baby's arrival, the center welcomes back parents and babies for Parent and Baby Groups and then Baby and Toddler Play Groups. Different from large play spaces for young children, Family Picnic provides a quiet, nurturing environment for each age group at specified times of the day. Families are encouraged to join Family Picnic at any time in their journey through early parenthood.

Rebecca holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Education, and Sue has one in Child Development. They both are trained as Childbirth Educators and are Certified Lactation Consultants. Sue worked for many years as a Birth and Postpartum Doula, and Rebecca is currently working as a Birth Doula.

Because of Covid, they had to think carefully about reopening after having all of their classes online for a year and a half. To keep



all participants safe, they require all adults entering Family Picnic to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. Their classes are set up and carefully organized to allow for so-

cial distancing. During playgroups, they ask that all children two and up wear masks as well.

Rebecca and Sue are happy to be a part of the Bowmanville neighborhood and community and hope to see many families from the area join them for classes or groups. Feel free to contact them for more information. They would be pleased to answer any questions you have about the center and the programs they offer.

Rebecca Nguyen: 773-495-0656. Sue Gottschall: 773-259-2543. Website: chicagofamilypicnic.com.

Email: chicagofamilypicnic@gmail.com.



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mother."

Margot started her hair journey in 2011 at a full service salon. After a couple years behind the chair, she transitioned to managing a hair extensions company and offering only extension and styling services. She spent roughly eight years learning everything from how extensions are sourced to the many ways they can be used to not only change a person's look, but more importantly, build their confidence.

At the beginning of 2021, she decided it was time to make a change and create a space she would love to work in, and clients would love to be in. Living in Andersonville and frequently patronizing businesses in the surrounding neighborhoods solidified her decision of opening a business in the area. After months of working with the city on licenses and permits, and completely transforming a space that had been a law office for many years, she created her dream space, where she offers her two favorite hair services: hair extensions and styling.

A Hair Extensions Specialist



"I'm currently certified with three hair extensions companies in five different types of extensions methods," she says. "This allows me to accommodate a wide range of clients to achieve their desired looks. Extensions can be used to add length, volume, chemical-free color,

or to help transition cuts/styles during the "grow out" phase. They can serve as a temporary change for a few hours during a special occasion or stay in your hair for several months at a time.

"In addition to offering hair extensions services, I provide special-occasion styling. Whether it's a night out with the girls, a high school dance, or your wedding, I've got you covered!"

HG Studio is a cozy, one-chair salon that serves only one client at a time. So you can customize the vibe you want for your appointment. You can unwind with a cup of coffee, read a book in silence, or enjoy a glass of champagne with your favorite tunes and engage in conversation. (Margot loves hearing fun stories!)

To better accommodate her clients' schedules, Margot works by appointment only. To learn more about her services, visit the studio's website, www.hgstudio.hair, or contact her via text (708-717-0495), email (hgstudio.hair@gmail.com), or Instagram.

"I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have about my extension and styling services," she says, "and I invite you to contact me to schedule a complimentary consultation and see how I can help you have one great hair day after another!"



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Take a Trip to the Middle East — on Lincoln Avenue!

By Diana Leifer

During the dark, cold Chicago winter, you may have a yen for the healthful, sun-drenched sweets and savories of the Mediterranean. A trip to the Middle East, with its ancient sites, vast souks, sunny climate, honey-soaked pastries, and tradition of hospitality, would be lovely. But in these times of Covid, that would be impractical, if not impossible.



No problem. Avoid the TSA lines and flight cancellations and make your way to the newly opened Taza Mart on Lincoln Avenue at Balmoral. I noticed this place recently while driving to the Budlong Woods Library and stopped to check it out. I was so delighted by what I found there that I wanted to spread the word. It's a veritable treasure trove of prepared foods and ingredients to regale yourself, friends, and family with dishes emblematic of the fabled Fertile Crescent, such as hummus, baba ganoush, tabbouleh, dolma (stuffed grape leaves), and torshi (pickled vegetables).

Born in Dubai, the owner, Bashar, came to the US in 2014 after receiving a degree in computer engineering at Moscow's RUDN, the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, which draws students from all over the world. Having spent twelve years there, he is fluent in Russian, English, and of course, Arabic. When asked why he decided to open a shop in the area, he said, "...to offer Halal, middle eastern, and eastern European products to neighbors without having to travel to Devon or Kedzie."

Many Tasty and Unusual Items

On the shelves, you'll find such things as maftoul, a large-grained couscous; tahini, the sesame paste you'll need if you want to make your own hummus; grape leaves, date syrup, rose water, and a variety of spreads, seasonings, dried legumes, and grains. The refrigerated and frozen section holds even more delights:

- Frozen vegetables including Malokhia, a leafy green eaten across the Levant North, East, and West Africa, and the Philippines. It is commonly cooked into a soup or stew with chicken stock and served with white rice and either lemon or lime.

A wonderful variety of cheeses:

- Nabulsi from Palestine, which is soft when heated. It can be fried in oil, eaten fresh, or used in a dessert called *knafeh*.
- Akawi, a soft, brined cheese with a mild and milky flavor. It's popular across the Middle East and used as a table cheese, eaten as is, or paired with fruit.
- Jadel is one of the Czech Republic's most popular cheeses. A semi-hard savory cheese, typically produced in long, thick braids, it is served fresh on cheese platters, in salads, or in pastries.
- Frozen doughs for making sweet and savory pastries like the iconic Greek *baklava* and *spanakopita*, Bosnian *burek*, South Asian *samosas*, and the aforementioned *knafeh*.

Toward the back of the store are deli cases, one housing fresh halal chicken, beef, and lamb. Another contains various types of olives and pickles. Soon the shop will also have prepared spreads, such as hummus and baba ganoush, as well as various meat and vegetable pies. In addition, Bashar, whose kitchen is licensed for retail food preparation, hopes to start taking orders shortly for freshly made tabbouleh and other Mediterranean dishes.

Taza Mart also offers baked-daily pita and lavash flat breads, staples of any Middle Eastern table used for scooping up sauces and dips or making wraps and sandwiches. A variety of sweets awaits you, too, for example, halvah, lakoumi, and dried dates and figs, as well as cardamom, pistachio, and sesame cookies.

To go with those sweets, there's a variety of exotic teas — mint, hibiscus, sage, cumin with lemon — and freshly ground coffee seasoned to your liking with cardamom, cinnamon, clove or other spices. Plus, you'll find the traditional Middle Eastern tea glasses, coffee cups, platters, and cooking vessels for preparing and serving these beverages with oriental flare.

If you are new to the delicious cuisine of the Middle East, you are in for a wonderful treat. If you are already familiar with it, you will not be disappointed. This welcome addition to the neighborhood is worth checking out.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from page 10

So Start Shopping and Get Cooking!

To help you experience the wonderful flavors of Middle Eastern and Eastern European cuisine, I've provided the following links to dishes you can prepare with ingredients available at Taza Mart.

- **Knafeh:** <https://feelgoodfoodie.net/recipe/kanafa/#wprm-recipe-container-16185>
- **Baba Ganoush:** <https://www.inspiredtaste.net/24825/baba-ganoush-recipe-roasted-eggplant-dip/#itr-recipe-24825>
- **15 Ways to Use Pomegranate Molasses:** <https://www.sbs.com.au/food/blog/2017/12/20/15-ways-use-pomegranate-molasses>

Plus, for readers of the *Bowmanville Bee*, Bashar is offering a 10% discount on your purchase, good through the end of February, for those who present the coupon shown here at time of purchase. Taza Mart, 5356 N. Lincoln, is open Mon-Sat 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.



Neighbors to the Rescue of the Berwyn Pedway Mural

By Donna Martin, BCO Public Arts Committee Chair

On Friday, January 14, a post went up on the Andersonville Facebook page reporting that the community mural in the pedestrian tunnel under the Metra tracks at Berwyn had been severely defaced. Donna Martin and Stacey Shintani keep a “tunnel repair kit” and do smaller, routine cover ups as needed. However, this was a way bigger job than usual, and there was going to be only one upcoming day warm enough to do the repairs. So, over the weekend, the call went out to our talented neighbors for help.

Both the BCO and Alderman Vasquez’s office helped to spread the word to our neighborhood artists. And holy cow, what a response! Over the course of two-and-a-half hours on the evening of Tuesday, January 18, the mural was restored to its original glory,

with nary a trace of the tagging to be seen! Many thanks to Laura, Stephanie, Helen, Odie,

Kathleen, Amy, Alysia, Maria, Lucas, Dena, Poonam, Lucas, Katherine, Tailor, and Alderman Vasquez for their talent and labor and all the neighbors who lent a hand or words of encouragement to make it happen.

Should you notice any new tags in the tunnel, or if you’d like to join a list of folks willing to help paint over any that do appear, please send a note to berwynmural@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS



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BCO Garden Plot Tales: A Look at Winter Gardening

By Magen Hanrahan, BCO Garden Committee



The second winter gardening season is well underway at the Bowmanville Gateway Garden, located at Balmoral and Ravenswood Avenues. After a successful pilot in 2021, there was even more interest in winter gardening this year. Here are the experiences of two of the gardeners.

Lauren Swihart of the 1800

block of Balmoral is back for her second season of winter gardening and her third year of gardening at Gateway. Lauren gardened a bit as a child but mostly enjoyed the fruits of her grandmother's and her dad's labors. She also tried her hand at potted gardening when she and her husband had their first home.

But Lauren started taking gardening more seriously when she learned about the "dirty dozen" list from the Environmental Working Group, which identifies fruits and vegetables that contain elevated levels pesticide, and found that some of her favorite and frequently consumed foods were on the list. So, attracted by the early planting possibilities of winter gardening, she decided to try it for growing early lettuces. She's building on what she learned in her first winter season and is still figuring out what works for her so she can continuously improve results.

While snow hasn't been much of a problem, Lauren did hit a snag when her garden's cover was blown off one windy Chicago winter day. She doesn't feel as much pressure in the winter season compared to summer. Extending her gardening into the winter season makes the process more enjoyable, and she has less of a feeling that she's racing against the clock in the summer in an effort to get everything done before the finite period for summer gardening is over.

To new gardeners starting in the spring, Lauren offers this advice: Plant what you'll enjoy, and experiment with only one new plant at a time. She's learned from experience that in gardening, less can be more. For example, she was so excited to try cauliflower that she planted several cauliflower plants at the same time. Despite the plants taking over the majority of her bed, she didn't get a single head of cauliflower!

Sam Undine is one of the Gateway Garden leaders. He has been gardening at Gateway for four years, and this is his second year of winter gardening. He's created a protective frame for his plot from bent conduit and heavy-duty clear plastic, which is held in place by special clips.

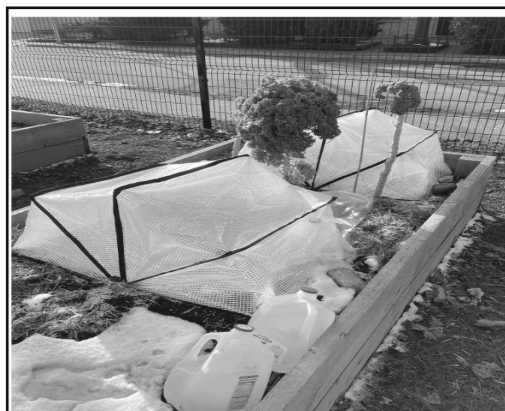
While gardeners can have success with many different structures, Sam says a peaked roof is helpful with keeping of the snow. In addition, having a good anchor for the structure in the soil is key to keeping the wind from knocking it over. It's also important to have a tight fit to keep moisture inside so the plants can grow.

This season, Sam is focused on sprouting seedlings to get a head start on spring and in growing heartier plants like radishes, carrots, beets, and dark greens. One benefit to winter gardening is that there are many fewer weeds! Winter gardening needs less hands-on attention compared to other months. He marvels at watching things sprout pop up from a seed in 30 degree weather — nature is truly amazing!



What Are Your Gardening Tips?

No matter what time of year you garden, we'd love to hear what you have found to be helpful in making your BCO garden plot a cornucopia of tasty produce. Whether it's seed varieties, mulching techniques, weed prevention or overcoming problems you've encountered, your gardening do's and don'ts would be welcome. Just email them to gardening@bcochicago.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS

BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 24 — BCO Community Meeting

March 30th — Garden Orientation

**April 23rd — Bowmanville Neighborhood
Clean-Up**

June 4th — Street Sale

June 10th — Andersonville Midsommerfest

July 16th — Garden Walk

Aug 20th — Summer Social

Oct 20th — Bowmanville Community Meeting



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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!

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CHECK OUT THE BCO WEBSITE! www.bcochicago.org