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BOWMANVILLE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Bowmanville Bee

Newsletter Spring 2022

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Visit our website at www.bcochicago.org.

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President's Message

Welcome to Spring (almost Summer) in Bowmanville — at least that's what the calendar says. Well, despite the cool weather, the calendar is telling us it's time to shed the winter attire and get ready for spring and summer. The BCO is very excited about our annual summer events!

But first, a quick recap of the last few months. In March, we held our Bi-Annual Open Community Meeting at Half Acre. We were very grateful to have our brewery partner provide such a wonderful place for neighbors to gather and catch up before the meeting, and then to learn about happenings in our neighborhood, Chicago, and Washington D.C. Read about the meeting on the next page.

In April, for the fourth year in a row, we held our Spring/Earth Day neighborhood cleanup. Many of you came out on Earth Day to join members of the BCO Board to pick up trash and kick-start our community coming together. Thank you to everyone who participated on the 23rd.

Recently, we were very pleased to welcome The Claddagh Ring to our fold as a BCO Business Member. This Bowmanville establishment has been around for years, but now it's under new ownership. On page 8, you can learn more about the new owners and what they have planned as summer approaches.

Many of you have been watching developments at the Gateway Garden and have helped with fundraising for improvements there. Well, we now have a new development to report on: The installation of a beautiful sign at the entrance to the Garden on Ravenswood Avenue. We are thrilled to have this portion of the Garden's design complete. Thanks to everyone who helped that happen.

Speaking of the gardens, the growing season has begun, and gardeners are racing to set up their plots and start growing things. The BCO gardens and GreenSpace are some of the many great parts of our community. Many of you take great pride in helping to keep these spaces beautiful. We on the BCO Board thank you for all your hard work.

Summer Events are happening this year — yay!! The **Street Sale** kicked off the season on Saturday, June 4. We would like to again thank Laura Schmidt who was our Street Sale Committee Chair for a long time. She recently handed over the ropes to new Committee members who have done a great job in making maps, creating signs for sellers, and keeping everything on track.

The next event is the **Bowmanville Garden Walk**, scheduled for Saturday, July 16. Because of COVID we had to take off a couple years to keep everyone safe. The Garden Walk Committee is working hard to recruit gardeners and reshape the event so that everyone can continue to enjoy this 20+ year event. If you are interested in showing your garden — even if it's only your front yard only or a street corner garden — we would love to have you included: <https://bcochicago.org/events/bowmanville-garden-walk>

Last but not least, August 20 will bring the season to end with our **Summer Social**. Keep your eye out for more information about helping out for that event as the months progress.

So, I hope everyone has marked their calendars for the upcoming events, and had great success at the Street Sale. BCO leadership looks forward to seeing everyone out and about again — at last! — this year. In the meantime, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

Mona

BCO President

Upcoming Summer / Fall Events

July 16: Garden Walk

Aug 20: Summer Social

Oct 20: Bowmanville Open Community Meeting

Come Out and Volunteer or

Join the Board this Fall

Highlights of the BCO Spring Community Meeting

Each March and October, the BCO Board of Directors hosts an Open Community Meeting. Generally, they are at one of our neighborhood breweries, generously made available by our business partners. In 2021, we were still staying safe, so the March meeting was on Zoom and the October meeting was held in the GreenSpace. No matter when or where we have these meetings, the goal is to bring the community together to reconnect, hear from government officials, and learn what our Committee Chairs have been working on.

At the 2022 spring meeting, held March 24 at Half Acre's brewery on Balmoral, we welcomed Congressman Mike Quigley. He discussed current government policies, developments in Washington, and the war in Ukraine, including how our government is working their leadership. Alderman Vasquez then presented updates on the 40th Ward. He talked about city policies and the plaza development at Lincoln and Western, and explained how to request a pothole filling.

One of the hottest topics presented was the Winnemac Dog Park initiative, for which a group of volunteers is raising money to put a dog park in a portion of Winnemac Park. They explained where the park will be and what the funds raised will be used for. The dog park will not be directly funded by the Chicago Park District or the City of Chicago. However, some of the "menu dollars" in Alderman Vasquez's Ward 40 Participatory Budget, voted on by 40th Ward residents, are being earmarked for the park. If you are interested in learning more or want to donate, you can reach out to the group via their Facebook page, facebook.com/WinnemacDogPark, or on their Instagram page, Winnemac Dog Park.

Towards the second half of the meeting, several BCO Committee Chairs spoke about their activities:

- The Membership Committee has developed the "With Honey" campaign to encourage members to contribute more than the membership fee to receive additional benefits tied to our events. Please check out the benefits of this option and consider choosing it to support our activities.:<https://bcochicago.org/about-the-bco/membership>
- The Events Committee discussed our spring/summer events: the April Earth Day Cleanup, June Street Sale, July Garden Walk, and August Summer Social. The Committee is looking for residents to volunteer to help out at these events. If you are interested, please email events@bcochicago.org.
- The Property and Development Committee Chair discussed the open space between our GreenSpace and the Rosehill Cemetery caretaker house on Bowmanville Ave. This space, owned by the cemetery, has been for sale for many years. It is still open, even though a part of it near the caretaker house was recently sold to a Christian Fellowship church. The BCO has been in conversations with the Alderman's office, the Department of Forestry, and our GreenSpace partners NeighborSpace to see how we might purchase the unsold portion. We have reached out to Rosehill Cemetery and their real estate agents to discuss their proposed price. In the meantime, we are seeking input from the Bowmanville community as to your interest in wanting the BCO to pursue the purchase of this space to keep from being sold or fenced off. Please email planning@bcochicago.org with insight into your thoughts.

If you missed the March meeting, the next one will on Thursday, October 20. Keep a look out for information on our Facebook page or from an email blast about its location and other details.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Bowmanville Spring Clean-Up: Year Four

For the fourth year in a row, the BCO hosted a neighborhood Spring Clean-Up. We are so excited to continue this event. Many members of the neighborhood came out to keep our community clean. Join us next Spring—this event is around Earth Day.



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Bowmanville is Heating Up! Get ready for Garden Walk and Summer Social!

Warmer temperatures are here at last, and Bowmanville is ready to soak up the heat and gave a great summer!

Coming up first: **Garden Walk**, which makes its big return on Saturday, July 16th! For over 20 years, the BCO's signature event has brought together neighbors and people from across the city to celebrate the beauty of Bowmanville and the creativity of those who host their gardens for visitors.

This year, neighbors have the opportunity to enter any space that shows off their green thumb! Backyard, front yard, porch, gangway, balcony – anywhere that you've transformed into an outdoor space you love is a place we want to share with our visitors!

You have the option to enter your property for judging, or simply open it up to be enjoyed by the many people who will walk through our neighborhood on Saturday, July 16.

Sign up to host your garden at <https://bcochicago.org/>

[events/bowmanville-garden-walk](https://bcochicago.org/events/bowmanville-garden-walk).

Next up, we have **Summer Social**! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 20, and let's party! We'll bring the music, the games, the ice cream, and the beer, and you bring your lawn chairs, your kids, the rest of your family, and a few friends for an afternoon of fun! Following the enthusiastic response to our new location last year, we'll once again host Summer Social along Ravenswood Ave between Balmoral and Berwyn this year. We'll see you there!

For any questions, suggestions, or **to offer be a much-needed, much-appreciated volunteer**, please email events@bcochicago.org



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Pet Profile—Sydney



Hello neighbors!

My name is Sydney, and I've lived on Berwyn Avenue since 2016. Before that my home was on Paulina St, just a few blocks away. My people, Scott and Josh, were convinced they wanted to live in Andersonville – I'm not sure they even knew Bowmanville existed!

But I made sure to change that during our daily walks – and every one would end the same way: We would stroll through the West Andersonville Gardens, and then I would come to a full stop right in front of the pedestrian tunnel. I would stand firm and refuse to budge until I got to see what was on the other side. And that's how we all discovered Bowmanville. It wasn't too long after those walks through the most beautiful neighborhood in Chicago that we finally wound up living here. I take full credit for making it happen.

Of course, I've been to other places besides Bowmanville. I was born as a rescue dog in 2009 in downstate Illinois. Three months later, Josh and Scott adopted me – and, as my new friend Marigold likes to say of the relationship between dogs and people, "We rescued each other."

I've had a great life – full of lots of road trips and time spent with Scott's mom and dad, who live with my sister, Brizzy. (You might be wondering about our names! Josh is Australian, and so we're named after the two cities he and Scott lived in together before we came along: Sydney and Brisbane.) I've even hiked over 200 miles in Arizona – riding along in a me-sized backpack!

I've made so many friends – furry and otherwise – here in Bowmanville. Nothing beats the squirrels, though. If my arthritis weren't so bad, I'm sure I'd still be able to chase one down. Scott and Josh love living here, too. They love the Street Sale and the Garden Walk and the Summer Social and the breweries – and we all think we got pretty lucky to find a neighborhood that many people haven't ever heard of, and to call it home. And we found it thanks to me. Always go find out what's at the other end of the tunnel.



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The Claddagh Ring Pub: A Neighborly Place to Have a Drink

Last December, Kris Jackson and his brother, Rey Jackson, became the new owners of this classic Irish pub at 2306 W Foster Avenue, just west of Oakley. This BCO Business Member aims to build community by providing drinks that bring people together and an atmosphere that is a hub for local entertainment. Here's what Kris and Rey told us recently about their business and why they love being in Bowmanville.

1. What's the history of your business?

Established in 1990, The Claddagh Ring Pub has become a fixture in the Bowmanville and Lincoln Square area. We pair the spirit of good drinking with the fun and friendly neighborhood environment to give you that one-of-a-kind experience.

2. What motivated you to have your business in Bowmanville?

I have been living in Bowmanville (above The Claddagh Ring) for 15 years now. I have also been bartending for about 8 years. My brother Rey had the opportunity to bartend here in 2021 and got to know the people in the neighborhood. We both fell in love with what Bowmanville has to offer. From the caring neighbors to the safety of the area. We just knew we couldn't pass up the opportunity to grow with the community and provide a place for people to enjoy.

3. What should the community know about your services/products? We provide a safe and fun place for people to enjoy a cocktail while taking a break from their busy lives. Our free private party room, which has electronic dart boards and a freshly felted pool table, provide a ton of entertainment for you and your friends. We also offer drink packages for groups and for those that want to reserve the free private party room. The party room is available for any occasion.

4. How would you like to engage with the BCO and our community? We would love to start hosting some the BCO meetings and event gatherings at The Claddagh Ring so that we can get to know the neighbors and other members of our community better. We are also opened to having exclusive drink specials for the BCO during the meetings and other events.

Stop in for a Drink Sometime. The Claddagh Ring Pub features perfectly poured Guinness, specialty drinks, a great party room, and fun events. For more information, visit their website, <https://www.claddaghringpub.com>, their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CladdaghRingPub/>, or their Instagram page, <https://www.instagram.com/claddaghringpubchicago/>. You can also call them at 773-271-4794 or email info@claddaghringpub.com.



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Meet Your Bowmanville Neighbor: Sarah Schar

By Magen Hanrahan

In working on this edition of *Meet Your Neighbor*, I had the pleasure of talking to Sarah Schar, who gives her all to create and maintain community in Bowmanville and elsewhere in the city.

You may recognize Sarah from seeing her at the Brink Children's Museum, part of the Swedish American Museum, where pre-pandemic she served as a docent and led field trips. Or perhaps you've seen her walking around the neighborhood with her partner, Paul, and son, Ansel.

Sarah and Paul moved to Bowmanville five years ago, where they now live on the __ 00 block of [STREET]. They were drawn to the area because of Chappell elementary, the local CPS school where her son is now in the third grade.

"We wanted Ansel to go to Chappell and had friends in the area, which led us to choose the neighborhood," she says. "I love the staff at Chappell. There is a welcoming feeling in the school that is unmatched. I like the emphasis on social emotional learning and the fact that the Spanish language immersion program starts in kindergarten."

A Very Active Neighbor

Sarah appreciates the comradery of parents coming together to be a force for good in the school and influence policy. Sarah quickly became immersed in the Chappell community and now serves as the president of the Friends of Chappell (FOC), whose role is to build the Chappell community and fundraise for school programming.

Challenging Covid times forced Sarah and the FOC Board to reinvent their fundraising efforts to support key school programs, such as Gardeneers, Aveole Urban Beekeeping, Band for Today, and Playwords. These efforts included selling honey from the beekeeping program and partnering with Chappell parent-owned businesses and neighborhood restaurants through shopping and/or dine-out programs. Also, the FOC moved its primary fundraiser online, and invited the community to get involved in the school's gardening program by donating native plants or watering the garden in the summer.

Sarah is also actively involved in Refugee Community Connections (RCC), an all-volunteer organization that seeks to ease the transition for newly arrived refugees in Chicago,

with a focus on visa holders who come to the US after working for years with US military in Afghanistan or Iraq, often as interpreters. RCC supplements basic needs not met by other resettlement or government agencies — things like furniture, linens, kitchenware, clothing and toiletries. She helps manage the Free Store, where refugees shop for clothes and household items as they resettle. When not welcoming refugees at the store, she's collecting, sorting, and organizing donations.

Dedicated to Helping Others

During the pandemic, the inequalities across the Chicago-land area became more apparent to Sarah. She was familiar with Mothers/Men Against Senseless Killings (MASK), an organization whose mission is to build stronger communities by focusing on violence prevention, food insecurity, and housing. When she learned they needed more pandemic-related support due to schooling at home and less or no employment, Sarah dove in and now runs a monthly supply pantry for MASK. She manages donations, both monetary and in-kind, including items from their Amazon Wishlist. Her focus is on collecting anything from diapers to scooters that meet the needs of babies and children.

"I love bringing my son to volunteer and watch him interact with the kids," Sarah says. "It's wonderful to see kids from different parts of the city who have different life experiences play and just have fun with kids from another part of the city. I've been doing this for over a year, so I'm seeing babies now walking or toddlers now speaking full sentences — it's incredibly rewarding to not only meet the fundamental needs of these families but also build longstanding relationships with them."

When not giving her time and talents to different community organizations, Sarah loves exploring hidden gems across the city with Paul and Ansel, or walking around Bowmanville with them. "We love using the GreenSpace for snowball fights or play with buddies, going through the mosaic pedway tunnel, and following the curvy walkway at Gateway Gardens. It's a wonderful neighborhood."

If you're interested in supporting any of the causes near and dear to Sarah's heart, please don't hesitate to contact her at sarahschar@gmail.com.



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My name is Fernando "Sergio" Mojica, and I am running to be the next state representative of the 13th district. I'm a longtime Bowmanville resident, member of the Bowmanville Community Organization, and the only Bowmanville neighborhood candidate. For 25 years, I've been a CPS principal and educator. We deserve leaders who are rooted in the community, and I'm running to represent the vibrant diversity that makes our district shine.

Mine is a voice not often heard in government: A principal, an Afro-Puerto Rican, the progressive gay son of a preacher. I have dedicated my life to serving families, fighting for equity and building bridges to make real change. It would be the honor of my lifetime to represent you and the 13th district.

HERE'S WHAT MATTERS TO OUR DISTRICT, OUR NEIGHBORS, AND TO ME PERSONALLY:

Education

Every young person deserves a high-quality, culturally responsive, and rigorous education. Illinois spends more than \$42 million on unnecessary standardized testing when we could be re-investing in community schools.

Public Safety

I've attended too many funerals for my students. I've run interventions for gang members. We must do better for our kids by investing in comprehensive strategies that reduce crime while continuing to reform the criminal justice system.

Homelessness

We can break the cycle, but we must address housing insecurity holistically by addressing root causes. 40% of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ+. I'll be a champion for housing affordability and investing in wraparound services that provide lasting stability.

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Tuesday, June 28 - Primary Election Day!

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Make Way for the Goslings!

You never know what you'll find in Bowmanville. Would you believe a "parade" of geese and goslings led by humans? Well, that's exactly what took place on Sunday, May 15, thanks to the cooperative efforts of several Bowmanville residents.

It all started when one of our neighbors, Amy, was seen walking west on Farragut leading two geese and their six goslings. She believed they were disoriented and confused about how to get back to a safe space. Other neighbors soon joined in to help out.

Whether it was giving a gosling a lift with a shoe when it was unable to hop up on a curb, forming an impenetrable line to keep the geese going in one direction, or gently using a broom to steer them toward safety,

an ad-hoc team of neighbors worked together to guide them to Rosehill cemetery.

The geese seemed grateful for the help!

Big thanks to Amy and the other neighbors who spent over an hour leading the geese to safety from the Berwyn tunnel to Rosehill. It's great to know that we have such friendly and caring people in Bowmanville — and such interesting wildlife!

Editor's Note: *We love to have more articles about how Bowmanville neighbors are working together or help each other out.*



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COMMUNITY NEWS

BCO Gardening Update - New Season 2022

By Magen Hanrahan, BCO Garden Committee

The spring gardening season is well underway, with many gardeners taking advantage of the beautiful weather around Mother's Day to start planting. For this issue's update, new gardeners Aubrey and Patrick share their experiences so far in the Gateway Garden.

A Great Team

Hi, I'm Aubrey, a high school social worker from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I'm co-parenting the garden with my boyfriend, Patrick, a theatre producer from Louisville, Kentucky. I grew up gardening with my mom, and my aunts have had active vegetable gardens since I was a child. Patrick, on the other hand, did not grow up gardening, so he is letting me take the lead on our garden bed.

We attended the first work day at Gateway Garden and met a lovely group of people who were also volunteering that day. Thanks to their encouragement, as well as some consultations with family and friends, we decided to plant our first round of vegetables on April 15.

We chose to go with starters rather than seeds, as we are both new to planting in raised beds in this area. We purchased two kinds of kale, two kinds of spinach, mesclun greens, radishes, snow peas, and nasturtium from Gethsemane Garden Center. We knew we needed some sort of trellis to allow the peas to climb up, so at the recommendation of an expert at Gethsemane, we constructed a small structure from bamboo poles. Finally, we planted a few sunflower seeds, courtesy of a "Little Free Seed Library," on Bryn Mawr at Ashland.

As of May 8, Chicago had had very few days of sun, so we saw little growth. But the days afterwards were very

hot, and we were watering regularly, so we expect our plants to flourish. The sunflowers have popped up, the peas have started growing new leaves, and despite some hungry bunnies in the area, our kale appears to be very happy.

While it has only been a few weeks, we have already realized that we probably could have started a few things from seed, that we should have planted the kale and spinach more densely, and that we would like to start the entire process earlier next year. In the upcoming weeks, we plan to plant tomatoes, zucchini, and cucumbers.

All Are Welcome to Help Out

Thanks Aubrey and Patrick for sharing! We wish you a very bountiful harvest.

Even if you don't have a garden plot, we welcome all neighbors to help beautify the BCO garden areas from 9:00 – 11:00 am on our workdays: the second Saturday of the month at the Gateway Gardens, and the third Saturday of the month at the Bowmanville Gardens. Please feel free to reach out to Gardening@bcochicago.org with any questions about our gardening program.





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Bowmanville Gateway Garden Has Permanent Welcome Sign

In early Spring the BCO installed a permanent new 'Welcome' sign at the Balmoral Ave entrance to the Bowmanville Gateway Garden.

The Gateway Garden Expansion committee researched various signs and chose this all metal painted sign with a uniquely curved top. Of Course, we couldn't leave off our new BCO Bee logo!

The wording on the sign identifies the gardens purpose, goals, and sponsor organization; NeighborSpace. The BCO now plans on installing a similar sign for the GreenSpace over on Bowmanville Ave.

These and other improvements would not happen without the support of BCO Memberships. www.BCOchicago.org/about-the-bco/membership



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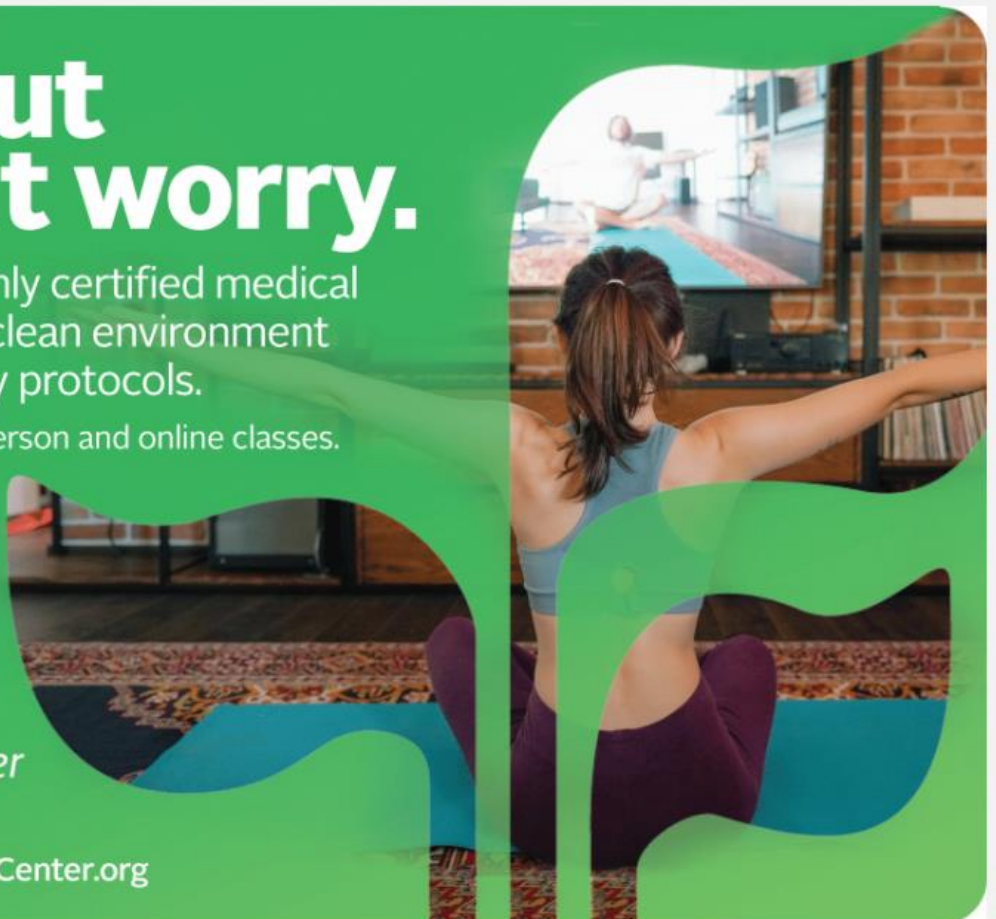
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COMMUNITY NEWS

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 Chicago, IL 60625

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 ANNUALLY

Questions? Call (773) 349-2268 or email membership@bcochicago.org☐ New Member☐ Renewal

Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email(s): _____

Areas where I can help out in the coming year:Event Planning ☐ Street Sale ☐ Garden Walk ☐ Summer Social☐ Other Festivals ☐ Bee Social ☐ Other Events☐ Finance ☐ Gardening ☐ Bee Delivery☐ Membership Outreach ☐ Planning & Development ☐ Greenspace Initiatives☐ Public Art Initiatives ☐ Communications (Newsletters, website, email, Facebook)Please take a moment to answer the questions below. Your answers will help us focus our efforts on your behalf.

What year did you move to Bowmanville? _____

Do you live in a: ☐ House /2 Flat ☐ Multi-Unit >2 UnitsIn your household, please tell us **how many** residents are:

Adults (18-65) # _____ Seniors (over 65) # _____ Children (Under 18) # _____

What types of new BCO programming would interest you?

Comment or Feedback:

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! Don't forget the Honey!

CHECK OUT THE BCO WEBSITE! www.bcochicago.org

