

# **Bowmanville Bee**

### Newsletter Fall 2022

The Bowmanville neighborhood is bordered by Foster, Rosehill Cemetery, Ravenswood and Western.

Visit our website at www.bcochicago.org.

#### **BCO Board of Director**

#### **OFFICERS**

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Seth Captain Ron Galant

Liz Gershfeld

Magen Hanrahan

Julie Hart

Roderick Jarnagin

Donna Martin

Kurt Mergen

Matt Murray

David Schuette

Scott Smith

#### **COMMITTEES**

Newsletter news@bcochicago.org

Gardening @bcochicago.org

Events@bcochicago.org

Membership membership@bcochicago.org

Planning planning bcochicago.org

Communications comm@bcochicago.org

Public Art publicart@bcochicago.org

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### President's Message

Welcome to the Fall 2022 issue of the Bee! You might be asking "why is the fall issue coming out in January 2023" and "why didn't I receive a print version"? In October, we voted in a new Board for the 2023-2024 term, including me as the new President. Unfortunately, we lost several great members of the Board, with amazing institutional knowledge, all at once due to circumstances ranging from moving out of state to new jobs. I have been scrambling to catch up! We hope you are still able to enjoy this issue, as many people did a lot of work to make it great.

With that out of the way, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Alysia Kinsella. I've lived in Bowmanville since 2011 and before that, just south of Winnemac Park since 2006. I've been on the Board and served as Secretary for 2 years, which unfortunately was partly pandemic time. It's been really exciting to get back to having all of our events in 2022 and getting the community together again. I'm looking forward to kicking off the 2023 events in March with the BCO Open Meeting—look for details in the next Bee issue and the email blasts. I've also been cohead of the Gardening Committee since last year, and we are already planning for some new projects in 2023 to freshen up the community spaces. I live on Farragut on the east side of Damen with my husband, Brian, two teenagers, Ailey and Patrick, and 75-pound, white, curlytailed dog, Piper (who was previously featured in an Urban Pooch Pet Corner article!). During the day, I work as a corporate attorney for a financial services firm. I have enjoyed getting to know a lot of the Bowmanville neighbors either through working on the Board, regularly attending BCO events or volunteering at gardening work days. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you in the next year. If you see me out and about, please say hello!

Now for my appeal, we are looking for some help—especially with respect to the Bee. One of our newly elected Board members had to resign shortly after being elected in October due to other commitments. We had them slated to help with the Bee. Therefore, we are both looking for an additional new Board member, and we need someone to volunteer to help with the Bee - helping with the layout, making sure we have plenty of great articles, and getting it to the printer on-time. The Bee volunteer and the new Board member can be the same person or two people, we are open to all volunteers! Board member duties include attending monthly Board meetings, actively participating in one or more committees and volunteering periodically at events. If you're interested in either or both roles or just want more info, please reach out to me via email—president@BCOChicago.org

Have a happy and healthy 2023! Alysia



### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS**

### **Introducing BCO Board Members**

A new Board of Directors was voted in during the BCO's open meeting on October 20. Over the next several issues of the *Bee*, we will be profiling new and long-standing members of the BCO Board, so you know who they are. Here are some of them.



Liz Miller-Gershfeld, who joined the Board in 2022, moved to the 2300 block of Farragut in 2014 with her husband, Jeremy, and two sons, Oscar and Levi, now 17 and 19. In the years since then, they re-homed a poodle named Louis that they take for walks throughout the neighborhood. A year-round bike commuter

and a modest gardener, Liz has worked in advertising for more than 25 years.

Here's what she says about living in Bowmanville: "I appreciate the sweet balance of seniors in our midst, people who have lived here for decades, alongside families just getting started who have moved here recently, plus everyone in between. This mix of people is one of the things I love about our neighborhood, and one of the things that excites me about serving on the BCO board."



Roderick Jarnagin just joined the BCO Board this October. He and his husband, Bobby, moved to Bowmanville in 2020 and live in the 2200 block of Farragut with their two dogs, Sprout and Kale. They love the sense of community, walkability, and true neighborhood feel here. Roddy joked that during the three years they lived in their

previous condo, they met all of maybe four people, whereas they met 10 people in five minutes of moving in on Farragut!

Roderick works for Kraft Heinz and Bobby is a Speech Language Pathologist for the Deerfield/Highland Park School District. You might find Roderick in the greenhouse at Gethsemane during stressful days —he finds it a wonderful place to clear the mind and refocus. Fun fact about Roderick is that he's an Eagle Scout. Sports and scouting were a big part of his life growing up. He's a huge supporter of these activities and would be happy to chat anytime about his experiences with them.

Why did he join the BCO Board? "Our neighbors helped us through a tough time this last year while we rebuilt our home," Roderick says. "I felt that getting involved in the BCO would be a small way to give back to a community that gave so much to us!"



Scott Smith has lived on the 2200 block of W Berwyn Ave with his husband, Josh, since they moved here from West Andersonville in 2016. He joined the BCO board as soon as they arrived as a way to meet people and get to know the neighborhood. When he's not helping to plan our annual events, he likes to kayak

(there's a brand new launch at River Park, near Foster and California), go on long city hikes, check out local theatre, and visit friends and family in other parts of town.

Favorite hidden gem in Chicago: the Noon Hour Grill at 6930 N Glenwood Ave in Rogers Park. Scott's advice: Get there early for a delicious Korean breakfast — cooked and served by the legendary Susie — the only employee!

If you are interested in joining the Board, we have one open spot, please reach out for more information to:

president@bcochicago.org

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### A Scary-Good Halloween in Bowmanville

#### By Alysia Kinsella, BCO President

Kids and adults enjoyed another lively Halloween in our neighborhood this year. We got lucky with the weather, not warm, but clear and a nice, crisp fall night. Houses throughout the community were outfitted with decorations ranging from cute and sweet to oversized and scary, as well as everything in-between! The little kids started trick-n-treating on my block around 4:30 pm, and a decent stream of kids and parents continued into the evening, closing out with the teens who would take any candy you didn't want to keep.

Neighbors gathered to enjoy each other's company, sitting out in front of their houses, sharing drinks, and camaraderie. I heard stories of Hot Buttered Rum treats for adults and of an awesome scary Haunted House on Balmoral. For the older set who were out after 8:00 pm, kids and adults were surprised with a solemn procession by Lulu Fellows and her dark and strange crew, who passed out roses with her epitaph, "Many Hopes Lie Buried Here."

For those interested in more information on Lulu, please see <a href="https://mysteriouschicago.com/the-lulu-fellows-statue-at-rosehill/">https://mysteriouschicago.com/the-lulu-fellows-statue-at-rosehill/</a>. If neighbors would like to join an email list to get involved with future neighborhood "processions" they can contact Lulu: <a href="https://lulu.fellows1867@gmail.com">https://lulu.fellows1867@gmail.com</a>







### 2022 Summer Social: Saved by Spiteful Brewing!

#### By Jeff Graves, BCO Vice President

For a minute, it appeared that the BCO's annual Summer Social event would be rained out this year. On the evening of Friday, August 19, the forecast showed a storm coming to town the following afternoon with enough wind and rain that our end-of-summer event would have to be scrapped for safety reasons.

But Spiteful Brewing stepped in and saved the day by agreeing at the last minute to host our event at their taproom at 2024 W Balmoral Ave. The BCO Board of Directors worked quickly to get the word out, and it worked! The Summer Social went on as planned and drew a big crowd of neighbors to a fun indoor (and, during breaks in the rain, outdoor) event. (Cont. on pg 5)





Jeff Graves
sells Bowmanville...and beyond!
jeffgraves@atproperties.com









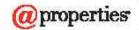






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cell 773,612,7203 // office 548 w webster







2022 Summer Social cont. from page 4

Neighbors enjoyed ice cream sponsored by Pauline's, good food provided by Sweet Virginia's Kitchen, music by our favorite neighborhood acoustic band, Big Sadie, and of course lots of delicious beer from Spiteful.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success. We could not have done it without the efforts of our Events Committee and other volunteers. And a very special shoutout to our friends at Spiteful for welcoming us in on very short notice. Be sure to stop in some time to thank them and enjoy a few of their wonderful brews. Here are some photos of the event. Clearly, those who attended had a very good time. Hope to see you at BCO's 2023 Summer Social!





### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

### **RPMS: Helping Children Unlock Their Potential**

### By Emily Tucker, RPMS Director of Admissions

The Rogers Park Montessori School (RPMS) at 1800 West Balmoral Avenue has been serving Bowmanville since 2005. We are delighted to be part of the community and to know that so many of our students come from the neighborhood.

RPMS offers personalized and attentive instruction in a small-class environment that brings out the best in students, from toddler to eighth grade. Our highly qualified teachers specialize in applying the Montessori method to students of all backgrounds and abilities so they can realize their full potential.





You can find out more about us at rpmschool.org.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet you, show you around our school and tell you more about our proven approach to education. Please stop by during our future Open Houses, or contact me at <a href="mailto:etucker@rpms.org">etucker@rpms.org</a> to find a good time for you to visit. Hope to see you soon!



### COMMUNITY INTEREST

### Why Were the Winnemac Park Gardens Mowed?

#### By Russ Klettke

Just on the heels of summer's abundant growth in the prairie gardens at Winnemac Park, crews from the city mowed down large sections of the plants. The natural question is, why?

The short answer is so they can burn it. That burn might happen this fall, but weather conditions might postpone it to the spring or even the fall of 2023.

The longer answer is that, in nature, the burning of prairies that happen without human intervention accomplishes several important ecological tasks. One is that it reduces the spread of undesirable woody vegetation and weeds.\* Another is that it adds nutrients to the soil, enriching it for future plant growth. Burning away some of the vegetation also allows sunlight to reach and warm the ground, encouraging germination in the following year of naturally distributed seeds from a variety of plant species.

Ultimately, burning promotes the growth of a diversity of native plants, which is what the Winnemac Park designated nature area, one of 90 in Chicago, is all about. We are very lucky to have it — as well as Rosehill Cemetery and the West Ridge Nature Park — in our backyard. Each of these places are great for walking and spending time outdoors in nature, which, whether in winter, spring, summer or fall, helps reduce stress, builds immunity, exercises the body, and expands the imagination.

**A Methodical Process** 

I spoke with Mike Raczyla, natural areas manager with the Chicago Park District, about the mowing in Winnemac Park. He says the Tall and Canada Goldenrod plants in particular, while both native species, are aggressively abundant in certain areas and needed to be curtailed. Goldenrods propagate by both seeds and rhizomes. Therefore, the cutting was done before the seeds could form. And even though the rhizomes are underground and capable of growing next year, cutting and burning will diminish that growth.

Without this curation, the prairie areas in the

Park would become thickets of shrubs and weeds and lack the week-by-week blooms of different prairie flowers. Note also that while native plants are dormant above the ground in winter, root systems keep living — and reach between eight and 14 feet deep into the soil.

The Park District is very methodical with the burns, taking care to choose a time with the right conditions. That includes avoiding a burn when the mowed vegetation is very wet, which would cause it to be problematically smoky, as well as when conditions are excessively dry, which would risk uncontrolled spread of the fire. Also, by reducing the size of the plants — some were as high at 10 feet this summer — mowing enables better control of the flames, since tall plants would be more likely to spread flames.

If you want to witness the controlled burn, call 312-742-4072 and they will put your contact info on a list to be notified. Sounds like a fun learning experience for kids, doesn't it?

\*What is a weed, anyway? In curated, human-created prairies, a non-native or overly aggressive native species of plants can push out most or all other plants, reducing the biodiversity that makes the gardens more interesting and ecologically productive. For example, having a variety of plants with different bloom times feeds pollinators over several months and provides different seed nutrients for birds.



### COMMUNITY INTEREST

### **Parkways for Pollinators**

#### By Jim Javenkoski

I live in Lincoln Square but am a daily dog walker in beautiful Bowmanville. During the first six months of the pandemic in 2020, my interest in gardening, like that of many neighbors, increased. I've been gardening for a decade and love growing food for my family, mostly herbs and leafy greens because our deck has only eastern exposure. But after a half-year of home confinement, I expanded my gardening endeavors to include the parkway (space between sidewalk and curb) adjacent to our property, one block south of Foster Avenue.

Soon after two Chi311 requests were completed in late 2020 (damaged sidewalk replacement and invasive tree removal), I began spade-forking and grading a 330 square-foot section of parkway that appeared like a lunar land-scape: gray, barren, dusty and contaminated with several heavy metals. I was determined to transform this apparently lifeless soil and create a verdant oasis for our imperiled pollinators, which would then provide their

"ecosystem services" to my adjacent edible container garden.

The birth of the "Pocket Prairie" revealed that if I alone could catalyze aesthetic and ecological value in a residential parkway, then perhaps other individuals, couples, families and neighborhood groups could collectively transform this underutilized real estate into a carbon-sequestering urban asset for people and pollinators alike.

#### **Transforming the Urban Environment**

In January 2021 I reconnected with Renee Patten, an Edgewater resident, urban eco-leader and a 'force of nature' in her own right. Renee and her colleagues at the non-profit Edgewater Environmental Coalition, had a similar idea. So we co-founded Parkways for Pollinators (P4P), an urban ecosystems project that aspires to transform the public spaces between sidewalks and the street curbs into pollinator gardens.

(Cont. on page 9)



### **COMMUNITY INTEREST**

#### Parkways for Pollinators cont. from page 8

Visit <u>www.edgewaterenvironmentalcoalition.org/</u> <u>projects/parkways-for-pollinators</u> to learn more about the project.

P4P gardens provide several ecological benefits, including greater forage and habitat for pollinators, improved floral biodiversity, improved soil health, reduced erosion, reduced "urban heat island" effect, and the capture of atmospheric carbon. The project is led by devoted volunteers (residents of the 40th and 48th Wards) who provide free native prairie plant seedlings to Chicago residents interested in developing a pollinator garden in their parkway. P4P began with just five sites last year and expanded to nearly 40 sites in 2022.

If you wish to participate in 2023 and help nourish the pollinators which help nourish us, we invite you to visit our project page and email us: <a href="mailto:sustainedge-water@gmail.com">sustainedge-water@gmail.com</a>.

#### **Check out The Pocket Prairie**

The P4P site closest to Bowmanville is The Pocket Prairie, located on the south parkway of the 2300 block of west Winona Street, next to the alley apron. This perennial polyculture is home to over 30 different native perennial plant species, several towering Mammoth sunflowers and countless beneficial insects, happily drinking nectar while wearing their "pollen pants."

If you don't get there to see it in person, you can visit it via this video, which our Alderman, Andre Vasquez, has created about it: <a href="https://youtu.be/sA6xZ6fglP4">https://youtu.be/sA6xZ6fglP4</a>. In it Jim shows how a previously underutilized parkway area can be transformed into something that's not only beautiful, for also good for pollinators and the environment.



### **Surprise Visitor**

Recently the 2100-2300 blocks of Farragut had a special visitor. Organized by the Kraetsch and Merrill families, Santa came for a visit! He was full of jolly spirit and accompanied by his Elf that passed out bags of treats while playing Christmas music. Families were encouraged to come out and take photos and let him know what they had on their lists. He let everyone know he was keeping an eye on us and to stay off the naughty list! We hope that's the case.











### **BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MEMBER-**

## -MEMBERSHIP FORM-

### JOIN THE BCO OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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

Or return this form with your check to: Bowmanville Community Org Treasurer c/o Craig Hanenburg 5361 N. Bowmanville Avenue Chicago, IL 60625

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



The Communications Committee provides many ways for the BCO to connect to the community and for the community to make its voice heard through the BCO. These include our website, Facebook, the Bowmanville Bee, Instagram and email eBlasts. Contact: comm@bcochicago.org.



**The Events Committee** is one of the best ways to meet neighbors throughout the community, and have a lot of fun while you're at it! Each year we continue our Annual Street Sale in June, Bowmanville Garden Walk in July, and Summer Social in August. If you can help let us know! We need help to make it happen. We are always looking for new twists for annual events and new event ideas. **Contact events@bcochicago.org.** 



The BCO Gardening Committee continues to enhance and maintain our community garden spaces. We are thankful for our volunteers and still need the help of the whole community as we endeavor to improve our natural surroundings. We look to the entire community to join our efforts in implementing a sensible and enduring stewardship plan for all of our open spaces. For more details and to pitch in contact the garden committee at gardening@bcochicago.org.



The BCO acts as a steward for the green space at 5384 N. Bowmanville Avenue and our community gardens along Bowmanville and Ravenswood Avenues. We also continue to look for opportunities to expand and improve on green space in our community. We need your help as we continue to move forward with our goal of ensuring Bowmanville is one of the greenest, most livable communities in Chicago. We are currently working on the expanded Gateway Garden at Ravenswood. **Contact greenspace@bcochicago.org** 



The Membership Committee focuses on ways to continually engage and support our community and grow our membership base. We reach out to new neighbors and new and renewing members. Not a BCO member, go to our the BCO website to join. Contact <a href="membership@bcochicago.org">membership@bcochicago.org</a>. Get involved, you won't regret it!



**The Planning & Development Committee** gathers periodically to discuss issues of change, development and improvement of our fine community. P&D interacts with local residents, businesses, and the Alderman's office to influence the evolution of our community. The P&D committee meets as issues arise. **Contact planning@bcochicago.org**.



**The Public Art committee** was formed in 2010 to explore the idea of a mural in the Berwyn pedestrian tunnel at Ravenswood. That idea became reality very quickly! A restoration of the painted interior took place Summer 2016. Want more public art? **Contact publicart@bcochicago.org** to get involved or with new ideas.

### **BCO MEMBERSHIP— JOIN TODAY!**

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