



BCO[®]
BOWMANVILLE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Bowmanville Bee

Newsletter Summer 2022

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

Happy Summer Bowmanville! We are halfway thru the year and an only a few months away from Fall! I know, not the news you wanted to hear. But that also means we have one more Bowmanville event left, our Summer Social, scheduled for Saturday Aug 20th!

As we start to wind down summer and look towards fall, it's also a time that as President of the BCO I need to determine who wants to stay on the Board and who might leave. There will be 8 openings for the new election year 2023 – 2025. So, some of the articles in this issue will be about our need to recruit new Board members.

Those of us who are stepping down are not leaving the Board lightly. Three of us have moved out of state and a few of us have changes in our lives (work and family commitments). So, we can no longer commit to the community and the BCO Board. Therefore, we are seeking Bowmanville residents to join the Board.

What the BCO Board does

We are a working Board. What that means is we have Committees that move the needle towards a goal. That can be Property & Development, Membership, Public Art, Gardening, Events, or Communications. For example, the **Planning & Development Committee** looks at proposed developments in our neighborhood, such as the condos being built on the old bank property at Farragut and Western and ask questions like: Does the property need to be rezoned? What does the Alderman's office have to say? Do we need to schedule or be a part of a larger community meeting with the Alderman's office? For the **Garden/GreenSpace Committee**; do we increase our footprint of the GreenSpace? How? Work with the Garden Plot holders with orientation, workdays, or tracking volunteer hours. The **Communication Committee** works on the Bee - gathering articles or writing them. Laying it out, working with the volunteers that deliver the Bee. The Committee is responsible for posting on our Facebook page and on Instagram and sending email blast about events, information, and activities.

The Board also keeps a pulse on what is going on in the 40th Ward and stays connected to Congressman Quigley and State Senator Simmons offices. Which is great because these offices see

the Bowmanville Community Organization as a resource and a strong partner. Other neighborhood community groups partner with us on important local topics as well.

We are looking for a **Treasurer** who has experience in bookkeeping or has worked with Quick Books. We manage funds that help us pay for the Gardens/GreenSpace areas and supplies, provide two scholarships for students at Amundsen High School, makes sure we have funds for our events, and collect memberships fees and builds our annual operation budget.

And of course, the **Events Committee** is responsible for organizing our Earth Day Clean-Up, Street Sale, Garden Walk, and Summer Social. Or maybe you are interested in getting neighbors new and current to become aware of the BCO or to join; then the **Membership Committee** is a great committee for you. Whether you are interested in one of our committee or just want to contribute your time, thoughts, and energy to our strong and active community organization, we would love to have you join the BCO Board.

Interested?

Did I pique your interest? I hope so. Send me an email at president@bcochicago.org and let me know that you are interested in being on the ballot. We will hold our Board elections at our annual Open Community Meeting on Thursday October 20th.

Still not sure. Reach out to anyone on the current Board and ask them why they joined and what they like about serving on the Board. The common theme you'll hear is being a part of a community, connecting with neighbors and meeting new people.

So, I will be stepping down from the Board of Directors as the President as I have moved out of state. I already miss the neighborhood, members on the Board, and being a part of the community. So, if you have questions about why I joined the BCO, ready my story along with a couple other members who are stepping down on page 4.

Best,
Mona
President

Did You Know All *This* About the BCO?

By Jeff Graves, BCO Vice President

Since 1987 the Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) has been a volunteer-driven group of neighbors, like you, who strive to make Bowmanville the amazing place it is today. There are 16 BCO Board member positions (8 are up for election this year), as well as numerous BCO Committees to join, so we would love to have you participate in any way you can.

Did you know that you do not have to be a Board member to join a committee? Well, it's true. The BCO committees are made up of both Board and non-Board member volunteers. Many different skills and talents needed, so there is something for everyone! Volunteers can sign up for just a single-day event, or for season-long or year-round committee activities.

The BCO would simply not exist and Bowmanville would not be such a great neighborhood without volunteers like you. Look at just some of the items we have accomplished in our organization's 35-year history:

Opposition to developments that negatively affect the neighborhood. This was the first accomplishment of the BCO, so many decades ago, when Rosehill Cemetery attempted to sell off a major Southwest section for the development of a shopping center.

- Publication of a quarterly neighborhood newsletter, the *Bowmanville Bee*, that helps build community.
- Development of the BCO website (more on this later).
- Creation and maintenance of the Bowmanville Ave Garden (along Rosehill's southern wall).
- Creation and maintenance of the West Gate Garden (Bowmanville and Berwyn).
- Fundraising for the purchase of land and creation of the BCO Gateway Garden (Ravenswood & Balmoral).
- Fundraising for the purchase of land and creation of the BCO GreenSpace (Bowmanville Ave near Leavitt).
- Supporting our local schools by opposing two different Charter school proposals that threatened them.
- Supporting and promoting our local businesses, both new and existing.
- Organizing, fundraising, and bringing volunteers together to design and complete the Metra Tunnel mural, a beautiful four-season mosaic that connects Bowmanville to West Andersonville at Berwyn.
- Presentation of grants and honors to our neighborhood gardens and gardeners to help keep our neighborhood "Beautiful Bowmanville."

Through the efforts like these, the BCO has become a trusted liaison with government officials and organizations at the city, state and federal levels. This helps both us and them stay informed about developments that affect us.

But wait, there's MORE! **Did you know** that these popular neighborhood events are **all** produced by the BCO?

April: Earth Day - Spring Clean-up

June: Street Sale, in which more than 120 households participated this year

July: Garden Walk, back this year after a two-year Covid hiatus

August: Summer Social, formerly known as the Ice Cream Social

Halloween and Fall Festival events

Open Meetings in March and October, held at local businesses

First Friday's and other "meet-up" events throughout the year

Did you know that our website, www.BCOChicago.org contains all of the following information?

- A Calendar of Events
- Membership information and Sign-up form
- BCO Garden Information
- An archive of all *Bowmanville Bee* newsletters going back to 2006!
- Information about our Board and committees

Well, now you know! We hope this knowledge will encourage you to become involved in our activities. We need candidates for the Board election in October, as well as additional members for our committees. To raise your hand for any of our volunteer opportunities for you and your family, or to find out more about them, please feel free to reach out to Membership@BCOChicago.org or visit www.BCOChicago.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Why I Joined the BCO Board - Memories & Insights

In my President's Letter, I noted that there will be 8 openings on the BCO Board this fall. Many people have asked me over the years, "Why should I become a member of the BCO Board of Directors?" Well, a few of us who will be leaving at the end of this year would like to tell you why we did. I hope our reasons will inspire you to add your name to the fall ballot.

Joan Frausto-Majer

When Joan joined the Board in 2019, she said the following for an article in the *Bee* introducing new Board members: "My family moved to Bowmanville into what is now my home in 1962, when I was enrolled in St. Matthias School. (57 years — wow!) What excites me about being on the board of directors of the BCO is meeting and helping more of my neighbors and becoming a more visible part of the community."

As her time on the Board comes to an end, Joan reflects upon her interactions and memories as a Board member: "I joined the BCO to have the opportunity to meet more of my neighbors and take part in our community functions. My best memory was my first Summer Social scooping ice cream out to my neighbors and seeing how excited the kids were to get free ice cream. Join the BCO and get involved with your community. Meet new people and experience the joy of knowing you did something to better your neighborhood."

Amy Gawura

Amy also joined the Board in 2019, and said this for the *Bee* article introducing new Board members: "I have lived in Bowmanville over 10 years now, and I love that it is still a quaint little neighborhood — a hidden gem with easy walkability to both Andersonville and Lincoln Square. I look forward as a Board member to meeting even more of my neighbors through all the events."

As she gets ready to step down this fall, she says: "After several years off the board, I joined again to reconnect with more residents in the neighborhood. My best memories are seeing neighbors from all over Bowmanville socialize together at the open meetings and summer events. If you are a new resident or want to help keep Bowmanville a social and active neighborhood, you should definitely join the BCO."

Craig Hanenburg

Craig is one of the longest-serving members of the BCO Board and our current Treasurer. He moved to Indiana last year but has stayed on the Board until now. Craig,

who will step down this fall, shares his memories and reasons as why he joined the Board many years ago.

"I moved to Bowmanville from Lincoln Park in December 2000 and became a BCO member in April 2001. I wanted to get involved in my new neighborhood to protect my investment in a home and improve the community. The BCO helped me integrate into the Bowmanville community and provided me many opportunities to strengthen the BCO as an organization. During my 21 years with the BCO, I have been a Board member for 14, serving first as Vice President, then President, and then Treasurer."

"Since I joined it, the BCO has grown its reputation with the City of Chicago and become a financially strong business organization that has purchased land for the neighborhood in the form of gardens and park area. The BCO concentrates on producing signature events for our community, such as the Street Sale and Garden Walk, which have helped the neighborhood maintain its value and connected residents to each other."

"When I lived in Lincoln Park, I was close to only 16 neighbors, but in Bowmanville I have well over 100 friends that live in all parts of the neighborhood. If you are interested in keeping Bowmanville strong, safe, and fun to live in, I can't think of a better way than to serve on the BCO Board. It can be a lot of work, but it's so rewarding in terms of what you get back in friendships, personal achievements, and protection of your home's value."

"I personally worked hard to make the Bowmanville Garden Walk grow and become known statewide as one of the premier garden events in Chicago. Our lovely community garden spaces are the result of the work of many neighbors passionate about the preservation of green space, urban beauty, and local food production. It's been exciting to be around all the amazing people who call Bowmanville their home!"

"Now, with the addition of several neighborhood breweries, more opportunities for people to connect are evolving, and we have the talent and resources to make better things happen. There will be challenges, of course, but sometimes these challenges are the events that make the neighborhood stronger. Newcomers to Bowmanville may not know about the difficult times we had with streets changing direction, traffic speeding problems, and other zoning and development issues. But the BCO and our dedicated volunteers have always been able to rise to the occasion and represent residents by promoting communication with the city and developers."

Continues on page 4

Why I Joined the BCO Board - Memories & Insights

Continued from page 3

“So, I hope that you will consider joining our Board, participating in a committee, or volunteering to help with our events. If you do, you will find your involvement, as I did, rewarding, gratifying and fun.”

Mona Yaeger

After seven years on the BCO Board, the last four as BCO President, Mona, too, is stepping down. Here's what she shares about her experience on the Board.

“When my husband and I moved to Bowmanville eight years ago, we really didn't know anyone in our condo building or in the neighborhood. I was excited to be here because of the neighborhood feel even though we were on Foster Ave and not in the thick of the community. But of course, that didn't stop me from wanting to get involved. Somehow, I found out about an Open Community Meeting and went to see what the BCO was all about. From there I knew that joining be a great place to start to get involved.

“I inserted myself into the Summer Social by helping Ann Scholhamer with planning and executing the event. I really enjoyed myself. From there I inquired about joining the Board and did so in 2015, when I worked on the Membership Committee and helped out at several of the events. From there, I became President.

“I have many wonderful memories as a Board member. One that I'm especially proud of is supporting the Bowmanville Earth Day Cleanup event that one of our neighbors created. It was great see so many people come out with their families to help pick up trash on Earth Day. Another is building relationships with such businesses as

Baboo BBQ, Sweet Virginia's Kitchen, Side Practice Coffee, Urban Pooch, Spiteful Brewing and Half Acre Brewery. Creating and writing the quarterly article, *Meet Your Bowmanville Neighbor*, for the *Bee* was also a delight. And the summer that we put in the pathway and fence at the Gateway Garden — I remember how great it was to see that project come to life. Of course, meeting neighbors at our events and Open Community Meetings is another great memory.

“I have said many times over the years in my President Letter how much of a gem our little corner of the Northside is. A lot of that comes from who lives here, who gets involved, and the passion that many of you have about your block, your neighbors and this area. Like I said, it's not been an easy decision to leave Bowmanville or Chicago, but I know that I have fond memories, made great friends, and am proud of all the work the BCO has done and will do in the future.

So, after reading this article, I hope you think about joining the BCO Board of Directors. You will gain more than you will know, learn a lot about community and the others surrounding us, and will have some fun.

Email president@bcochicago.org to add your name to the ballot this fall”

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulations to the 2022 BCO Scholarship Winners!

The 2022 BCO Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce the winners of the 5th Annual BCO High School Senior College Scholarship Program: Jorge Miranda and Alejandro Moreno, both profiled below. Over 90 high school seniors, who either attend Amundsen High School or are residents of Bowmanville, submitted applications for the two \$500 scholarships, which are supported by BCO memberships.

Congratulations to both winners! We wish you all the best in your professional pursuits.

Alejandro Moreno, a 2022 Amundsen High School graduate, has been accepted to UIC, North Park University and Harry S. Truman College. He plans to enroll in a Civil Engineering program with the goal of eventually working in the construction industry.

From an early age, Alejandro was surrounded by family in the construction industry who worked alongside engineers, and this experience has led him to follow in his family's footsteps. His strong math skills and love of working with numbers, as well as time spent volunteering in his neighborhood, also contributed to his professional aspirations.

Alejandro's experiences in high school built his confidence and independence. Once he earns a bachelor's degree, he hopes to someday buy his parents a house and be free from student debt, which will allow him to be more focused on his career.

Jorge Miranda, a 2022 Amundsen High School graduate, plans to pursue Mechanics and Engineering at Harry S. Truman College.

Growing up, Jorge always wanted to work with cars because of family members who were mechanics. His pro-

fessional goals were also influenced at a young age by his favorite movies, such as "Transformers," "Cars," and "Fast and Furious."

During high school, Jorge learned time management and self-discipline while staying physically fit. As a freshman, he volunteered to work at the gardens in Winnemac Park. This summer, he plans to have a job so he can save for college. Jorge plans to be financially responsible and by doing so, he hopes to be able to buy a car and travel.



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Very Happy to Be Here - New Bowmanville Neighbors



Hello Neighbors! My name is Kevin Lichtenberg. My partner, Tim, and our two four-legged fur-babies — Elli, a 12-year-old dog, and Melon, a 14-year old cat — moved to 1900 block of Foster at end of March. We are increasingly happy to be living in Bowmanville each day!

Some of the main reasons for that are the friendly neighbors, beautiful Winnemac Park (part of Elli's morning route!) and our ability to easily walk to the shops, restaurants and other businesses along Clark in Andersonville and along Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Square. (The Berwyn underpass is particularly helpful).

I've heard Bowmanville described as a "hidden gem" of the city, and I have to agree! (including Sweet Virginia's Kitchen on southeast corner of Damen and Foster — give it a try!)

I hope that more small businesses will open in the neighborhood and that those already here will continue to thrive. Thank you, BCO and the *Bowmanville Bee*, for all you do to make the community even more cohesive and welcoming. We are all very happy to be here, and we and Elli look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!



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COMMUNITY NEWS

No More Dreary Viaducts!

By Donna Martin

As part of his mission to bring more public art to the 40th ward, Alderperson Vasquez has been inviting artists to liven up the viaducts under the Metra. For the viaduct on Bryn Mawr, completed in early July, he called on fellow 40th ward resident Justus Roe (justusroe.com) to bring together artists for the project.

Justus creates striking graphic murals, works on canvas, and sculpture that can be found throughout Chicagoland and in a handful of other cities. He got his start in his youth in Uptown in the early 90's and was influenced by friends, the neighborhood, and books and movies about the practice of graffiti art. Justus also worked on traditional murals at the Gallery37 summer job program in the 90's.

"I consider the artwork I do to be large-scale, improvised abstract painting influenced by wild style graffiti traditions, he says. "I do it because I love to paint and create large-scale work, particularly on exterior infrastructure surfaces. Growing up in Chicago, I was influenced by a combination of graffiti, public sculpture, abstract paintings from the Art Institute, and traditional murals. I have been trying to capture the energy of those influences and produce work that creates a similar appeal."

The artists involved in the Bryn Mawr viaduct paintings are some of Justus' favorite Chicago-based painters working in the style-writing/spray medium. "They each have a very refined, unique style and are at the top of their practice," he says. "This viaduct-painting opportunity gave them the space and freedom to showcase their aesthetic approach without any restriction, which is very rare."

Planting Seeds of Public Art

Alderman Vasquez confirmed that the artists donated their time and materials to the Bryn Mawr project

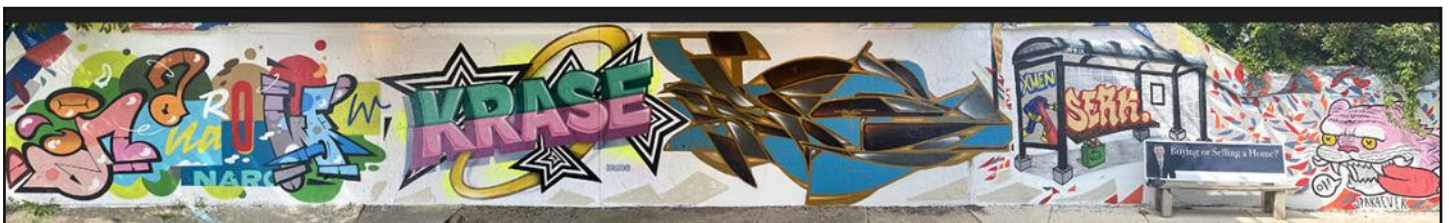
since they had creative control to execute their own vision, and added that many of them do commissioned work as well. He is keen to support more public art throughout the 40th ward. In the long run, he'd like to get a lot of murals up in the ward and switch them out occasionally. "We're planting the seed of what it could be and seeing what develops," he says.

Lots of these seeds have already been planted. Each of the 40th Ward Metra viaducts north of Bryn Mawr have different artwork by different artists on them, so take a trip up Ravenswood to see them all!

When asked about the potential for the Balmoral and Foster Metra underpasses, Vasquez says it's a definite possibility, and Justus confirms that it's doable to paint on the brickwork under the bridges; it just needs a bit more prep work. Alderperson Vasquez adds, "We could paint the bridges too!" We'd need community support for lift rental, but it's another opportunity.

Vasquez hopes to inspire people to support and get involved in public art. To this end, Justus has this advice: "I know that after I was inspired by it, I sketched nonstop and sought out media that documented it to learn about the history and techniques. I can say that whatever kind of art inspires you, research it, find ways to try it out and develop your own take on it."

If you're interested to see more work by the artists, you can check out and follow their individual Instagram accounts listed below. Some have even posted in-progress pictures and videos of the Bryn Mawr art being created. Many thanks to @justusroe, @kraseroner, @zwonster, @likes_1, @stuk.one, @for_majic_eyes_only, @codak_smith, @steady_s, and @jpak4ever, for bringing a splash of color and new energy to a formerly dreary underpass.



Birds Make Bowmanville a Better Place to Live



Many kinds of birds make the parks, parkways and backyards of Bowmanville their home because around here, the eating is good, and there are many trees and other places to nest. But they do more than sing and look pretty. Urban birds play a role in our environment that affects us favorably in several ways.

Most notably, birds get rid of pests, especially insects. The most prolific bug eaters in our neighborhood are the nuthatches (they eat caterpillars, ants, beetles, mealworms, earwigs), sparrows (spiders), swallows (mosquitoes, moths), and woodpeckers (mosquitoes, weevils, ants).

Hawks and eagles are raptors that catch and eat rodents, rabbits, squirrels, bats, and other birds, keeping their populations in check. Vultures eat carrion (already dead animals) as well as sick and injured birds and mammals (and human garbage).

An Amazing Variety of Feathered Friends

You may be aware that Chicago is a major point on migratory flyways. This is why we have an great number of songbirds in the spring and early summer.

But we also have a lot of birds that are full time residents. We know this because volunteer “birders” at several sites near us – Rosehill Cemetery, Winnemac Park, West Ridge Nature Park, and River Park – hunt bird species with their binoculars and report them to the eBird.org website. There, you find all kinds of data about species cited by date and the birder who spotted them.



For example, Winnemac Park hosts 131 species. They include barn swallows, American goldfinches, ruby-throated hummingbirds, Eastern meadowlarks, white-breasted nuthatches, red-tailed hawks, common nighthawks, chimney swifts, 15 varieties of sparrows, four types of woodpeckers, and those red-winged blackbirds that swoop down at you if you make the mistake of walking within proximity of their nests.

Rosehill Cemetery has 207 observed species, including great blue herons, turkey vultures, Cooper’s hawks, blue-gray gnatcatchers, three species of owls, common grackles, great egrets, eight varieties of woodpeckers, wood thrushes, osprey, bald eagles, and purple finches.

The reason we have such abundant bird life in Chicago is due in part to wise planning that has protected natural places. This includes our lakefront — free and clear of industrialization, thanks to the 1909 Burnham Plan —as well as the Cook County Forest Preserves. The establishment of acres of prairie gardens at Winnemac has helped as well.

How We Can Help Bowmanville’s Birds

The very presence of so many species in our city tells a story of successful co-habitation with humans. Many birds find food, breed, and go about their business undeterred by traffic, pollution, and visitors to the parks and cemeteries. It probably helps that we have gardens, places for them to hunt their food (insects), alleys with rodents (hawks have been seen perched on alley utility wires), and birdbaths, which provide drinking water in dry seasons.

However, tall buildings with lights that confuse migratory species, or reflective glass they can’t distinguish from the sky, are detrimental to birds. Therefore, the Chicago Audubon Society has since 2000 successfully petitioned the owners of tall buildings, as well as condo dwellers in downtown high rises, to dim lights and draw blinds during migratory seasons. The Bird Collision Monitor and Rescue Project, which is involved in this cause, reports an 80 percent drop in bird fatalities as a result.

Another threat to bird populations are sudden and extended loud noises, in particular from fireworks. According to Bird Watchers Digest, the “Illinois Birds of Summer” – species with eggs or hatchlings in June through August (includes cardinals, chickadees, meadowlarks, wrens, and woodpeckers) – have their chicks in nests in these months. Explosions send the adults flying blind into the night, from which they often never return due to confusion, injury, or death from crashing into objects. Their hatchlings then of course die of starvation.

Let’s be good to our birds. Because without them, the pests (mosquitoes, flies and vermin) would get the upper hand, and Bowmanville would be a less musical, colorful and interesting place to live.



By Russ Klettke, who thinks the grackles, bullies of the bird world, had to have inspired the Heckle and Jeckle cartoon series (although technically speaking they are magpies).

Photo: top right: Indigo bunting in West Ridge Nature park. Center right: Kestrel (raptor) in West Ridge Nature Park. Bottom left: House finches.

All photos by Frank Murphy

COMMUNITY NEWS

Another great Street Sale– Nice Work Bowmanville!

The Annual BCO Street Sale was held on Saturday, June 4. We're happy to report that this year's event equaled last year's in size – which is newsworthy, given that 2021 marked the return of the event following a delay of one year caused by the pandemic. Turns out Bowmanville hadn't quite finished clearing out their closets and garages! Aided by a number of volunteers and led by BCO Board member Colleen Scroll, the event was a success, with nearly 130 homes opening up sales along the sidewalks of Bowmanville. Great weather and good advertising attracted hundreds of shoppers to the neighborhood.

Special thanks to those who supported the event through sponsorships, and the crew that hung posters, delivered signs, and assembled packets for each seller.

Next year's Street Sale will be held on the first Saturday in June 2023. See you there!



BCO Garden Walk Has a Glorious Return

After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, the Bowmanville Annual Garden Walk made a beautiful return on Saturday, July 16. Fifteen Seventeen creative participants opened up their gardens for neighbors and guests from around the city to admire, and exhibitors reported a steady stream of visitors throughout the day.

"It was so great to all be together again for the Garden Walk, and the attendance this year was better than expected," remarked Craig Hanenburg, who worked hard with the Events Committee to bring back the event. "This was our 22nd Garden Walk, and because it took place in 2022, it was really nice to have the anniversary match the year." Even though Craig moved to Granger, Indiana, last year, he will continue to help the BCO produce this signature event.

Awesome Gardeners and Gardens

Master Gardeners from the University of Illinois Extension Office once again staffed the "Ask a Master Gardener" a table near one of the check-in locations, so that people could ask for advice about their own gardens. Also, a review team of three Master Gardeners — Pierre Poinsett, Patricia Morin and Sean Gardner — judges made their way around the neighborhood, employing a globally-recognized methodology for evaluating and recognizing achievement in garden design.

The team picked the garden of Jeff Graves and Jack Beaupied on Summerdale for the **Best in Show Award** (Purple Ribbon). Jack and Jeff's landscaping efforts reached their prime after years of careful planning and a good-natured battle against the encroaching roots of a nearby tree.

Jeff and Jack also received a **Blue Ribbon Award**, (90 to 100 points), as did Wendy Fairchild and Jim Kriegsmann, Todd Bannen, Alex Schleider, Maria Velasquez, Patrick Brandell, and Diana Leifer. **Red Ribbon Awards** (80 to 89 points) went to Jim Nee and Ninos David, Tom Kennedy and Leavette Wofford, and Juliet Cella. In addition, Wendy and Jim received the **Best Hospitality Award**, Jim and Ninos got the **Best Pandemic Upgrade Award**, and Todd received the **Gardener to Watch Award**.

The new **Maria R. Velasquez Excellence Award** was created by the Review Team to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Maria and her ongoing dedication to excellence in gardening. Maria's garden has been named Best in Show three times and continues to be an example of meticulous attention to detail, with exemplary variety and showcase condition. The Master Gardeners plan to present this new award in the future to gardeners who also reach the level of excellence Maria has consistently main-

tained.

Great Photos, too!

The 14th Bowmanville Garden Walk Photo contest, held online in conjunction with the Garden Walk, gave visitors a QR code that enabled them to vote for the photo to be used in next year's Garden Walk. Jeff Graves' photo, "Hope Blooms Eternal," took first place in the voting. "Butterfly Wonder" by Josh Yates got the second highest number of votes, and "Angel's Path" by Sally Bianca

Berkhia placed third.



Hope Blooms Eternal—Jeff Graves

An outdoor awards dinner was held in the cul-de-sac on the 1800 block of Berwyn, giving gardeners, judges, and volunteers time to relax at the end of a long but wonderful day and enjoy food provided by Calo Ristorante and beer provided by Half Acre Brewery.

Start Thinking about Next Year Jack Beaupied and Jeff Graves won Best in Show as their landscaping reached its prime after years of careful planning and a good-natured battle against the encroaching roots of a nearby tree. Jeff also won first prize in the photo contest for "Hope Blooms Eternal," pictured here.

As we look ahead to next year's event, please keep in mind that the opportunity to exhibit at Garden Walk is open to all. Whether you have a full backyard garden, a porch or balcony garden, or a smaller space that you've

BOWMANVILLE GARDEN WALK

designed and are proud of, we want everyone to see it!

Registration for the 23rd Annual Bowmanville Garden Walk will open next spring. In the meantime, don't forget to snap a picture of anything that catches your eye around the neighborhood: Yours might be the winning entry in next year's photo competition!

The Garden Walk is one of the BCO's signature events, made possible by the efforts of board members and volunteers from across the neighborhood. Special thanks to everyone who contributed time and effort to make it possible this year.

Your efforts were very much appreciated.

And now we look ahead to our next event: The BCO Summer Social! This year's street party will return to Ravenswood between Balmoral and Berwyn, following an exceptionally good turnout there last summer. Please join us on **Saturday, August 20 between 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm** for ice cream, beer, live music, a fire truck, time with your neighbors – and, if we're lucky, maybe even an egg toss!



Pictured: Welcome Table crew,
Jim Kriegsmann & Wendy
Fairchild, Todd Bannen & family,
Tom Kennedy & Leavette
Wofford, Patrick Brandell, Jeff
Graves & Jack Beaupied, Diane
Leifer, Jan Hirt

Master Gardeners: Pierre
Poinsett, Patricia Morin and
Sean Gardner

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



CHECK OUT THE BCO WEBSITE! www.bcochicago.org