



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

BCO Board of Directors

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Gardening
gardening@bcochicago.org

Events
Events@bcochicago.org

Membership
membership@bcochicago.org

Planning
planning@bcochicago.org

Communications
comm@bcochicago.org

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publicart@bcochicago.org

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President's Message

Happy Winter, everyone! Is it over yet? I'm writing this with a thin blanket of snow covering everything, which was somewhat surprising given the recent 40+ degree days, but also not, because, well, it's February in Chicago. Walking around the neighborhood, I've seen a bunch of spring growth before the snow hit. The poor plants must be very confused.

Like most everyone in the Midwest, we at the BCO hunker down for the winter and wait for the fun of spring to arrive, but we've also used the downtime for some 2023 planning — finalizing budgets, setting dates for our annual events, assigning vegetable plots, outlining plans for spring plantings in the community areas, and generally getting ready for the fun of spring, summer and fall when we shine!

We will kick-off the BCO season with our spring **Open Meeting on March 23 at Half-Acre**, starting at 7 p.m. **First beer is on the BCO!** As usual, we will have light snacks and lively discussions about happenings in our neighborhood. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas with us or just hang out and socialize!

Our next event will be the Earth Day Clean-up in April. Check out info on that event, our Earth Day Poster Art Contest and the Calendar of Events for the rest of the year on pages 4-5.

Even though it's not the next event calendar-wise, we have just started planning for the Garden Walk in July. If you're interested in volunteering, either for advance planning or during the event, please contact the Events Committee at events@bcochicago.org or chat with us at the March Open Meeting. Probably more importantly though, if you have garden space, start plotting out how to get it in tip-top shape for the Garden Walk! We love to see the great variety, creativity, and love that our neighbors put into their outdoor spaces.

In case you missed the last issue of the Bee, just another quick reminder that the 2022 Fall Bee was online only. We included informative and fun articles covering Halloween to Santa, Winnemac mowing, Parkways for Pollinators and more. You can find it and other past Bee issues at <https://bcochicago.org/bowmanville-bee-newsletter>.

Lastly, we are still looking to fill one open seat on the BCO Board. Board member duties include attending monthly Board meetings, actively participating in one or more committees and volunteering periodically at events. If you're interested, please reach out to me via email — president@BCOChicago.org.

Hope to see you all at the Open Meeting!
Alysia

The BCO Community Open Meeting

March 23, 2023 @ 7pm at Half Acre

Come to the meeting—enjoy light snacks & get your first beer on us!

Introducing BCO Board Members

As mentioned in the Fall *Bee*, a new Board of Directors was voted in during the BCO's open meeting last October. 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.

Kurt Mergen lives on the 2100 block of Berwyn with his husband, Ryan, and dogs Norton and Sophie. They were living a mile to the west but moved here 10 years ago, drawn by the tree-lined streets and friendliness of the neighbors. New to the board, he's looking forward to getting more involved in the community and meeting more of the neighbors. In his spare time he enjoys running, cooking, traveling, and hanging out with his dogs.

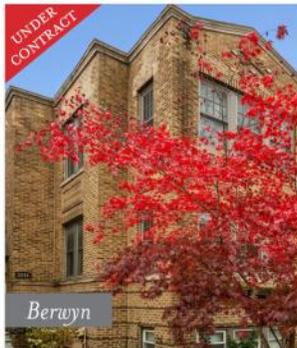


Colleen Scroll moved to the 2200 block of Farragut almost 10 years ago. She knows this because she was pregnant with her first child at the time, and he just turned 9 years old this week. Her husband and she have 2 boys, the other just 6 years old and no pets...yet. Her favorite part of living in Bowmanville, other than being equidistant to both Lincoln Square and Andersonville, is the people. She says "I think I have some of the best neighbors. We have great events; my favorites are the street sale and our block party." A neighbor recommended that she get more involved by joining the BCO.



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BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS

Introducing BCO Board Members

Colleen Scroll, con't.

This is her third year as a board member serving as the Board's Secretary this year. Each year she learns more about the neighborhood and gets to meet new people. She was born and raised in Chicago and grew up walking distant from Cubs games, but prefers our quieter neighborhood. She still visits her old stomping grounds, as her mom still lives in the house she grew up in, and she ventures out to Lincoln Park to visit the family tavern, Glascott's, on the corner of Halsted and Webster. Most of her socializing these days are spent near home, hanging out with neighbors on the front lawn or walking to grab something to eat with the family. If you see her out and about, please stop and say hi...she's always up for a chat.

Seth Captain has lived 10 years in the 1800 Farragut cul de sac and still has no desire to leave even when the Turtle Races get unruly. Accompanying him is a wife whose patience he tries, and two kids, 7 & 9, who do the same to him! Gliding inches above it all is their funny looking Basset Shepherd. For fun, he picks up errant pieces of trash on his dog walks and think longingly about what might usurp the Griffin Theater's squat at the ol' Summerdale Heists Police Station. To pay for this lavish

lifestyle is his unique real estate brokerage helping to keep vintage Chicago alive and thriving. In an effort to pad his resume for eventual acceptance to an HOA at the Villages, he has squirmed his way onto the BCO board, at the ready to keep Bowmanville from the Bowmans continued reclamation efforts.



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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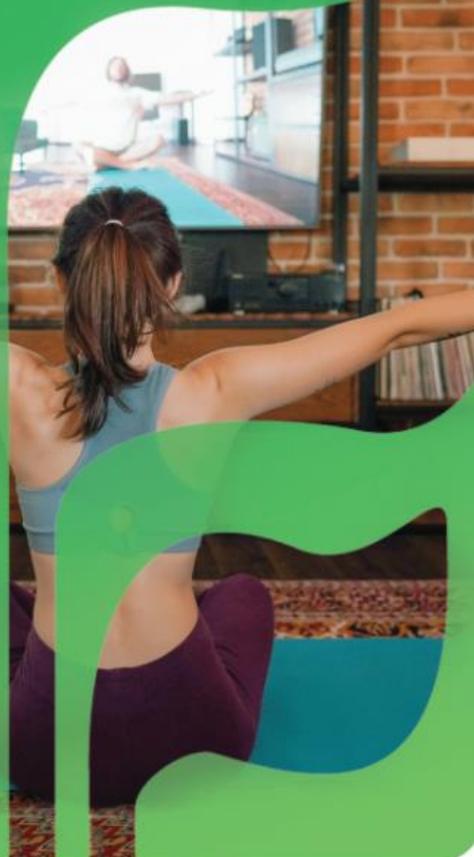
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Two Great Ways to Celebrate Earth Day in Bowmanville

1. Neighborhood Cleanup

To celebrate and support Earth Day 2023, the BCO will host our annual **Bowmanville Earth Day Cleanup** on **Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 am to 12 noon.**

To participate, stop by any time between 9 am and Noon at either:

- The BCO Gateway Garden pergola near Ravenswood and Summerdale
- The BCO GreenSpace, 5384 N Bowmanville

and look for the BCO member. You'll receive trash bags and gloves and pick an area to clean. We'll keep track so we don't duplicate coverage. We are also looking at opportunities to plant in the common area gardens — keep an eye out on Facebook and BCO email blasts for details. Come by yourself or bring your whole family! Recruit some neighbors!

Helping to clean up the neighborhood is a great way to be outdoors with neighbors and be involved in keeping Bowmanville beautiful! *Check the BCO Facebook Page in the event of inclement weather.*

2. Art Contest

In the run up to Earth Day, we're looking for Bowmanville kids and teens, or students from Amundsen High School, Chapelle Elementary School, or Rogers Park Montessori School, to create an engaging image for the BCO to use in emails, on flyers, and on social media to get neighbors inspired to do their part on Earth Day.

The winner will receive a **\$75 Amazon eGift Card** (which we hope will be used on art supplies, but that's up to the winner), and will be credited by name (if desired) every time we use the image. We'll also feature the winner's work in the Summer Bee!

To qualify, the submitted contest image must be:

- An **earth- or nature-themed original creation** and include the words **Bowmanville Earth Day Cleanup 2023**
- Submitted as a **digital image: .jpg or .png** — but the original artwork can be executed in any medium
- **8" wide x 4" tall** (2400 px x 1200 px)
- Emailed no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 24, 2023 to publicart@bcochicago.org with the **subject: 2023 Earth Day Art Submission**. The email must include i) your **full name** and ii) **the school you attend** or **the Bowmanville block you live on**.

Judging Process and Criteria

- Entries will be anonymized and judged by members of the BCO Board
- Entries will be evaluated based on:
 - ◇ Originality, creativity, and artistry of design
 - ◇ Clear and engaging text and imagery around the topic appropriate for use in social media posts and/or printed flyers
 - ◇ All the rules for image design and submission are met (as outlined above)
 - ◇ Artwork must be original — it cannot include any copyrighted images or materials

Winners will be notified via email. Any questions about the contest? Email publicart@bcochicago.org.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Plan to Take Part in these BCO 2023 Events!

While we're all daydreaming about nicer weather, it's a good time to take note of when our spring and summer events will happen.

First up is our annual **Earth Day Clean-Up on Saturday, April 22**. This is an opportunity to grab some hot cider and a Hefty bag and polish up the neighborhood as it thaws out. (See article on prior page for details.)

The Bowmanville Street Sale will take place on Saturday, June 3. Registration will open in late March/early April, and BCO will once again take care of securing the necessary city permit for the event.

The 23rd Annual Bowmanville Garden Walk is scheduled for Saturday, July 15. Neighbors with green spaces of all shapes and sizes are invited to participate, so keep that in

mind as you start to think about planting this spring!

Finally, we'll see you in the streets for our season-capping **Summer Social on Saturday, August 19!**

We're always looking for volunteers to make BCO's events as successful as possible. There are plenty of small projects and errands to run in the weeks leading up to each event. No matter how much time you have to spare, your help would be appreciated!

Please email events@bcochicago.org with any questions about this year's activities, or to volunteer!



The Benefits (and Pleasure) of Plogging

By Liz Gershfeld, BCO Board Member

Earth Day is approaching, and we will celebrate it as a community-wide and global event. But caring about our home planet and community are everyday concerns. So I'm always looking for things to make part of the daily practice of living that can decrease a negative impact on the environment or increase a positive one.

One thing I found is plogging. Have you heard about it? Plogging is combining exercise (specifically jogging) with picking up garbage or trash lying around on the ground. For anyone who walks or jogs in the morning, seeing garbage on the sidewalk, parkway or street is a distracting and unpleasant part of the experience. Plogging began in Sweden in 2016 as an organized event. Merging the Swedish verbs *plocka upp* (pick up) and *jogga* (jog) gives the new Swedish verb *plogga*, from which the word plogging derives. Plogging has become a worldwide phenomenon: an estimated 20,000 people in 100 countries plog daily, and some plogging events have attracted over 3,000,000 participants!

You Don't Have to Be a Jogger!

Because of my lack of coordination, picking up things as I run would not work. So, instead of plogging, I practice "plalking" — combining trash pickup with walking. I get the benefit of the added exercise involved in bending down and reaching to pick things up.

Plus it feels good to do something good for the environment and our neighborhood. And by putting the recyclables I pick up into my blue bin, I get the added satisfaction of helping reduce landfill.

While many organizations host plogging events, you don't have to wait to participate in one to practice plogging or plalking. It's an easy and impactful thing for any walker or jogger to do at any time. Just bring a small bag along, and maybe wear some gloves or bring a grabber. You don't have to pick up everything, or even the entire time you are out. But can you imagine the difference this would make if more people did it? Give it a try — Mother Earth will thank you, and you'll like how it makes you feel.

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Huge Turnout for Openlands' Tree Walk

By Jeff Graves, BCO Vice-President

Early this January I noticed a Facebook post by my neighbor Paul Naylor promoting a "Tree Walk" at the West Ridge Nature Preserve on January 21. At first, I thought: "No way. It's cold outside in January. Besides, how interesting can a Tree Walk be?" But something made me sign up for it anyway. So off we went, my partner, Jack, and I to walk among the trees with strangers. But as it turned out, it was a lovely 30-degree day and trees were very, very interesting!

The walk was led by Al DeReu, manager of the volunteer TreeKeeper program of Openlands, a not-for-profit organization that protects the natural and open spaces of Northeastern Illinois. In addition to Jack and me, more than 60 curious people followed Al on a tour of the trees thriving at the preserve, located along Western Avenue from just north of Bowmanville Avenue to Peterson, with an entrance at Ardmore. Several of the participants weren't strangers at all. They turned out to be neighbors I knew, but barely identifiable with their winter coverings.



Al explained native vs invasive species, the benefits of having trees, and the challenges they face. With the leaves gone for the winter, all we had were the characteristics of the bare trees: trunks, bark, branches, size, and color. We would walk along the path and stop at a tree and Al would ask, "Does anyone know what species of tree this is?" And from there we got ourselves quite an education. We also passed by a family of deer that didn't seem to mind such a large group of people just several feet away! Beautiful hawks flew overhead and there were many varieties of birds in the pond. This preserve is really a local treasure. As for the tree education, I really did learn a lot. I don't think I'll ever look at a tree in the same way again.

Many other Walks — and More!

There were several other TreeKeepers on this tour. As it turns out, Openlands has trained thousands of people to be TreeKeepers, and they conduct Tree Walks all over the city. They have an excellent website where you can find other walks. From www.openlands.org, go to "What We Do", drop down to "Educate Schools + Communities" and scroll through all their events and volunteer opportunities. They also have an awesome "Get Outside Map" that identifies all the great parks and nature areas in Chicagoland to explore on your own.

Besides taking a Tree Walk, consider volunteering for or donating to this excellent organization. In 2018, Openlands provided the BCO a grant for 20 trees to plant along stretches of the parkway that had recently lost tree cover, and TreeKeeper volunteers helped plant them. So now we can all enjoy the oaks and redbuds that, thanks to Openlands, grace our neighborhood's streets.



COMMUNITY INTEREST

TreeKeepers Chapter Established in Bowmanville

By Paul Naylor Certified last spring as TreeKeeper #1792

The West Ridge Nature Preserve Tree Walk also marked the inauguration of the 40th Ward Chapter of Openlands' TreeKeepers. TreeKeepers advocate for the importance of trees in the city, and coordinate planting, mulching, and pruning of young trees in parkways and public spaces to ensure they are around for decades, if not centuries to come. TreeKeeper Chapters are dedicated groups of TreeKeepers organized around a specific area — a neighborhood, ward, town, or park. In this case, we will be partnering with the 40th Ward Office to address localized tree stewardship needs in our community.

Ideas we have so far include a stewardship program for the 481 (!) city trees planted across our ward last year. In Chicago, on average only half of city-planted street trees are still there a decade later. We want the survival rate of these new 40th Ward trees to be as high as possible!

A first step is to let residents know how to care for the street trees they requested. New street trees require regular watering from April through mid-November in their first two years, as they establish their roots. Added protection can be achieved by applying a "doughnut" of mulch at the base of the tree in fall (in Bowmanville, we are lucky to be so near the Bureau of Forestry's free mulch pick-up site at 5333 N. Western Avenue!)

We want to be a resource for residents who are interested in helping maintain and build community around trees in our public spaces! In the third year, trees benefit from pruning to encourage good growth habits and avoid structural problems later on, especially for trees that are close to roads, sidewalks and bike paths.



Don't try this yourself! TreeKeepers are certified to prune parkway trees. We plan to organize pruning events that bring volunteer TreeKeepers from across Chicago to our Ward.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a TreeKeeper, check out <https://openlands.org/get-involved/>. If you would like

to volunteer your time for tree stewardship in the 40th Ward, please get in touch via our Facebook page, 40th Ward Trees.



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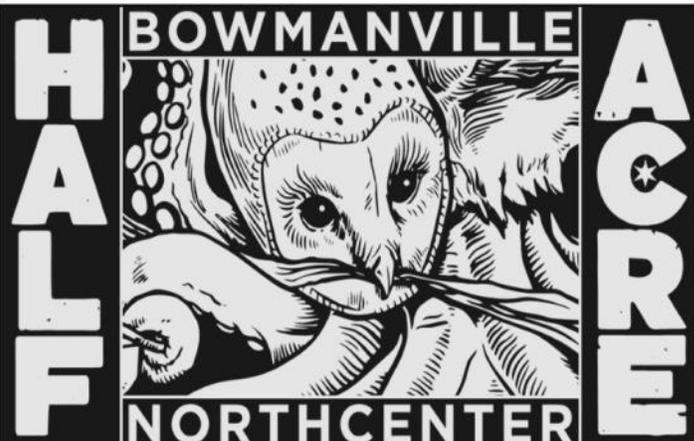
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Bowmanville Stories

By Liz Gershfeld, BCO Board Member

As I look out my back window this day in February, a thin layer of snow blankets the ground, rooftops and trees. It's not yet dirty this year, as it often gets as winter drags on, because we have largely been spared the typical winter weather thus far.

The rhythms of going outside are different in winter, whether it's walking to the bus or train, taking children to school, walking a dog or shoveling a driveway. We move briskly to get where we need to be and back again, and I realize that most of the people I have conversations with during the winter are people I already know. They are people whose stories I know, and they know many of mine. We all have stories. It's what makes us who we are, and as we learn each other's stories, it forms a richer, deeper and more connected community.

I was fascinated to learn some of Bowmanville's story. I didn't know that much of the neighborhood contained greenhouses that grew flowers. Or that Bowmanville was developed in 1850 by Jesse Bowman, a local innkeeper who sold plots of land in the area without actually owning them first. He ran off with the money, leaving his customers in the lurch. But his name lives on, and now a more positive association with the community exists.

Wonderful Neighbors

My own connection to Bowmanville began in 2014, when our family moved in following a huge snowstorm, the kind that brings out the Chicago Dibs. It was really cold. I had to take my K-turn driving skills to a new level to get the car into the garage around the snow-piles. From all the moving-in of things, our whole place had salt on the floors



as if our house were a continuation of the sidewalk. It wasn't a fun introduction to the neighborhood. But once it was just our family inside, and we were trying to get warm and clean up, I heard a motor running out in front.

I looked out and there was this guy (who I now know to be our next-door neighbor to the east) snow-blowing our sidewalk. Soon after that, our next-door neighbor to the west brought over some delicious treats. Our house was in all the disarray of moving, but what a warm welcome!

Every single one of you has a connection to this neighborhood. Whether it's move-in story, an observation of how much Bowmanville has changed (or stayed the same) over the years, a favorite place or activity, or a comparison to another place you have lived. It could be a story that has unfolded while you've been here, such as how your family has grown, or just a snapshot of your life here, such as the first harvest from your BCO garden plot. Whatever it is, we would love to hear about it.

Please share your Bowmanville story by emailing to news@bcochicago.org, along with any photos. You'll help make Bowmanville more than a place. By doing so, you'll make it a more neighborly community.

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COMMUNITY INTEREST

The Chappell Knights Need You!

By Amanda Criner and Sarah Schar, BCO members and Friends of Chappell Board Members

Chappell Elementary School is a real asset to Bowmanville. Just ask anyone walking around at student drop-off or pickup times, when hundreds of kids from our community are milling about. This excellent school is one of the reasons why people choose Bowmanville as a place to live and raise their families.

On Thursday, April 27, the Friends of Chappell will host its annual fundraiser to support school programs and improvements. We would love your support!

Ways to Give

You can support us in several ways! One is to buy tickets for and attend our [Friends of Chappell Spring Fundraiser](#) at Burning Bush Brewery. The save-the-date announcement shown here gives details, but please follow us on social media for ticket sales updates.

Another is to make a cash donation, or to donate goods or services to our online auction. It's a great way to promote your business and raise awareness of the products or services you offer. Photographer Aline Stern and Nobody's Darling are already part of the fun, and you or

your business can donate an experience, a gift basket or whatever makes sense for you to be auctioned off at our spring event on April 27.

The winning bids for the auction items that come from your donations will be used to provide enrichment activities at the school through Friends of Chappell-funded programs like these:

- School garden curriculum with Gardeneers
- The first school in the US to host honeybee hives through Alveole
- Band for Today
- Updates to the library space
- And much more, such as Teacher Appreciation Week, Uniform Swaps, and community building events.

If you have something to donate for the auction, please contact sarahschar@gmail.com or reach out to us at Friends-of-chappell-board@googlegroups.com. Anyone is welcome to bid on our amazing online auction items whether attending the event or not. We will communicate with participants via social media.

Finally, if you or your business are interested in supporting Chappell beyond our annual fundraiser, we are always looking for volunteers and annual sponsors. Please email info@friendsofchappell.org to learn more. We hope to see you at our fundraiser or upcoming events.

Friends of Chappell is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your donations are tax-deductible. Please let us know if you are interested in donating an item or service for our auction at the Spring Fundraiser by reaching out to us at. You can also make donations directly through our website, <https://friendsofchappell.org/>.

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Let's Keep It Bowmanville!

By Seth Captain, BCO Board Member

The people who really know about something are the people whose job it is to know that. For example, when your furnace goes out, and you have the option of a pricey repair or a complete replacement, you want to know what the furnace repair person would do in their own home. Sure, you're relying on them to be a genuine human being, not a salesperson. But assuming they're honest, you would value their expert opinion. The same goes for mechanics, doctors, bankers and others — but in my experience, not hair stylists. I tried that and went home with half my head shaved. :)

So when my clients ask me where I chose to live in Chicago, I proudly tell them Bowmanville. Their first response is usually along the lines of "Where the \$#@ is that!", and I'll sometimes say the place with "5 bars and no churches", or "the hood sharing its border with the city's largest graveyard, the wealthiest commuter train, and an all-night Korean BBQ". Or I just put it in good visual

perspective by proclaiming we are the illegitimate and anatomically impossible love child of Lincoln Square, Ravenswood and Andersonville.

If the intrigue begins to build, I'll mention that lovely park on the southern border, you know, Winnemac, the one with the city's greatest and most dangerous firework show, and that may or may not ever have a dog park but will always have free-roaming overly pampered dogs.

If they can live with a long walk to the train, provided they even go into an office anymore, and can find a pre-Daley charm in the still-functioning industrial pocket along our northern rim, I get into the urban Mayberry nature of it all. There are the blocks with farmhouse cottages, vintage two- and three-flats, apartment buildings on the corners, and tasteful renovations of century-old homes, along with dollops of newly constructed homes and condo buildings. Of course, there's more than one place to grab a bit of alcohol but nowhere to pray about that evening's events.

Con't on page 11



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BOWMANVILLE OPINION

Let's Keep It Bowmanville!

Con't from page 10

At this point, they get giddy. Eyes widen. A bit of spittle forms on the upper lip. They are witness to a real gosh-darn secret in an age where there are none. How did YelpInstagramNewsFeeds not alert them? They can't say fast enough, "Seth, we want to buy a home there." If I like them, I begin to showcase our humble enclave. If I don't, I introduce them to Lincoln Square proper!

But something has happened in the last several years that has saddened me, and it's that our neighborhood is no longer the affordable — and affable — gem it used to be. People selling their homes don't mind it, and many in the real estate industry don't either. But don't be fooled, the potential for a real dynamic shift is present: This lovely, friendly oasis could turn into another soulless "urban suburb" like the ones that have corrupted our brethren to the south.

So it's up to you — Bowmanvillians, Bowmanvillers and Bowmanvillites — to integrate the new neighbors into our

ways of friendly social discourse, geniality, camaraderie, and yes, even the bacchanalian delights that have helped maintain the character of our hideaway through the generations. In Austin, they tell you to "Keep it Weird." Here we just want to make sure we: "Keep it Bowmanville."



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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 Earth Day Clean-up in April, 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. The BCO acts as a steward for the pathways, garden spaces and vegetable plots along Bowmanville Avenue and along Ravenswood at Balmoral, including the Greenspace by Rosehill on Bowmanville and the bump-out planters at Berwyn and Bowmanville. We continue to look for opportunities to expand and improve on green spaces in our area. We are thankful for our vegetable plot and community volunteers! We look to the entire community to join our efforts in implementing a sensible and enduring stewardship plan for all of our open spaces and as we endeavor to improve our natural surroundings. **For more details and to pitch in, contact the garden committee at** gardening@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
"WITH HONEY" ADD-ON: \$75 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

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