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BOWMANVILLE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Bowmanville Bee

Newsletter Winter 2024

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

As winter gives way to spring, the Board has been busy making changes to some old ways of doing things and improving our processes. Additionally, we are making plans for the 2024 Bowmanville event season and are very excited for the year ahead!

First, we have transitioned to an online accounting system to replace the standalone computer accounting we used to have. This allowed us to update the way that we send invoices and receive payment. Instead of receiving an invoice via email and then you having to go to the BCO website and fill in a bunch of information just to pay the invoice, now we send you the invoice via email with a link to our online system. The link has all the information pre-populated so all you have to do is enter the payment details. You will get immediate confirmation that it went through—including receiving a confirmation email. The days of wondering if a payment was successful are gone! The process is much easier for us, but more importantly, for you too and very secure. We have already received feedback from people that they prefer the new system.

Second, we are moving to a bi-annual membership renewal. We will be sending our BCO membership renewal emails twice a year instead of having different waves of renewals each month. This will simplify our processing and tracking of renewals. People can still sign up to be new members at any time, but then renewals will start on either March or October of the following year depending on when they first sign-up. Don't worry — you will receive a renewal request in either March or October, not both!

As mentioned at the prior Open Meetings, while we were sorting through these transitions, we have not been sending renewal invoices out. That means that we may not have invoiced you when your typical renewal came up last year. We will be sending those renewals out in the coming weeks so don't be surprised if you receive a renewal in a different month than you are used to! The \$20 membership is vital to our being able to provide our events and the Bee so please do renew if you are able.

Next, in order to reduce costs, we are simplifying our email addresses. We will be decommissioning email addresses that are rarely used, such as for the Secretary, Vice-President and Planning committee. We have temporarily updated the Public Arts email to President+arts@bcochicago.org. However, we will continue to adjust the emails over the next few months so look for more changes in the next Bee.

Finally, the good stuff! Our event and other notable dates for the year are listed below. These will also be on the website. Keep an eye on the website and social media for gardening events and workdays too!

New Garden Plot Award Notifications	3/01
Spring Open Meeting at Half Acre	3/20
Earth Day Clean-up	4/27
Street Sale	6/01
Garden Walk	7/13
Summer Social	8/24
Fall Open Meeting	October—Date TBD

Thanks! Alysia

The BCO Community Open Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

@ 7pm at Half Acre

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

www.bcochicago.org

Café Más Enriches Our Community

By Liz Gershfeld

In the southwest corner of Bowmanville, a wonderful new cafe has opened at 2310 W Foster Ave — the charming Café Más. A short walk from anywhere in the neighborhood, this friendly establishment offers healthy and sustainable plant-based dining options.

Created by the dynamic duo of Juan Lisandro and Paloma Ramirez — also the minds behind Penelope's Vegan Taqueria in Andersonville — Café Más is about more than just healthy dining. It's a mission-driven venture aimed at nurturing community connections and championing the delights of vegan cuisine.

Upon entering, guests are greeted by the café's vibrant décor and the welcoming smiles of its staff. It's a space designed not just for the casual coffee goer but also for families, friends, and solitary visitors alike, offering cozy spots to linger, share a meal, or delve into a good book.

More than Great Coffee

At Café Más, the menu is a showcase of plant-based cuisine, featuring a variety of vegan pastries sourced from local bakeries such as Pie Pie My Darling Bakery, Aztec Vegan Kitchen, and Liberation Kitchen. The café takes pride in its selection of premium Dark Matter and Casa Humilde Coffee, promising a unique blend of flavors.

Yet, the café's specialties go beyond its exceptional coffee offerings. Guests can enjoy crafted salads, hearty sandwiches, and a selection of sweets to accompany the coffee drinks that stand as the café's hallmark. Among the menu highlights are a portobello focaccia sandwich, an aromatic truffle salad, homemade chocolate chip cookies, and delicious Liberation Kitchen donuts.

A standout favorite of the owners is the Power Burrito, a hearty ensemble of beans, kale, cheese, and pico de gallo, served with a side of avocado salsa — a dish that perfectly embodies Café Más's commitment to flavor, fulfillment, and authenticity in plant-based dining.



Very Community Minded

Juan and Paloma's vision for Café Más is deeply rooted in community. From its inception, the café has been a platform for small vendors and local businesses, fostering an environment of mutual support and growth. This commitment stems from their early experiences with pop-ups in 2017, where opportunities were scarce but invaluable. Today, they are dedicated to "sharing our space with different vendors," celebrating the collaborative spirit that defines Chicago's vibrant small business community.

Café Más is not merely a minority-owned business. It is also a beacon of inclusivity, authenticity, and communal support. Its strategic location on Foster Avenue was chosen with Bowmanville's welcoming nature and family-friendly atmosphere in mind — a reflection of Juan and Paloma's own values as parents. The café stands as a community hub where families can gather and share a meal.

In addition, Café Más is an active participant in the City of Chicago CityKey program, offering a 20% discount to patrons who present their CityKey ID, reinforcing its role as an accessible, community-oriented establishment.

Open daily from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Café Más is more than a café. It's a destination for those eager to explore the richness of plant-based cuisine, underscored by a dedication to quality, community, and the celebration of local talent. In the bustling landscape of Chicago's culinary scene, Café Más invites everyone to experience the joy of plant-based eating, one delicious bite at a time, within its welcoming, colorful walls.



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BOARD UPDATES

Introducing Magen Hanrahan

Magen Hanrahan and her husband, Matt, moved to the 2200 block of Farragut during the polar vortex of 2014. Their daughters Corryn (age 11) and Annette (age 9) attend Chappell Elementary School. Magen & Matt feel like they hit the jackpot with the people on their block and in the Bowmanville and Chappell communities – it reminds Magen of the close-knit community where she grew up.

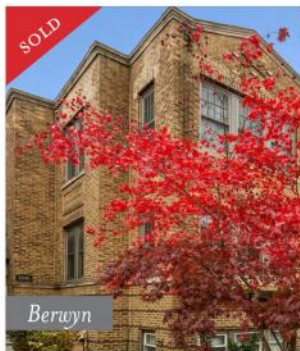
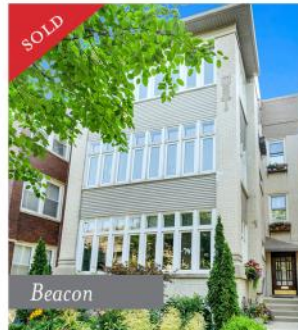
Magen is in her third season of working on the BCO Gardening Committee, which her mom finds incredibly ironic given Magen's lack of green thumb! Since the pandemic forced her to work from home most days, Magen became an avid walker. She walks as a means to catch-up with friends, run errands, or listen to her latest audiobook.

On Thursday nights, you can often find Magen and the girls at Platform 47 on Damen Avenue while Matt volunteers as a magician for kids in the Rush ICU. Despite growing up in the south suburb of Flossmoor, Magen loves the Cubs and is ready for the new season to start (she's the nerd keeping score in section 210). Magen has spent the last 20+ years in Chicago's advertising community and currently has a pretty sweet gig working at Ferrara Candy.



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Help Shape our Judicial System in the Spring Primary

By Maggie O'Keefe

March 19 is not just the Spring equinox this year. It's also the day for primary elections here — and not only for President, but also for important down-ballot races. Unless you make a voting plan and go vote, others may determine who will serve in key races that directly impact our justice system, including State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and nearly two dozen judicial positions.

In the last three Presidential primary election cycles, Chicagoans have yet to break over 50% in voter turnout. This means that a relatively small number of eligible voters make decisions that affect us all. If you want to have a say in who gets elected, get out and vote!

Fortunately, the numbers do show signs of strength. More people are registering and voting in the 40th Ward. What may have been a sleepy turnout northside ward is now a blossoming and motivated block of voters who can literally make or break an election.

Let's Meet the Challenge!

As 40th Ward Democratic Committee person, it's my goal for our ward to be one of the tops in the city for voter turnout this election. But the hard truth remains, it's a challenge to motivate

voters to turn out in primaries, despite the opportunity they — meaning you, too — have to elect candidates to positions that make a difference in everyday life.

I hope the following will motivate you to vote thoughtfully in this primary election and help me meet this challenge.

Recent 40th Ward and Citywide Election Turnout

2020 primary: [D] 43.16% / [R] 1.66%

city average: [D] 36.37% / [R] 1.41%

2020 general: 80.60%

city average: 73.28%

2016 primary: [D] 49.41% / [R] 6.50%

city average: [D] 47.58% / [R] 5.91%

2016 general: 76.42%

city average: 71.04%

2012 primary: [D] 14.48% / [R] 4.36%

city average: [D] 20.73% / [R] 3.72%

2012 general: 74.73%

city average: 75.41%



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Help Shape our Judicial System in the Spring Primary

Continued from page 4

As you can see, while we're up significantly from the 2012 primary, we dipped a bit in 2020, perhaps because of the pandemic. It would be great if we could get back above 50% in our ward.

Contested Races for Key Positions

You and other voters can decide on March 19 which of the candidates for key contested races will determine the fate of those who interact with our local justice system. On your ballot, you'll get to choose who will replace Kim Foxx, who is stepping down after two terms, to serve as our new **Cook County State's Attorney**. The candidates include Attorney and Professor Clayton Harris III [D], Retired Appellate Court Judge Eileen O'Neill Burke [D], Former Alderman Bob Fioretti [R] and Andrew Charles Kopinski [L].

Other contested primaries worth your attention include **Clerk of the Circuit Court**. Former State Senator and current Clerk Iris Martinez [D] is going head-to-head with MWRD Commissioner and Lawyer Mariyana Spyropolous [D] for the Democratic nomination. Lupe Aguirre [R] and Michael Murphy [L] run uncontested in their Party.

By the way, did you know that over 1 million cases are filed each year through the Clerk of the Circuit Court office. That's a lot of paperwork and ethical standards to maintain, which is why it's an important position.

And the race for a seat on our highest local court, the **Illinois Supreme Court**, is also contested. Justice Joy Cunningham [D] who was appointed to the vacancy of Justice Anne Burke, wife of now convicted former Alderman Ed Burke, is being challenged by Appellate Court Judge Jesse Reyes [D].

Your ballot will also ask for you vote on many other important positions: U.S. President, U.S. Representative, Illinois State Senator, Illinois State Representative, Illinois Supreme Court Judge, Appellate Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, Subcircuit Judge, Cook County State's Attorney, Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Water Reclamation District Commissioner, Board of Review Commissioner, Ward Committeeperson, and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to National Nominating Convention. To find out more about these races, you can contact the Cook County Clerk's Office, [2024 Elections | Cook County Clerk \(cookcountyclerk.il.gov\)](https://www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov).

So don't forget - Primary elections are your opportunity to elect the representative you want and deserve. Take that extra half hour between now and March 19 to learn more about the candidates who are looking to serve. And if you are feeling apathetic, remember that there are people who cannot vote in elections – children, the currently incarcerated, and people who are looking to become citizens. They need your voice, neighbor. You are fortunate to have the privilege and right to vote. Make it your duty.

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Two Wonderful Ways to Celebrate Earth Day in Bowmanville

1. Art Contest

Once again, we're looking for Bowmanville kids and teens, or students from Amundsen High School, Chappell 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 our newsletter!*

To qualify, the image submitted for the contest must:

- Be an **earth- or nature-themed original creation** by a neighborhood student
- Include the words: **Bowmanville Earth Day Cleanup 2024**
- Be submitted as a **digital image: .jpg or .png** – but the original artwork can be executed in any medium
- Be the size of a **horizontal, letter-sized page** – 11" wide x 8.5" tall (send a high-res image)
- Be submitted to: <http://bit.ly/BCOearthday24>
- Be sent **no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 22, 2024**

Judging 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. If you have any questions about the contest, email president@bcochicago.org

2. Neighborhood Cleanup

To celebrate and support Earth Day 2024, the BCO will host our annual **Bowmanville Earth Day Cleanup** on **Saturday, April 27, 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, located near 5384 N Bowmanville

And look for the BCO member at the picnic table. You'll receive trash bags and gloves and pick an area to clean. We'll keep track so we don't duplicate areas. The gardening committee will also have garden clean-up and/or planting opportunities so keep an eye out for the email blasts. Come by yourself or bring your whole family! Recruit some neighbors! We'll keep you going with coffee, cider, and donuts!

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



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COMMUNITY INTEREST

The Environmental Gifts of Local Parks

By Russ Klettke

Spring is just around the corner, as is Earth Day on April 22. So it's a great time to take stock of Bowmanville's fortunate location, right in the middle of several great green spaces.



Those places – Winnemac Park, Rosehill Cemetery, the West Ridge Nature Park at Peterson and Western, and the recently restored River Park just west of us – provide an important environmental service by offering nature-based solutions to some of the downsides of city living. These include poor air quality, noise, absence of biophilia*, and frequent stormwater flooding caused by an overbuilt environment.

What They Give Us

Here are some of the environmental benefits of these green places.

Stormwater absorption. Consider rainstorms, including the multi-inch downfalls we increasingly experience in this time of climate change. Rain that falls on hard surfaces (streets, parking lots, and buildings) tends to funnel to the combined sewage and stormwater system, overburdening it. An extreme example of this was in September 2022, when water burst from sewer junctions, like the one at Argyle and Wolcott, blowing off 140-pound manhole covers and shooting water 20 feet into the air.

For the unfortunate folks living in lower areas, excess rainwater can flood basements. It would be worse without parkland, where the water naturally percolates into the soil and goes to the underground aquifer. The accompanying table shows how much stormwater has been absorbed by the park in some recent heavy rains.

Air pollution mitigation. Other benefits of our parks include how trees and other vegetation improve air quality. Trees add shade on hot days, but also expel heat through the process of

Winnemac Park Rain Capture Benefits

Size: 22.38 acres

1-inch rainfall/acre = 27,154 gallons

Rain capture/1-inch fall: 607,706 gallons†

July 2, 2023 rainfall: 3.35 inches, or 2,236,973 gallons†

September 11-12, 2022 rainfall: up to 5 inches = 3,038,530 gallons†

† Note: Some areas of the park have stormwater drainage, therefore actual stormwater capture is less than these amounts. The renovation of the north ballfield in 2024 (nearest Chappell Elementary) will incorporate artificial turf and stormwater drainage, enabling more game days but adding stormwater to the municipal system.

evapotranspiration ("breathing" out moisture into the air, functioning quite like how our bodies sweat off heat). Tree leaves also absorb gaseous molecules, including ground ozone, and remove airborne particulates that we would otherwise breathe into our lungs. This is particularly problematic for people with asthma and other chronic lung conditions.

Extreme heat reduction. Concrete, asphalt, bricks, and dark roofing material capture and hold heat from the sun into the night. But where we have vegetation and shade, these materials receive less sunlight and stay significantly cooler. A simple walk through any parkland or shady street on a summer evening confirms this.

Carbon sequestration. Trees and plants capture carbon – our parks perform this vital function just as do boreal and tropical rain forests. This soft greenery also captures noise.

Habitat and biodiversity. In the three acres of natural areas of Winnemac, as well as the entire 21 acres of the West Ridge Nature Park, the diversity of plants and their flowers provide food and living spaces for a broad variety of birds, butterflies, and bees (the primary food source in spring and summer for many bird species are insects). The frequent coyote sightings in these areas are a sign of a healthy ecosystem as they also go there for food, keeping rodent, squirrel, and rabbit populations in check.

Environmental education. With so many schools in the vicinity – public, parochial, and private – these green spaces and gardens are learning places, in addition to providing recreation and socialization.

Social and environmental equity. There are no barriers to using our public parks. Anyone can go there for sports, relaxation, exercise, dog walks, and meeting others. During the pandemic our parks were essential places for safer social interaction.

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The Environmental Gifts of Local Parks

Continued from page 7

Higher real estate value. Parks have a positive effect on real estate values, primarily because they create “walkability” in neighborhoods. Beyond higher per-square-foot valuations, parks are an additional draw to prospective buyers and renters.

How We Can Honor Them

As neighbors, it’s on us to take good care of these outdoor amenities. That includes not littering, preventing dogs from running off-leash in the nature areas, and teaching young people to treat public property with respect.

On a broader level, the recently revitalized Winnemac Park Advisory Council (WPAC) holds public monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of most months, usually in room 118 at Amundsen High School. One current goal is to make the Jorndt Field bathrooms accessible to park users. Other activities of the Council include park cleanup days and advising the city on capital improvements. For more information and meeting dates, see www.winnemacpark.org.

WPAC voted to adopt a strong no-fireworks in Winnemac Park position, and a committee is currently working to create a Fourth of July celebration event involving activities friendly to all. To join this committee, contact 4thforall@gmail.com.

Final note: The Chicago Park District is hiring workers! Visit <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/jobs> for info on jobs that are available now.



*Biophilia: the scientific hypothesis that humans possess an innate biological and genetic connection to nature and non-human species. Restoring those connections in urban environments is believed to have positive health effects.



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COMMUNITY INTEREST

In Bowmanville, Every Walk Is a Wonderful Adventure

By Kathleen Mullen, with BCO Staff

In walking my dog or simply strolling around our neighborhood, I have been delighted by the diversity and richness of our streetscapes. Damen Avenue features a variety of shops and businesses that make it the “main street” of Bowmanville. Just north of Foster Avenue there’s the Yes Thai restaurant, El Maestro the tailor, the new Pistachio Yoga studio, Morpho Gallery Art & Records, JW Landscapes, and Utopian Art Glass. Further north there’s the Liquid Hair Lounge, Farmers Insurance agency, BYO dog wash, Speedline Auto Services, SKIN Interior Design, and Oleander Tattoo Gallery. Still further up is the Family Picnic childbirth and infant care center, Urban Pooch Training and Fitness Center, Scooterworks dealership, Super Car Wash, and Norwood Hand Car Wash and Detail.

How’s that for variety! And that’s not mentioning bars like K’s Dugout, Big George, and Claddagh Ring, the Half Acre and Spiteful breweries, the Balmoral Nursing Home, Tempel Steel, and the shops and businesses along Foster Avenue. It amazes me how much is going on in our “quiet” community!

A Visual Adventure

I’m also amazed to discover surprising and visually interesting things you wouldn’t ever think existed in Bowmanville. For example, there’s a red wagon with iron spoke wheels in front of the Super Car Wash at Damen and Rascher. When I see it, I ask myself, where did it come from and what’s it doing there? What’s it for — what’s the story? If any of you know, I’d like to find out.



Then there’s a cement mosaic fence, shown below, on Bell Avenue near Bowmanville that surprised me. It’s very unusual and visually interesting. I wonder who built it and when. How many of you have seen it, and do any of you know its story? It would be great to find out more about it.

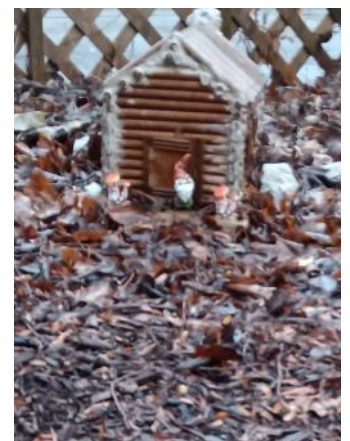
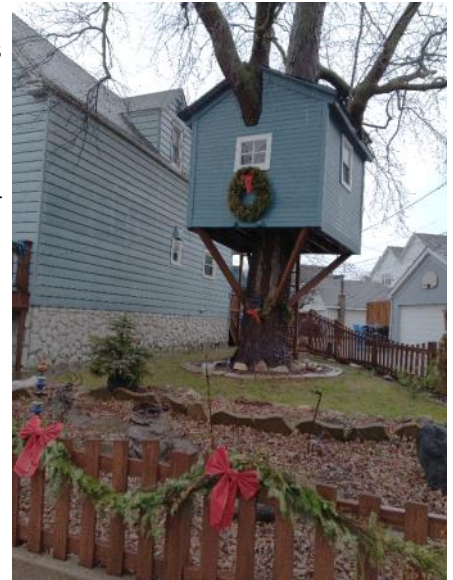
Another surprising discovery on Bell Avenue was a large tree house in a very big tree. It looks quite deluxe, and was tastefully decorated for the holidays. If I weren’t afraid of falling, I’d love to climb up into it and see what the inside is like. I can imagine



some children have spent many happy hours playing in it. Makes me wish I were a kid again.

In walking around, I also came across some smaller surprises, like these fairy gardens on Leavitt. I found them absolutely magical. I began to fantasize that they were real fairy homes and gardens where real fairies lived and played. Wouldn’t it be something if that were true! In any case, I’m grateful to the people who built them. In winter, with snow on the ground, you probably won’t be able to see them. But they’re there, waiting for spring like the rest of us to reappear and brighten our landscape. They’re another thing that makes walking around Bowmanville such a wonderful adventure.

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In Bowmanville, Every Walk Is a Wonderful Adventure

Continued from page 9

There are many other things, too, that make our neighborhood so visually delightful: the Little Libraries people put in front of their houses to share books, signs sharing good thoughts, the Bowmanville Gardens and Green Space, the old farmhouse that Joe Charles lovingly renovated, and our many lovely trees and gardens.

Winter brings its own charm, transforming the landscape with new shapes, icicles, snowmen, and a fluffy whiteness that accents the dark tree trunks and bare branches and makes the evergreens look Christmassy. Still more visual adventure.

So if you haven't walked around the neighborhood recently, you owe yourself a stroll. You may find even more surprising and wonderful things than I did. I'd love to hear about them. Send your stories and photos of surprising things you've found in

Bowmanville to news@bcochicago.org so I and other neighbors can read about them and look for them on our walks.



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COMMUNITY INTEREST

A Very Important Neighbor

By Seth Captain, BCO Board Member

How many times have you walked along Balmoral just east of Damen or ventured north into the hinterlands on Wolcott and, in looking at the odd collection of nonresidential buildings and gated parking lots, wondered, "What's going on here?"

"Here" is a 20-acre parcel, neatly bounded by Bryn Mawr, Wolcott, Balmoral, and Damen, on which lies Tempel Steel. And you might be surprised to know that there is no affiliation with either synagogues or a Shriners Temple.

On a recent afternoon, Gabe Cobb and Gustavo Olano, Tempel's Director of Global Supply and Director of Global Marketing respectively, spent time discussing the company with me, finally unlocking the mystery. "Well, guys, tell me what is going on here?"

Apparently, nothing cultish, or conspiratorial. Simply the essence of what made America great the first time. Good old manufacturing. Our neighborhood hosts a true Chicago icon. And in true Midwest fashion, it's not a household name — damn you Dick Wolf* for franchising our big-shouldered modesty! Without Tempel's primary product, motors and transformers wouldn't operate, which means fans wouldn't cool, electric vehicles wouldn't move, and oil rigs wouldn't dig. Evidently an important product. But what exactly is it?

A Many Layered Thing

Tempel's primary product is high-precision electrical steel laminations. OK, I thought, but what are you doing laminating electrical steel? And it was soon obvious who among us had the electrical engineering degree. With that degree comes with a world of knowledge not easily digested by us simpletons. Trust me. So how do we cogs learn? Analogies!

I was instructed to think about making Christmas cookies. Particularly the cutting out of those sprinkled treats. Tempel runs a sheet of electrical steel through a press that stamps out shapes, called "laminations." These laminations are then stacked to-



*Producer of the Law & Order tv series.



gether to form components for electrical equipment, such as the core of electric motors or for transformers — not those ridiculous toys that refuse to easily change back to their original shape before your kid starts crying. These transformers change the frequency coming out of your electrical outlet into a frequency the device needs. Laminations are also used to make generators.

Laminated parts are the CRITICAL components of a motor, the things that make it work. Some of the laminations are no thicker than a piece of Reynolds Wrap. And the motors they go into can be as small as an inch, like in a desk fan, or bigger than three feet, which might be part of a fleet of motors at a hydroelectric dam. Even rocket motors have used Tempel Steel products.

Quite a History

What might be more remarkable than Tempel's products is its history. As World War II came to a close in 1945, a man named Tempel Smith foreshadowed the Google-Apple-Amazon garage-acracy by renting a garage near Bryn Mawr, between Wolcott and Damen, across from Lulu Fellowes, Montgomery Ward, and the other inhabitants of Rosehill Cemetery. The working-class neighborhood to the south was decades away from gaining its "Bowmanville" realtor branding, and a freight train still serviced the thriving industrial corridor around Tempel's new shop.

Tempel had a stamping machine that he would run steel through to create various designs that were sold through catalogs. The designs were laminations for motors that anybody could use. Eventually, Tempel found a niche in customizing these designs for the numerous manufacturers of electrical products throughout Chicago, and the Midwest. Every lamination is unique. And the motor had an electromagnetic cousin,

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A Very Important Neighbor

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the transformer, which could be found, well, everywhere something needed to power. With growing demand for Tempel's custom electrical steel laminations, came a need for space, and so they bought out one building and then another, and eventually filled in the entire parcel we pass by today, which covers the equivalent of 8 full city blocks.

Many of these buildings existed before Tempel Smith ever stepped foot in his shack, which also had a life prior to Tempel, and which, as this photo shows, still stands today. Employees still refer to the various buildings by their original uses, such as the large "bakery building" on the north end of campus that used to house a Chicago institution, Heinemann's Bakery. You can still see the original garage when walking on the least pedestrian friendly section of the campus, just inside the guard gate off Bryn Mawr Avenue. And fair warning, the security team will approach you if you linger long enough. But perhaps shave, cut your hair, take off the black hoodie and don't snap a dozen photographs.

From Bryn Mawr to China

If you meet enough Bowmanville neighbors, you will eventually come across a few that retired from Tempel, having been fortunate enough to purchase a property down the street from the office, back when our home prices were aligned with factory pay. But what about today? With so many products moving production overseas, the once 24-hour plant no longer runs three shifts, which has likely put a dent in K's 7 am Old Style crowd.

Tempel still has about 250 people working there and roughly 1,800 worldwide. Apparently, a lot of products are still made to serve the market in the Midwest and this has allowed Tempel to continue production here. Instead of closing down like so many other domestic manufacturers, Tempel has built or acquired steel plants near other manufacturing hubs in India, China, Mexico, Canada, and Germany. There are even products made at the Tempel Steel plant in China, that are exported back to America



to be sold in your favorite local Superstore. Globalization actualized! You can learn more about the company on their website, www.tempel.com.

Gabe recently compiled a list of employee numbers and start dates. All employees get a number based on when they started work. Tempel Smith was employee number 1. His wife, employee number 2. Employees with a number higher than yours have been there longer.

COMMUNITY INTEREST

A Very Important Neighbor

Continued from page 12

Half of the current staff have been there longer than 30 years! Several employees are working together with their son/father/nephew/uncle. Tempel Smith stressed the importance of loyalty, and caring for your employees. This has remained consistent for nearly 80 years, even as the family-run company was sold in 2021 to a larger American steel company, Worthington Steel, based in Ohio — which happens to be public, so go buy some stock! And if you need a new career, Tempel has had a number of retirements, so there could be an opening for you.

Yes, and No

Many neighbors may still be wondering about a couple of things at this point. Wasn't Tempel Steel for sale? And weren't the Bears going to build their new stadium here? It was. And no. The logistics of our neighborhood aren't great for shipping or employee recruitment, a feature that initiated the sale. But moving your North American headquarters is no easy undertaking. Tempel is unique in that both its corporate offices and American manufacturing are based right here in Bowmanville. So there is currently no opportunity for Amazon, or The Villages, or even the Halas family to purchase a chunk of our neighborhood.

There is probably one final question — how can we see what is going on inside? Tours are not offered due to liability. Really? What possible liability can there be? Apparently 20-ton steel coils moving along overhead cranes and furnaces blasting at

1400 degrees present a small issue. And thanks to some sneaky local kids many years ago, the property had to be fenced. Thanks children!

The only remaining way to see what goes on there is to take a walk on the east side of Damen, a blockish north of Balmoral. The mercury should be above 90 degrees, so that you'll find a large overhead door raised for additional ventilation. Peek inside, and you'll witness the raw beauty of American manufacturing, happening right here in your very own Bowmanville.



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Thank you to the neighbors of Bowmanville for your contributions to our community!

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Ask Aunt Bee

Dear Aunt Bee,

Every time it snows, there are a good number of property owners in Bowmanville who never clear their sidewalks, even when the snow is several inches deep. This not only makes walking difficult, especially for elderly people like me, but also creates conditions that can lead to slips and injurious falls. Even if the surface snow is removed, often nothing is done about the packed-down snow and ice that remains — some salt or sand would be nice! — sometimes for weeks on end. This seems to be especially a problem with absentee landlords, who don't care enough about their tenants and the rest of us to get a snow removal service or at least salt the sidewalk in front of their place. I thought the city required all sidewalks to be cleared within a day of a snowfall of more than an inch. But that never seems to be enforced. What can be done about these abominable snow-removal shirks?

Slipping and Sliding to the Store

Dear S and SttS,

Oh, my! It sounds like you've been doing your best to navigate those treacherous sidewalks! While we had a chilly and snowy snap, it seems we've been enjoying a milder period lately. But let's not get too comfortable — Chicago weather can be fickle!

First of all, let me tell you that you're not alone in your frustrations. Chicago winters can turn even the most graceful among us into giraffes on roller skates! Second, you're absolutely right: Chicago has some strict rules about snow removal. According to the city ordinance, property owners are indeed required to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall that's greater than an inch.

However, as you've noticed, enforcement can sometimes be elusive. So, let's tackle this issue step by step, just like clearing a snowy sidewalk. Here are some ways to keep our neighborhood a safe one for walkers even when the north wind brings cold, snow, and ice.

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BOWMANVILLE ADVICE

Ask Aunt Bee

Continued from page 14

1. Give Neighborly Nudges. It might be worth baking a batch of your famous cookies and sharing them with your neighbors while gently mentioning the snow removal issue. A friendly chat can go a long way, and sometimes, folks need a gentle reminder to be good neighbors.

2. Help Elderly or Disabled Neighbors. Let's not forget about those who have difficulty getting out to shovel the snow or salt the sidewalks. Extend a helping hand if you can, or even organize a block-wide effort to assist those who might struggle with snow removal. Sometimes, a little collective kindness can clear snow and melt icy sidewalks faster than you might think.

3. Report Violators. The City of Chicago takes sidewalk snow removal seriously. There's a 311 system in place, where you can report properties that haven't cleared their sidewalks. Just dial 311 or use the system's website to make a complaint. Be sure to provide accurate and detailed information, including the address of the offending property.

4. Contact Our Alderman. He can help put pressure on negligent property owners. He may also be able to provide additional resources for those who are simply not able to remove the snow from their sidewalks.

5. Exercise Your Tenant Rights. If you suspect that absentee landlords are part of the problem, familiarize yourself with Chicago's tenant rights. Tenants have the right to live in safe and habitable conditions. If your landlord is not meeting these standards, you can contact the Chicago Department of Buildings for assistance.

Remember, even if I can't make the snow melt away at my command, Aunt Bee is always here to offer advice. Be patient, be persistent, and together, we can all make Chicago's sidewalks safer, one shovel at a time.

Stay warm — and on your feet!
Aunt Bee

If you have questions, comments or concerns about neighbor relations, city life, public services, BCO activities, or other topics relating to Bowmanville, please submit them to news@bcochicago.org. Aunt Bee would love to hear from you!

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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** president+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** president+arts@bcochicago.org to get involved or with new ideas.

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