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President's Message

Thanks to all who came out to help with our Bowmanville Earth Day Clean-up! The event was a great success and Mother Nature certainly helped with some ideal weather. Details of the event, pictures and the winner of our Earth Day Art Contest will be in the next issue of the Bee.

The application deadline for our two \$500 scholarships for Bowmanville and Amundsen seniors has recently closed. The committee is busy reviewing the high volume of amazing applications. We will have details of the winners in the next Bee.

As the weather gets warmer, we start to focus on the main BCO summer events, starting with the **BCO Street Sale on Saturday, June 1**. Registration is now open for sellers who want to be included in the sale. More details are on page 5 and on the BCO website.

Then, on **Saturday, July 13**, we'll celebrate the **24th Annual Bowmanville Garden Walk**. We hope that more of you than ever will open up your green spaces for this year's walk. It's a great opportunity to show off your green thumb, meet with neighbors and visitors, and showcase our neighborhood. Garden Walk registration is coming soon. If you'd like to help with the event, please email BCO+GardenWalk@bcochicago.org

Finally, mark your calendar for the **BCO Summer Social on Saturday, August 24**. We will again have bands, food, fun for kids and more! Questions on the summer social or want to help volunteer? Email BCO+Social@bcochicago.org



Another reminder that our emails are changing, so please start using the emails below and keep an eye out for other new emails. A couple of the big changes are the following:

Events:

BCO+events@bcochicago.org

Ads:

BCO+ads@bcochicago.org

Public Arts

BCO+arts@bcochicago.org

Planning

BCO+planning@bcochicago.org

New Emails:

Garden Walk

BCO+GardenWalk@bcochicago.org

Summer Social

BCO+Social@bcochicago.org

Happy Spring! Alysia

BCO 2024 Events

Street Sale
Saturday, June 1, 2024

Bowmanville Garden Walk
Saturday, July 13, 2024

Summer Social
Saturday, August 24, 2024

Fall Open Meeting
October (exact date TBD)

Not Just Another Yoga Studio

By Nikki Innis and Francisco Garay

At **The Collective Yoga Co-op**, we envision a more diverse and accessible yoga studio, built by the community for the community. Therefore, our worker-owned yoga cooperative features teachers from BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities and offers sliding-scale pricing for drop-in classes, as well as free community yoga.

A worker's cooperative is a democratic solution to business in which the worker-owners (teachers) act as a team, or Collective Board, and decisions about the direction of the business are made by vote. In the spirit of community and democracy, we want our members to have voting power as well. So, when it comes to things like scheduling, special workshops, or how we build and grow the studio, you, as a member, would have a hand in the decision-making process.

More importantly, you are not funding outside interests, you are helping local families achieve their dreams.

Things to know about The Collective Yoga Co-op:

- We are the first officially established yoga worker's cooperative in Illinois!



- Our brick-and-mortar studio at **1830 W. Foster Avenue in Bowmanville** just got a beautiful mural installed, so we invite you to come by and check it out in person!
- We will offer summer classes at Winnemac Park. Check the schedule on our website, thecollectiveyoga-coop.com for details.

Supporting Community Yoga across Chicago

With the goal of welcoming communities who are often left out of the yoga conversation, we aim to be mindful of the spaces we step into, so as not to gentrify, traumatize, or colonize. Our recurring membership revenue operates much like mutual aid and allows us to offer no-cost Community Yoga classes on a regular basis and increase yoga accessibility in multiple Chicago neighborhoods. Currently, our free community yoga offering include:



- Sundays at 3:00 pm at The Collective Yoga Co-op (serving Andersonville and Bowmanville)
- Fridays at 11:00 am at Centro Romero (Edgewater)
- First Saturdays at 10:00 am at the Daley Public Library (Garfield Park)

Follow us on all social media platforms, @thecollectiveyogacoop, and reach out via email, info@thecollectiveyogacoop.com.

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BOARD NEWS

Introducing Ron Galant

Hi! I live on the 2200 block of Farragut with my wife Rachel, sons Ezra and Gideon, and crazy dog Daisy. We moved to the neighborhood eight years ago. We love living in Bowmanville. There's a very real sense of community here, full of people who care about the neighborhood. I joined the BCO board in 2018 to get more involved in BCO operations.

I enjoy the outdoors, especially biking and hiking. My kids' idea of a fun vacation is visiting a new National Park and hiking. Our most recent spring break vacation was to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where even the rain didn't stop us from enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery. My kids still talk about our epic day-long hike in Haleakala National Park that included 2600 feet of elevation gain, almost all of which was on the way back!



My personal outdoor claim to fame is a six-week, 2400-mile-long bike-packing trip I took with a couple of buddies after graduating from college. I biked from the San Francisco Bay Area through Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alberta, Montana, and Wyoming. It was an incredible way to see the country and a very memorable experience.

I hope to bring some of that same energy to my work on the BCO Board. If you see me in the neighborhood sometime, say hi and let me know how we can make Bowmanville an even better place to live.



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In Memoriam

Mary Elizabeth "Zea" Buttitta
May 4, 1992 - February 27, 2024
Daughter of Peter and Nancy Buttitta
2158 W. Berwyn Avenue

A few years back, whenever you passed by the northeast corner of Berwyn with Leavitt, you were likely to find there a young woman working the parkway garden. Any time of day – planting bulbs, pulling weeds, digging up whole bushes in order to move them over, "just so." That was our Mary Elizabeth, we called her Zea. Her inner and outward beauty was reflected in the garden. And not just ours. She took a seasonal job at Gethsemane Gardens and learned about local landscaping - annuals, perennials, soil composition. Soon she was consulting with our neighbors, everything from helpful tips to full blown "removals and installations!" Zea loved to see a space transformed.

Besides her penchant for plants, Zea also liked to nurture children. She was an avid babysitter, grabbing gigs all around Bowmanville and beyond. She loved to read to kids and invent games, while keeping her young charges compliant with the essentials: dinner, bath, teeth, bedtime. Many are the tales of parents coming home to find "the place looking better than when we left it!"

Zea liked to work and pay her own way. From *George's Ice Cream* to *Target*, with a stint as "bouncer" for *Replay*, she was a reliable employee who still made time to engage neighbors in conversation when they'd stop by while she was working. Though naturally reserved, comfortable in



solitude, she was likewise curious, probing folks much older than herself about their work, their hobbies, the world they inhabited.

When Zea went off to college at Loyola University Chicago, her interest in foliage was converted into a "fancy for farming" and care for the environment. She landed a coveted internship with the student demonstration farm on campus, called Winthrop Garden, which supplied both a weekly farmer's market and student-run restaurant with fresh produce.

After graduation, she was accepted to the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was involved in the student environmental law group, founded a food law student group, was a member of the vegan and vegetarian society, and enjoyed exploring the wooded trails around campus.

Eventually, Zea made her home in Los Angeles. Though grateful for her friends and neighbors here, she longed for a warmer climate. Once in LA, she joined the real estate team of Winston & Strawn, LLC, as an associate lawyer. Her love for the environment remained strong as she persuaded her corporate coworkers to adopt the practice of composting at the office.

Zea modeled her life on the notion of *tikkun olam*, a Jewish concept which refers to actions intended to repair and improve the world. We pray that Zea's legacy will be that of a seed, sprouting from fertile soil into the good and abundant fruit of a peaceful and just world. A most heartfelt thank you to all who knew and befriended Mary Elizabeth along her way.

We love you, Zea! Go in peace.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Time to get ready for our Street Sale!

BCO's annual **Bowmanville Street Sale** will take place on **Saturday, June 1**. We had a record number of sellers last year, and we're looking forward to another big day this time around. As you do your spring cleaning, set aside a few things to sell, and join the fun on June 1! There will be options to sign up as a single home or an entire building again this year. All residents living in the BCO boundaries — Foster to Bowmanville, and Ravenswood to Western Ave. — are invited to participate as sellers (with registration).

Please visit the Street Sale page at bcochicago.org/events/bowmanville-street-sale to register for the Street Sale. **Registration Deadline is May 22**. If you have questions, please email bco+events@bcochicago.org.

- \$10 fee for BCO members
- \$15 for non-BCO members
- FREE for BCO "With Honey" members.
- \$30 pays for multi-unit buildings—all units in your building can participate under the one fee.

Note, new this year: once you register via the website, we will email you an invoice. We are not taking street sale payments via the website anymore.

Mark your calendar for **June 1** and plan to take part in this very Bowmanville summer event!



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Winnemac Fourth for All — A Fun New Free Event

By Russ Klettke

The Fourth of July in Winnemac Park will be quite different this year. Under the auspices of the Winnemac Park Advisory Council and with support of Alderman Andre Vasquez and his staff, "Winnemac Fourth for All" (WFFA) will provide a free event that revives many of the traditions associated with the summertime celebration of our country's birthday.

WFFA will start in the late afternoon with a disc golf tournament, as well as a free yoga class and activities geared to younger children, followed by a post-sunset experience known as [Full Moon Jam](#). (This group is spectacular! Check out their exciting shows at [fullmoonjam.org](#)). The event is being organized to adhere to Illinois and Chicago Park District laws that prohibit the use of fireworks on park property.

Food trucks will be onsite to provide an easy meal for all attendees (picnicking is ok, too). Also — a Fourth of July first in Winnemac — public restrooms will be provided, including a wheelchair-accessible unit. All entertainment is free to the public. Production of the event is funded by private donations.

Here's How You Can Get Involved

Plan to attend. Full Moon Jam is a group of acrobatic fire spinners who perform to the rhythms of drums every month in the summer at Montrose Harbor (under a full moon, naturally). It's a sensory feast of sights and sounds that allows audiences to enjoy a relaxed summer night with friends, families, and community. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

Get excited about disc golf. This fast-growing sport is accessible to all ages, and minimal athletic experience is required to play it. Details are still being worked out, but play will likely be on the three south-end ballfields (along Argyle Avenue) in the park, from approximately 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information now, go to [Winne-macPAC.org/fourthforall](#). Also, check the local social media pages for more information closer to July 4.

Contribute. Full cost of this event is \$13,000, of which \$7,000 has already been collected. Businesses and individuals can contribute, with larger contributions being recognized in promotional materials. Watch in social media channels for links to where you can contribute.

Volunteer. Help is needed prior to and on the day of the event. This includes joining any of the subcommittees, such as kickball, kids' games, and flyer distribution, involved in planning and promoting the event. Contact WFFA via <https://winnemacpac.org/volunteer>.

Continued on Page 7



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Winnemac Fourth for All — A Fun New Free Event

Continued from Page 6

A Safer Way to Celebrate

Of course, this raises the question about the decades-long tradition of amateur fireworks for which Winnemac was famous citywide. As mentioned above, WFFA is being organized to comply with laws that prohibit the use of explosive pyrotechnics of all kinds. A little history of fireworks in the park:

- Indeed, amateur fireworks occurred for decades (laws prohibiting them notwithstanding), long before the park was significantly redesigned and upgraded around the year 2000. Whereas Winnemac Park was once associated with neglect and criminal activity, it is today an exceptionally successful community amenity that is a large part of what makes Bowmanville, Lincoln Square and Ravenswood communities so popular. Those park upgrades cost millions of dollars.
- The five baseball fields in the park are built and maintained with private (Cubs Charities) and public funds. The amateur fireworks launched from the infields every July 4 and 5 caused damage (for example, home plates were used as launch pads) and strewed the fields with pyrotechnic garbage. This summer, at a cost

exceeding \$2 million, a significant upgrade to the field nearest the north end of the park will be underway for most of the summer, so that the field is ready for play in 2025.

- The upgrades a quarter century ago included the creation of 3.2 acres of nature areas that support dozens of species of birds, other wildlife, and native plants. Abrupt loud sounds and flashes of light are disorienting and often deadly to birds.

For more information on Winnemac Fourth for All event, visit <https://winnemacpac.org/fourthforall>.



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Get Ready for Cicadapocalypse!

By Liz Gershfeld

As the soil warms this May, Illinois is positioned to be a part of a rare natural spectacle. For the first time in over two centuries, the emergence of two broods of periodical cicadas — Brood XIII, the Northern Illinois Brood, and Brood XIX, the Great Southern Brood — is expected to overlap in the central part of our state. This phenomenon occurs only every 221 years.

Historical Magnitude: A City Transformed

Brood XIII, which will affect us here in Chicago, has a reputation for being the largest emergence of cicadas anywhere. And our city, lying within the core region for this brood, is likely to see billions of the bugs.

Chicago is no stranger to the immense scale of cicada emergences. Historical accounts from as far back as 1956 recount scenes where some areas witnessed up to 1.5 million cicada emergence holes per acre. The 1990 emergence produced numbers that had residents shoveling piles of dead cicadas from sidewalks and roads — a testament to the sheer biomass these insects represent.

A Look Back: Chicago in 1803


The last simultaneous emergence of these two cicada broods occurred in 1803, a time when Chicago was little more than a fledgling trading post on the edge of a vast



wilderness in a growing nation. In America at large, the Louisiana Purchase was underway, a pivotal moment that would double the size of the United States and set the stage for westward expansion.

An Auditory Experience Like No Other

The cicada emergence brings with it a soundscape that will be a part of the auditory experience of Chicagoans for four to six weeks. The mating calls of male cicadas, driven by the imperative to reproduce, will reach levels up to 90-100 decibels across the city, comparable to the sound of lawnmowers or jet engines. The din will be a daily reminder of the remarkable biological event unfolding across the cityscape.



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COMMUNITY INTEREST

Get Ready for Cicadapocalypse!

Continued from Page 8

Preparations and Precautions

In light of the expected density and noise levels, city residents are advised to take practical steps to mitigate the impact on their daily lives and the local environment:

- **Netting for Young Trees:** Given the historical damage to foliage, protective measures such as netting over young trees and shrubs can prevent the detrimental effects of cicada egg-laying.
- **Strategic Planting and Cleanup:** Residents may wish to delay the planting of new trees until after the emergence has subsided and should prepare for significant cleanup efforts as the adult cicadas begin to die off in late June.
- **Embracing the Experience:** Despite the potential for disruption, the emergence offers a unique opportunity to engage with a rare natural event. Insecticides are discouraged, as they are ineffective against the cicadas and can harm other aspects of the local ecosystem.

A Call for Appreciation Amidst the Inconvenience

Periodical cicadas spend the majority of their lives underground, only to emerge for a few fleeting weeks. Their

mass emergence is not just a wonder of nature; it's crucial for their survival, overwhelming predators with their sheer numbers and ensuring the continuation of their cycle.

This phenomenon also provides a unique opportunity for scientists and nature enthusiasts alike to study the impacts of environmental changes on these insects. Observing how the two broods interact, and how their numbers compare to previous emergences, offers invaluable insights into the health of our local ecosystem.

As Bowmanville waits for this extraordinary natural event, it's a prime opportunity for our community to engage with the environment. This cicada emergence invites us to marvel a bit at the surreal soundtrack of nature — especially if you're someone who might typically sprint away at the sight of a large insect. For those of us who may fear these harmless insects, it's a reminder that the world is full of wonders, even if some of those wonders have more legs than we might prefer.

So, as we navigate this cicada Fyre Festival, let's do so with a sense of humor and maybe a gentle reminder that they're just here to sing their heart out for love, not to crash our summer barbecues.

Sources:


<https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/tree-plant-care/plant-care-resources/2024-cicada-emergence/>

<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/21/1225925053/billions-of-cicadas-will-buzz-this-spring-as-two-broods-emerge-at-the-same-time>

<https://www.chicagoenvironmentalists.org/blog/how-to-prepare-for-the-billions-of-cicadas-coming-to-chicago-in-2024>

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/once-every-221-years-what-to-know-about-the-rare-2024-cicada-emergence/3336594/>

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A Different Way to View an Eclipse

By Alexander Furnas

In the early afternoon of April 8, friends and neighbors across Chicago gathered to view the partial solar eclipse. Groups with paper and plastic eclipse glasses looked up at the sky. Schoolchildren peered into their shoebox eclipse viewers.

But if you were walking through an alley on the 1900 block of West Farragut, you might have seen a more curious sight: a two-story, 14-foot eclipse viewing tower constructed from wardrobe boxes, propped against a garage, and carefully angled towards the sun. George Furnas, Ian Jip, and Sherman Griffin gathered in their alley to deploy this behemoth eclipse viewing apparatus.

The tower was based on the same principles as the shoebox viewer many of us made as children. But instead of one pinhole, there were four of them at the top of the tower that projected four images of the eclipse onto the surface at the far end of the instrument. Larger holes make for brighter projections, while smaller holes make clearer ones. The longer the distance between the pinhole and the projection surface, the larger the image of the eclipse; hence the need for an oversized tower. The 14-foot tower yielded projections about an inch and a half across.

Furnas and neighbors gathered in the alley starting around 1:00 pm, in preparation for the height of the eclipse shortly after 2:00 pm. To ensure the best projection of the eclipse, they needed to prop the tower against the garage, so it pointed directly at the sun as it traversed the sky. Because

of the tower's large size, it required special bracing against the winds that would accompany the sudden temperature drop brought on by the moon's shading of the sun.

The effort was worth it. The apparatus provided large, clear images of the eclipsing sun that could be

viewed without the need for the light-obscuring glasses that are often difficult for small children to wear. As the moon traveled across the face of the sun, a dozen or so neighbors joined in the unconventional viewing, a testament to the affable camaraderie of our little pocket of Chicago.

While folks around the city and across the country marveled at this celestial spectacle, few did it in quite the style of this little crew on Farragut Avenue.



I'd Like to Say Hello — What about You?

By Jay Rehak

Dear friends and neighbors,

Fourteen years ago — I can't believe it's been that long! — many of you and other Bowmanville neighbors waved hello to me in a "Hello" music video that's still running on YouTube. Looking at the video recently (I won't mention all of the folks I recognized), I noticed that Maggie Losek, as well as Tom and Brian Chester, looked a bit younger, while Craig Hanenburg, Mary Jude Ramirez, Fern Bogart, Mary Kay McDermott, Duane Sigelko, Tom Kennedy and Leavett Wofford haven't aged a bit. □

I realized that what's really aged is the video itself. Consequently, I've decided to make a new "Hello" video, and I'd love to include as many of you in it as possible.

So, I'm reaching out to each of you to ask that you send me a short video of yourself waving "Hello" into the camera. Don't worry about the sound, as I'll again use Susan Salidor's "Hello" song (full disclosure, I'm married to her) to accompany the videos I receive. If you're interested in taking part, I'd love to get a video clip of less than 5 seconds showing you or a loved one, or a group of loved

ones, waving "hello."

After I receive 20 or so videos, I'll put them together and share the result on YouTube. You'll be paid in fame and become a part of Bowmanville history, as the video will be eternally available worldwide.

If you're interested, please send me your videos at jaycrehak@gmail.com. I'll send you a link to the video when it's done. (You can see the video from 14 years ago here [Discover the Power of 'Hello' in this Children's Song \(www.youtube.com/watch?v=csQzN_G4RXw\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csQzN_G4RXw). You can also text me your video, but email me first so I can share my phone number with you.

Thanks in advance to all of my neighbors who are willing to share their familiar, happy faces!



Adding My Two Cents to the Little Free Libraries

By Lucy Karsen

I truly cannot walk past one of the little free libraries in our neighborhood without, at the very least, slowing down to read a title or two. My body is restrained by an invisible force and my eyes are drawn away from my forward trajectory, creating a tiny gaper's block consisting of me and either a stroller or a couple of dogs. While this involuntary urge to pause takes over, I simultaneously think of the precarious stacks of books peppered throughout my home that I have not, alas, actually read.

When I do stop to rummage through the library, I might pull out a couple novels to read the blurb on the back. I consider giving science fiction another shot. I take pity on the books buried in the back and nestle them into a more visible spot.

Usually, reason prevails, and I resist the urge to "check out" something new. This likely won't be the year I make time for nonfiction. I'm not going to read about the one thing all happy people do and then simply start doing it. But what if I did?!

Despite the internal ping-ponging that these little libraries trigger, they are, on the whole, a cherished part of my neighborhood walks. The same little 15-minute loops get painted with the endless possibilities that lie within all these books I may never even open.

I wonder if the baby food recipes are getting passed down from a parent whose child is happily painting their plate with a beautiful rainbow of foods or a child who cries in anguish when their sandwich is presented with crust attached?

I wonder how many spy thrillers this neighbor has read in their whole life and where they would put this one on their list of favorites? Or least favorites?

I wonder which book someone else is wondering about. Do they wish they could call up the narrator and grab a drink with them at Half Acre? Do they think their alley neighbor might actually be a part of the secret society central to the story. Are they hungry to unpack the ambiguous ending with a fellow reader?

This is the kind of treasure I'm really in search of in my rifling — the books that are potent with curiosity. The ones that, within a stone's throw of this tiny library, the charac-

ters and ideas are still taking up residence in the minds of our neighbors. Will we ever have a chat about it? Probably not! But the little world of Bowmanville that we live in and all the worlds we bring to life in our imaginations will overlap that much more as we keep our stories in circulation.

When I sift through my piles of books and take a trip to the little library on my block with the ones I'm ready to part with, there's always one in the stack that I have higher hopes for than the rest. The one that deserves more than a life of sitting in a pile! The one where all the haters in the Amazon reviews are so wrong and someone else must think so too!

I wish these books a little extra luck when I drop them off. When I check the mail, I glance over at the library and wonder if they are still there. If a dog walker ambles by, I might muster a little telepathic energy aimed at willing them to take one. It never works.

So I've decided to take a more tangible approach to encouraging borrowing. In each book I put into the library that I want to recommend, I'll add a note with a few words of praise. I'll also stash a stack of blank cards in the library for you to recommend a book that's stuck in your head, but doesn't need to be stuck in your home.

The title reviewed here will be available in the little library at the corner of Balmoral and Bowmanville. And I'll be on the lookout for your treasures, no longer buried, proudly waving their "Bowmanville Recommends" flag of approval.

Bowmanville Recommends

Death in Her Hands, by Ottessa Moshfegh

This book is somehow both a fun, easy-breezy read and a twisted, dark, gross-out shock. If Agatha Christie had a deranged great grandchild with a confusing sense of humor, this is the murder mystery they would write. The actual author is the contemporary queen of the "Female Creep" protagonist and does not disappoint with this novel.

If you enjoy people watching on the bus, forgetting if you dreamed something or if it really happened, or living your best life out of spite, you'll love this book!

For the dog lovers among us, there's a real gem of a pup in this book, too!

~Lucy



Surfin' Bowmanville U.S.A.

By Seth Captain

Bowmanville and surfing. You don't associate the two? Well, maybe you don't discuss it, sort of like believing in fairies or Dianetics, but you think it, right? And if you don't think about surfing, you clearly must know that we are a neighborhood with an active industrial zone, otherwise you didn't read last quarter's issue!

Bowmanville hosts one of Chicago's largest breweries, an international electrical steel laminator, and finally, something to which no other neighborhood can stake claim – the city's ONLY surfboard manufacturer.

Finding the right place for industrial production is not always easy. Lucky for us, the "big" brewery and "little" brewery in our neighborhood have found great facilities here, with signage and public hours that allow patrons to sample their products. But where does one put a surfboard factory?

In the basement of one those large 100-year-old brick apartment buildings you've passed (or even live in) countless times. We won't tell you which one so you can experience life as a Pokemon hunter, peering into ground level windows to hopefully spot the Pickachu surfboard's brief but spellbinding appearance.

Why Bowmanville?

As much as you might associate our diverse neighborhood with surfing, it does make one wonder why here and not the lakefront. Surfing seems so vibrant and natural, and despite our enormous neighborhood pride, our local environment is surrounded with scores of dead people and those mysterious steel laminations.

Our esteemed hamlet was chosen for the same reason many of you chose it — cost. Did you really want to live here, not in Andersonville or Lincoln Square proper? That's okay. Selective amnesia is a common side effect of the real estate process. And with enough time, a bond forms, eventually creating "home" and conveniently dismissing that unfortunate reality of our existence — cost.

Who is this surfboard maverick operating landlocked beneath your apartments? Scott Turner of Flux Custom Surfboards. Scott isn't your typical Southern California dude married to a college grad who didn't want to return to her family's one stoplight town in central Iowa. He's a fellow Midwesterner who foreshadowed the Great Work Resignation by several years. In 2014, after working as a mechanical engineer in Whiting, Indiana, (surf capital of Chicagoland), Scott decided it was time to quit the office and vacate America.

Not a Born Surfer

Scott never even stepped on a surfboard until he abandoned our shores. And it was not love at first sight. He hated it. But he loved to travel, so he began to explore the world before the funds got low, and China seemed a fitting place to stop where he remained for a few years, teaching English, and eventually finding work as a freelance copywriter. From Asia, he moved on to Europe, where he eventually settled in Belgium. It was during a sojourn from the Flemish that he fell in love with surfing during a three-week surf adventure in Morocco at the not so young, not so old age of thirty-one.

Scott began to build his travels around surfing destinations, religiously following weather forecasts and taking off for one surf destination or the other when reports of large swells were like sightings of free ice cream cones for an eight-year-old. (See: Summer Social August 24, on page 1.) Eventually he came back to America. San Diego was his base, and in that surfing capital of the lower 48, he discovered surfboard building. It seemed only natural that a man taken by surfing and equipped with an engineering background would find meaning in crafting the sole thing responsible for transporting one across those endless windblown ripples of joy.

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

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COMMUNITY INTEREST

Surfin' Bowmanville U.S.A.

Continued from Page 12



But surfboard building in Chicago? Still doesn't seem to make any sense. But there is surfing here, and Scott says the surf culture of Lake Michigan is unlike any he's seen around the world, full of the most dedicated, passionate surfers he's ever met. Surfers here know they are part of a tiny subculture, braving frost bite and general discomfort for the brief opportunity to be one of the few who get to experience surfing a Lake Michigan wave.

How You Make a Surfboard

Let's build one. Scott starts with a piece of pre-molded polyurethane foam ranging from five to twelve feet. The "longboards" are generally easier for surfing, especially in the lake, where a board with more surface area has more buoyancy to harness greater energy from the lake because the waves have less power than the ocean. Once the board is set up in the shop, he'll use a power planer to start shaping the foam.

At this point, a design might be added to the board before a fiberglass cloth is draped over the board like a



bedsheet. The fourth step involves adding color to the resin and pouring it over the top. The final stage is applying the "candy coat" and giving it a smooth sanding. Voila! Enjoy your board.

Cost. Our species cannot proceed without an understanding of cost. \$10,000? \$3,000? What would you pay for this level of craftsmanship? Scott says he's creating a 'symbiotic relationship between the board and your experience on the water'. He sees himself like a chef, working on a vision, creating something people can enjoy, hoping they will join him in the process. And all this can be yours for prices ranging from \$650-\$950, ready to surf in less than 2 weeks.

Bowmanville prides itself on many things, including the quirky: The Lulu Fellows Halloween parade, the discarded minibus on Damen harboring a colony of cats, and five bars without a church in sight. Now, you can proudly tell your friends that we are also home to Chicago's only custom surfboard maker.



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BOWMANVILLE ADVICE

Ask Aunt Bee

Dear neighbors, we have received letters to Dear Aunt Bee asking about BCO's First Friday Happy Hours. Great news: we are going to bring back our happy hours, but not on Friday. Please look for an email and social media blast about that soon.

Dear Aunt Bee,

I have just moved to Bowmanville to be near family. While they will always be my favorite thing here in Bowmanville, I'm starting to sense there is lots of other great stuff here too. What are your recommendations for the best spots in the neighborhood or ways to meet other older neighbors?

New and Old

Dear N and O,

Welcome to the neighborhood, and I'm so glad you wrote! There are so many ways to meet neighbors of all ages.

Now that spring is here and summer is on the way, the BCO's Community Garden program offers a nice opportunity to meet neighbors through their Garden Workdays. All volunteers are welcome! Go to BCOChicago.org/events-calendar for details. There's nothing like getting your hands dirty together to make

new friends.

Also, all the social events the BCO puts on are custom-made to meet new and friendly people. We are always looking for volunteers for these events, too. Again, check the website for more about them.

Another place to meet people in the neighborhood is Spiteful Brewing at 2024 W. Balmoral, which offers gaming nights and trivia nights. Check out their calendar online. Near Bowmanville in the North Center Neighborhood, there's an excellent storytelling community that hosts free events the first three Thursdays of the month upstairs at Mrs. Murphy and Sons Irish Bistro, 3905 N. Lincoln. The first Thursday is an open mic event open to all. The performers are truly of all ages and make you love your fellow humans! I hope this gives you a few places to start!

Meet our New Advice Giver, Uncle Bo!

He's that guy who has lived in the neighborhood longer than you. He has opinions, that's for sure, and he may add his two cents to Aunt Bee's advice. Some may call him a curmudgeon, some a nihilist, but at the end of the day he's a good guy who doesn't take it all too seriously — and you shouldn't take what he says too seriously, either!



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BOWMANVILLE ADVICE

Ask Aunt Bee

Continued from Page 14

Dear Aunt Bee and Uncle Bo,

I recently adopted a dog, never had a dog before, and not sure where I can let my dog go to the bathroom. I see little plastic dogs with “no pooping” signs, and little garden fences, and it just seems like there is nowhere for my dog to go. I really don't want to walk her to Winnemac Park every time she needs to go to the bathroom. And then I might have to deal with all those off-leash dogs.

Oh no! Please help.**Dear ONPH,**

Congratulations on the adoption of your dog! What a way to add richness to your life and theirs! I remember when we adopted our dog, and someone had to explain to me where they can and can't do their business. Officially in the city of Chicago pets must be kept on leashes and are not allowed to do their business on private property or sidewalks. But they are allowed to go on the parkways, the strip of land between the sidewalk and the street. The pet's human is required to always pick up after nature calls.

That said, if a neighbor has taken the time to landscape their parkway, social norms would call for a little judgment and thoughtfulness. If there is landscaping that has a fence or boundary, it is neighborly to find another spot. Sometimes people plant flowers or plants but don't create a barrier; that can be difficult to avoid if your canine companion is determined to sniff. The little signs people place are suggestions, but if they are on the parkway are not enforceable. I find that there are enough places for a dog to go that I can respect the social (but not legal) boundaries created on the parkways, and all the beauty our neighbors have added is really lovely! You will find your way.

Uncle Bo Says: This is an easy one. Your doggie can go wherever the heck she wants! Okay, okay, maybe not *everywhere*. *But you know that house, and that other house, and all the houses that leave their sprinklers on and spraying water across the sidewalk, so you have to walk out into the street to not get wet? That means your pooch can poop anywhere they want on their grass. How about those folks that never shovel? Don't forget how you bruised your knee that one year. Same holds for them — their yard is one big open bathroom!* □

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

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