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### President's Message

Welcome to 2025!

I appreciate that we finally have sunsets after 5 p.m. which means the days are slowing getting longer again. See Seth's article on the winter lights keeping the darkness at bay on page 12 and 13. Similarly, we have lots of fun events planned for 2025 to look forward to during the remaining cold winter. See the box to the right with details for the year. Dates and events are subject to change so please keep an eye out on our email blasts, social media, and future Bee issues for updates. Our first event is the spring open meeting at Half Acre. As usual, we hope to have our local representatives available to speak to the community and answer questions, along with time to socialize and meet members of the community.

This year we are especially excited about the 25th anniversary of our Garden Walk. We are brainstorming ways to make this year special so if you have any ideas or want to volunteer, please reach out to:

[events+gardenwalk@bcochicago.org](mailto:events+gardenwalk@bcochicago.org)

I hope to see you at a BCO event soon.

Alysia

### BCO 2025 Event Dates

Spring Open Meeting at Half Acre	Wed., 3/19
Earth Day Clean-up	Sat., 4/26
Street Sale	Sat., 6/07
25th Annual Garden Walk	Sat., 7/12
Summer Social	Sat., 8/23
Fall Open Meeting at Spiteful	Thurs., 10/16
Winter Social	Sat., December TBD

### BCO Deadlines

2025 Garden Plot Award Notifications	Sat., 3/01
Earth Day Poster Contest Deadline (see page 4 for details)	Sat., 3/15
Spring Bee Ad and Article Deadline	Mon., 4/21
High School Senior Scholarship Application Deadline (look for details in future email blasts and social media)	Fri., 4/25
25th Annual Garden Walk Registration & Photo Contest Deadline	Fri., 6/27

## The BCO Community Open Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

@ 7pm (doors open 6:30)

Half Acre Beer Co. — 2050 W Balmoral

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

## Bowmanville’s Third Spaces: Building Connection in a Changing World

By Liz Gershfeld

In today’s increasingly digital world, many people are experiencing a longing for face-to-face connection. One antidote to this is the concept of *third spaces* — those informal social settings outside of home (first space) and work (second space) that allow people to gather, relax, and develop a sense of community. Whether it’s a cozy neighborhood cafe, a community garden, or a bustling pub, third spaces serve as essential hubs where relationships grow, and a sense of belonging takes root.

The term “third space,” coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg, refers to environments that offer an escape from the pressures of daily life, providing a welcoming, equalizing atmosphere for everyone. Unlike work or home, these spaces encourage social interaction without any particular agenda, giving people the freedom to simply be present. For those struggling with loneliness or a sense of disconnection, third spaces can be a lifeline, helping to ease isolation and create organic opportunities for connection.

### The Power of Regular Presence in Third Spaces

One key aspect of third spaces is the idea of *showing up regularly*. Consistent visits to these spaces help build a sense of familiarity and comfort over time. Whether it’s a favorite coffee shop or a local pub, the more often you show up, the more likely you are to develop meaningful connections. As Ray Oldenburg emphasized, third spaces thrive on regular, casual encounters. It’s through repeated interactions that strangers become familiar faces, and familiar faces can become friends. By visiting regularly, you give yourself the opportunity to build relationships that deepen over time and establish a stronger sense of belonging.

### The Power of Third Spaces in Bowmanville

In Bowmanville, third spaces play a crucial role in maintaining the vibrancy and spirit of the community. From community gardens and green spaces to local cafes and pubs, these places become gathering points where residents can come together in meaningful ways. The **Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO)** helps create and sustain these spaces by hosting social events, open meetings, and happy hours throughout the year. The BCO also provides **volunteering opportunities** through its gardening initiatives and events.

Additionally, the **40th Ward Alderman’s Office** offers a separate set of **volunteering opportunities** that allow residents to engage with the broader community through various service projects, helping further strengthen the neighborhood’s connections.

### Community Gardens: Cultivating Connections

Take, for instance, the **Gateway Garden** and the **Bowmanville Community Garden** — both spaces offer more than just a place to grow food. They are places

where relationships are cultivated alongside the plants. These gardens provide a shared mission: working side by side in a peaceful, green environment where conversations flow naturally. Whether it’s volunteering to help maintain the space or spending an afternoon tending your own plot, the community gardens are a place where neighbors can meet, collaborate, and find a sense of belonging.

### Green Spaces: Breathing Room for Connection

Similarly, Bowmanville’s **open green spaces** serve as vital third spaces where residents can enjoy a peaceful retreat in nature while fostering spontaneous social encounters. As fall sets in and the colors change, these spaces become especially inviting, offering residents the perfect backdrop to enjoy the outdoors while meeting neighbors, sharing a walk, or simply watching the world go by.

### Cafes and Coffee Shops: Gathering Over a Cup of Coffee

The neighborhood’s **cafes and coffee shops** are prime examples of third spaces where people can connect

*Continued on page 3*

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

## COMMUNITY INTEREST

## Bowmanville's Third Spaces: Building Connection in a Changing World

*Continued from page 2*

over a cup of coffee or tea. **Café Mas** provides a laid-back, cozy setting where residents can chat with friends or work while enjoying a quiet, social atmosphere. **Side Practice Coffee**, known for blending creativity and caffeine, is a hub for freelancers, artists, and neighbors alike — a place where the exchange of ideas is just as important as the coffee.

**Breweries and Bars: Raising a Glass Together**

If you're looking for a more relaxed third space, Bowmanville's **breweries and bars** offer the perfect environment for casual socializing. **Spiteful Brewing** and **Half Acre Beer** are community-minded spaces where craft beer enthusiasts can gather, unwind, and engage with one another. Longtime neighborhood institutions like **Claddagh Ring Pub**, **K's Dugout**, and **Big Joe's** offer familiar and welcoming environments where neighbors can share a drink, catch up on local news, and partake in beloved traditions like Big Joe's infamous turtle races.

**Little Free Libraries: A Quiet, Shared Space**

Even something as simple as a **Little Free Library** can act as a third space. These miniature book exchanges, scattered throughout Bowmanville, allow residents to engage in a quiet but meaningful form of interaction — taking and replacing books. While this exchange is often solitary, it creates a shared, ongoing dialogue

through the books passed from one neighbor to another. It's a subtle, community-driven way to stay connected and contribute to the collective life of the neighborhood.

**Volunteering: Third Spaces in Action**

Beyond these established gathering spots, Bowmanville residents can also find connection through **volunteering**. The **BCO** offers volunteer opportunities in its gardening initiatives and social events, creating more chances for residents to bond over shared goals. Additionally, the **40th Ward Alderman's Office** provides various ways for locals to give back to the community through environmental cleanups, the **Shovel Squad**, and other service projects. More information on how to get involved can be found on the [40th Ward's website](#).

Whether you're seeking a casual chat over coffee, a lively night out with neighbors, or a quiet spot to relax in nature, Bowmanville offers a rich variety of third spaces to explore. These are the places where community thrives, where connections form, and where loneliness can be replaced by a sense of belonging. If you've been feeling disconnected, visiting one of these third spaces regularly might just be the first step toward finding your place in our neighborhood. And if you're already connected to our community, these places can help you make even more friends!

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# One Earth, Two Bowmanville Earth Day Activities

## Activity 1. Make art to inspire neighbors, help the earth and (maybe) win money!

Are you a Bowmanville kid or teen, or a student at Amundsen High School, Chappell Elementary School, or Rogers Park Montessori School? Or do you know someone who is?

**Well, we're once again looking for neighborhood student 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 quarterly 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 Clean-up 2025**
- 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/BCOearthday25>**
- Be sent **no later than 11:59 pm on Saturday, March 15**

**Entries will be evaluated based on:**

- Originality, creativity, and artistry of design
- Clear and engaging text and imagery around the topic that's appropriate for use in social media posts and/or printed flyers
- Artwork must be entirely original — it cannot include any copyrighted images or materials

Entries will be anonymized and voted on by the BCO Board. Winners will be notified via email. If you have any questions about the contest, email [bco+arts@bcochicago.org](mailto:bco+arts@bcochicago.org)

## Activity 2. Pitch in to get the neighborhood into tip-top shape for the Spring!

To celebrate and support Earth Day 2025, the BCO will host our annual **Bowmanville Earth Day Cleanup** on **Saturday, April 26, from 9:00 am to 12 noon.**

Once the snow clears, the long-hidden detritus of the winter months begins to emerge. Last year, even car parts were found along a parkway! Let's see what turns up this year!

To participate, stop by any time between 9 am and noon at either the **BCO Gateway Garden** pergola near Ravenswood and Summerdale or 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 an area to clean. 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 EVENTS

# 2025 CAPS Meetings for our Neighborhood



Patrick McNeil, the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) facilitator for Beat 2012 of the 20<sup>th</sup> District, which includes Bowmanville, invites us to attend the

CAPS meetings scheduled for our beat in 2025. The meetings, which start at 7:00 pm, will take place in the St. Gregory Gym, 1609 W Gregory St, on the second Wednesday of each month. The 2025 dates are: February 2, April 9, June 11, August 13, October 8, and December 10.

At the meetings, the facilitator will review crime data for the beat for the preceding two months, compare that with data for previous periods, and note any trends. Any high-profile cases will be discussed in detail.

Attendees will also have a chance to raise questions about particular cases or voice general concerns about crime in the commu-



Follow us on X @ChicagoCAPS20

PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911	Non-Emergency	311
20 <sup>th</sup> District Desk	(312) 742-8714	Domestic Violence Hotline	(877) 863-6338
20 <sup>th</sup> Community Policing	(312) 742-8770	Gang Hotline	(312) 746-4264
20 <sup>th</sup> District Fax	(312) 742-8805	Graffiti Removal (FREE)	(312) 744-1234
Building Violations	311	Landlord-Tenant Training	(312) 742-0172
CAPS Information	(312) 745-5900	Narcotics Hotline	(312) 939-5555

ALDERMAN

39 <sup>th</sup> Ward-Nugent	773-736-5594	47 <sup>th</sup> Ward-Martin	773-868-4747
40 <sup>th</sup> Ward-Vasquez	773-654-1867	48 <sup>th</sup> Ward-Manza-Hoppenworth	773-784-5277
46 <sup>th</sup> Ward-Clay	773-878-4646	50 <sup>th</sup> Ward-Silverstein	773-262-1050

SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Court Advocacy (as scheduled)	Domestic Violence (as scheduled)
Senior Advisory (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed at 10:00am)	DAC (1 <sup>st</sup> Mon of Even Months at 6:00pm)

Email us at: [CAPS.020District@chicagopolice.org](mailto:CAPS.020District@chicagopolice.org)  
Get info at CLEARpath: [www.chicagopolice.org](http://www.chicagopolice.org)

nity. At some meetings, the assigned beat patrol officers will attend to introduce themselves to the community.

So, if you want to learn about crime in our neighborhood and talk with the police about any concerns you have, mark your calendars and plan to attend. The following information from CAPS provides helpful police department contact numbers for various purposes.

Chicago Police Department  
**2025 Beat Meetings**  
20<sup>th</sup> District - Lincoln  
Commander Beth Giltmier

CAPS 020District@CHICAGOPOLICE.ORG - All Beat Meetings start at 7:00pm								
10 Sector			20 Sector			30 Sector		
BEAT	LOCATION	DATES	BEAT	LOCATION	DATES	BEAT	LOCATION	DATES
11	20 <sup>th</sup> District 5400 N. Lincoln Ave 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday - Even Months	02/03 04/07 06/02 08/04 10/06 12/01	22 & 23	Kenmore Plaza 5225 N. Kenmore Ave 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday - Odd Months	01/09 03/13 05/08 07/10 09/11 11/13	31	Swedish Covenant Hospital-Anderson Pavilion 2751 W. Winona St. Last Tuesday - Odd Months	01/28 03/25 05/27 07/29 09/30 11/25
	Facilitator: Greg & Trecey Neumarke	Facilitator: Carolyn Edger		Facilitator: Joanne Moy				
12	St. Gregory Gym 1609 W. Gregory St 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday - Even Months	02/12 04/09 06/11 08/13 10/08 12/10	24	Margate Field House 4921 N. Marine Drive 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday - Even Months	02/20 04/17 06/19 08/21 10/16 12/18	32	Ravenswood Evangelical Church 4900 N. Damen Ave Last Wed - Odd Months	01/29 03/26 05/28 07/30 09/24 11/26
	Facilitator: Open	Facilitator: Ed Kuske		Facilitator: Erika Nygaard				
13	Philadelphia Church 5437 N. Clark St. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday - Even Months	02/19 04/16 06/18 08/20 10/15 12/17				33	Bezazian Library 1226 W. Ainslie St 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday - Even Months	02/05 04/02 06/04 08/06 10/01 12/03
	Facilitator: Karen Wolf	Facilitator: Mark Kaplan						



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**BOARD UPDATES**

## Remington Clark



Hi! I'm Remington Clark (on right in photo), and I live on the 2000 block of Berwyn with my partner, Rich. I've been an orchestra teacher at Highland Park High School for 14 years, and when I'm not teaching, you may find me swimming laps at the LSAC pool, getting a Bleacher Bum beer from Spiteful Brewery, or playing

hours upon hours of badminton. I speak Mandarin Chinese and Spanish and love traveling the world. Recent memorable trips include Kyrgyzstan and the Faroe Islands, and Rich and I are looking forward to our summer trip to Namibia and South Africa (recommendations welcome!).

As a BCO Board Member, I'm interested in continuing and enhancing the opportunities for the Bowmanville community to socialize. I consider myself a "schmooser" in the best possible sense and would love to drum up some new ways for the community to meet and interact. Rich and I love the neighborhood-y feeling of Bowmanville and can't wait to meet more community members. Rich is from a small town in Mississippi with a population of 900 and recalls great times of togetherness and a strong sense of community. We were so lucky to have found these same qualities in a city of three million when we stumbled upon our current place in Bowmanville a year and a half ago.

Everyone on the BCO board has been wonderful to work with! I am excited to continue all the great work that this board has done and to find new ways to strengthen the bonds within the Bowmanville community. So if you run into me or Rich sometime, stop and say hi. We'd love to meet and chat with you!

## Tiffany Sanders Sostrin



My husband, Tim, and I moved to Bowmanville in November 2020 and have never had a moment of regret! We have two kids, Lani who attends Chappell and James who will be there soon. I'm an attorney and lobbyist, and I hope to use my skills to advocate for the residents of Bowmanville when you need me!

When I'm not working, I enjoy gardening, and one of my favorite restaurants is Il Milanese, which happens to be owned by a Bowmanville family! A little-known fact about me is that I was on the Oprah Winfrey show in the 80's.

I hope to meet more of you and chat with you about our neighborhood. I'd love to work together to make Bowmanville an even more wonderful place to live.

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## BOARD UPDATES

## Noelle Etheridge



A resident of the 2200 block of Farragut for nearly 22 years, Noelle returns to the BCO Board this year to round out a stellar group of new members. Noelle sat on the Board about 15 years ago when her two girls (now 23 and 20) were younger and more involved in the neighborhood, and her British husband, Rob, was coaching various semi-pro,

high school and youth teams. Fast forward: the girls are all grown up and Noelle has more time to commit to our community again.

Noelle arrived in Chicago more than 30 years ago by way of Washington, DC and came to Farragut with intentions to stay five years. With all the growth and change in the community, and the myriad friendships that have developed, Noelle and her family have come to love being here and have not come up with any reason to leave just yet despite her New England roots calling her back.

In fact, Noelle and others have often attributed the strong sense of community on 2100 and 2200 blocks of Farragut to their great block party, which Noelle kicked off 18 years ago. With the addition of many new homes, the blocks have improved not only aesthetically, but also — and more importantly — socially. Now neighbors have become so friendly that the 2200 folks don't have to travel off the block any more to find a great happy hour.

You will find Noelle chatting with neighbors to make the next connection, share a story, or give a hug to those who are celebrating a success or dealing with a recent loss. Best of all, Noelle has found a unique sense of community here where people support one another in countless ways. This makes life on Farragut wonderful and Bowmanville a special place to call home.

Noelle works as a local realtor with Dream Town Realty while also running her own staging and home design business, as well as an Airbnb. But she has many interests outside of work, too, including travel, tennis, horseback riding, walking, baking, visiting with friends, volunteering, and spending time at local beaches and the lake.

Noelle also likes going to local and not-so-local cafés and restaurants. Geraldine's in Lincoln Square is one of her favorites. The scones and cakes there are to die for, and she is happy to share the sweet treats with friends and Airbnb guests for special occasions. Noelle looks forward to exploring more of our neighborhood and bringing more value to those in the community every day.

## Jess Klein



Originally from Michigan, Jess (They/Them) moved to the 1900 block of Berwyn from Pittsburgh in July 2023 with their partner, Tori, and their sweet dog, Lottie. They joined the BCO board in December 2024 in hopes of learning more about their community and making some new friends.

By day, Jess works as a policy educator at Northwestern University, and by night you can find them hanging with their family, trying new restaurants, tinkering in their garage between Berwyn and Farragut, and playing open mics. Check out Jess Klein and the Good Time anywhere you stream your music!

Jess and Tori got engaged in April 2024, and you can catch them at a local brewery planning their 2026 wedding. Jess is looking forward to the spring when gardening season starts and "drink a beer outside at Half Acre" season begins. Don't be shy — Jess is always down for a good conversation!

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NEW NEIGHBOR PROFILE

## A Bit of France in Bowmanville

Hi! My name is Elisabeth, and I'm a new member of the community. I moved here last summer from Saint Rémy-Lès-Chevreuse, France, with my husband, Sylvain, and our three children, Clara, Marion and Andrea. We live on the lovely 1900 block of Summerdale Avenue.

We visited the United States before, but this is our first real time in Chicago. We very much enjoy the city and our neighborhood. Even though there are always lots of things to do and events going on here, Bowmanville is wonderfully quiet and close to beautiful Lake Michigan. In the summer, it was so nice to go to the beach there, and in the fall, we loved walking along the shoreline. Now we enjoy the snow, as well as the ice-skating rink in Warren Park.

Before our arrival, we didn't know much about this area, but now we are so happy to have chosen it! Sylvain is a math teacher at the Lycée Français of Chicago, nearby on Wilson Avenue, and my kids all go there. Clara is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Marion is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and Andrea is in Kindergarten. I'm taking English lessons to polish my language skills so that I can seek a position in HR and put my experience in that area to work here.

I would love to meet more of you and perhaps have cof-




fee or tea together sometime — I could even bring crêpes! So if you see us around the neighborhood, please stop and say hi — or *salut!* It would be pleasure to get to know you and learn more about Bowmanville and this interesting city.


**SWINGS FORE RPMS**  
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LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE

# Auto Sound Barrier, Inc.

Located at 5157 N. Western Avenue on the southwest border of Bowmanville, in what was previously a car wash, this small family business, established in 1993, specializes in automobile electronics services. These include installation and repair of car stereo systems, alarms, remote start systems, electronic keys, power door locks, radios, amplifiers, speakers, DVD players, navigation systems, XM radios, and auxiliary input connections. The shop also offers tinting of headlights and taillights, and does Uber and Lyft readiness inspections.



A neighbor visited this shop recently to get a new fob key for her car. It's a busy, friendly place, with customers coming and going, where you can stop in to ask questions and talk about your service needs. The owner, Atheer, operates the shop with his son, Senan, along with Anas and a team of skilled employees. She found them all professional and personable. Despite the bustle, her key was ready in less than an hour. While it was being made, she thumbed through some the magazines they have on a coffee table in the waiting room and glanced from time to time at the show on the TV. There's also a bench outside

where you can wait when the weather is better.

Auto Sound Barrier is open Monday thru Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm. You can find out more about them on their [Yelp page](#). If you or someone you know needs the services they provide, they can be reached at 773-275-5900 or 773-275-5901. It's good to have a business like this to serve our community.



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## Check It Out!

By Heather Jagman

What has 81 branches but isn't a tree — and yet has plenty of resources you can “leaf” through? That's right, the [Chicago Public Library](https://www.chipubliclib.org) (CPL)!

I may not be a professional comedian, but I am a professional librarian, and I want to make sure you know that there's something for you at the Library.

Winter is a perfect time to visit one of our nearby library locations and bring home some books. Or, if the weather outside is frightful, you can explore CPL's online resources at [chipubliclib.org](https://www.chipubliclib.org) or check out eBooks, audiobooks and magazines on the Libby app.

In case you haven't yet visited them, here are the CPL locations closest to Bowmanville:

- Budlong Woods, 5630 N. Lincoln Avenue
- Edgewater, 6000 N. Broadway
- Bezazian, 1226 W. Ainslie Street
- Sulzer Regional, 4455 N. Lincoln Avenue

Note that on the CPL website, you can request materials to be delivered and held at any CPL library. Does this mean that sometimes I leave my office at the DePaul University Library and walk over to CPL's Lincoln Park branch on my lunch hour to browse the new books, cookbooks, craft books and pick up my Holds? You know I'm cool like that!

Worried about having to race back to the library because you got excited and checked out more books that you could read in two weeks? No need to worry — as long as no one is waiting on the items you have, your books will automatically renew up to 15 times.

### Much More than Just Books

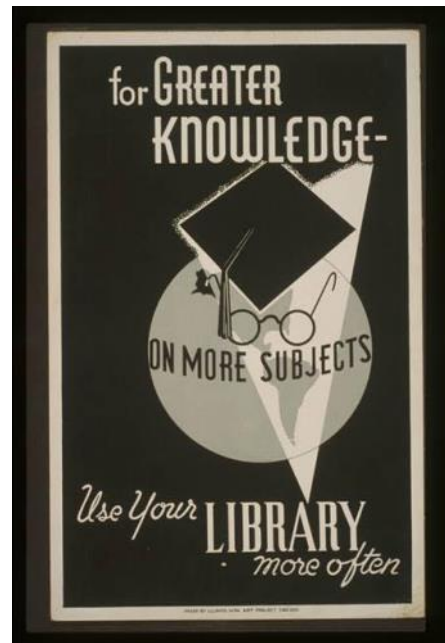
Of course, the CPL has more than just books and other physical media. In addition to computers, scanners, and free Wi-Fi, you can print up to ten pages a day for free. You can even send documents to be printed to any CPL location from your phone or home computer. Handy, right?

Most locations have study rooms and meeting rooms of various sizes that you can reserve in advance via the CPL website. The main library, Harold Washington, even has music practice rooms that include pianos.

Are you a gardener dreaming of spring? In addition to books on gardening, the Budlong, Edgewater, and Sulzer Regional Library locations also have seed libraries where you can discover and take home new seeds for the growing season. And, if you're an older adult (50+), you can register to receive a personal hydroponic garden kit through a CPL collaboration with Mather High School. (Kits were still available for home delivery at the time of this writing.)

If you're a Chicago teen who loves creating art, consider submitting your work to the CPL's Teen Winter Challenge art competition before the March 1, 2025, deadline.

According to the guidelines, every applicant will have one work included in the 10th annual Teen Winter Challenge digital catalog, which will be archived online. Winners and finalists will have their work included in a print catalog, which will be added to the YOUmedia Zine collection. Submissions are also eligible to win monetary prizes and an exhibition opportunity.



Visit the Budlong (<https://www.chipubliclib.org/locations/16/>) or other Library location web pages to learn more about these and other programs for all ages. I also like to browse the blogs at [chipubliclib.org](https://www.chipubliclib.org) for reading recommendations and events.

What are you going to check out next? Watch for future updates on library resources and events in upcoming issues of the Bowmanville Bee.

*Heather Jagman has been a Bowmanville neighbor since 2002. When she isn't in a library, you can often find her walking in the neighborhood with her spouse, Arek Dreyer, and their Bedlington Terrier, Mr. Harry Mochi.*

*Image credit: <https://www.loc.gov/item/98508155/>. For more “free-to-use and reuse” images, visit the Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov).*





COMMUNITY INTEREST

# BCO History At Your Fingertips\*

By Jeff Graves

The BCO has been around for well over three decades, and we have been publishing the *Bowmanville Bee* newsletter since 1991. As technology advanced, the Bee was digitized and archived on our website. So, every volume since the Spring of 2006 is now viewable to anyone with a computer.

There is a LOT of history here! For example:

- As you comb through the years, you will find many articles on the creation and evolution of all the BCO Gardens.
- You can see a picture of the house that once stood on the GreenSpace along Bowmanville Avenue, as well as a picture of it later being demolished. (Summer and Fall 2010)
- You can read about and see pictures of BCO volunteers making a difference in our community and learn about the many improvements they helped make, such as the “Pedestrian Tunnel Beautification” project. (Summer, Fall, and Winter 2011)
- There is a great recounting of what it was like in Bowmanville in 1941 during WWII as told by Francis and Magdalene Philipp, siblings born and raised here. (Holiday 2007 and Spring 2008)



## Oldest Online Bee

- You can see advertisements for businesses that have come and gone or that are still going strong. (Please patronize them and thank them for their ongoing BCO support!)
- You can find out what the infamous “Summerdale Police Scandal” was all about. (Summer 2007)

Plus, there is so much more! Our archive is a great resource for anyone curious about local history or for kids doing research for a history or English paper.

To get to the archive, log onto [BCOchicago.org](http://BCOchicago.org). In the banner along the top, find and click on “Bee” Newsletter. A beautiful “Bowmanville Bee Newsletter” banner image will appear. Then scroll down to the year in which you are interested and click on the image of the issue you want to read. A PDF file of it will open that you can read online or download and print out.

Here’s a typical view of the newsletters on our website, arranged by year:



\*As long as you’re connected to the internet



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COMMUNITY INTEREST

## Let There Be (Winter) Light!

By Seth Captain, BCO Board Member

December is an exciting time to walk our neighborhood. You might spot a galloping coyote close to Bowmanville Avenue, or a decapitated bunny on Summerdale. And of course, there is the pleasure of all those Christmas lights spanning everything from Clark Griswold extravaganzas to those small multi-colored strands gracing bedroom windows. Even the most Scroogish of characters can't resist the feeling of warmth these lights cast upon their admirers.

But what happens when January arrives? There is holiday hangover, and inevitably, the removal of lights. For some, festive lighting only pertains to the birth of Jesus or the reverie of mass consumption. But not everybody. We are in the depths of winter, and some Bowmanville residents have recognized the winter lights phenomenon. Sure, they may simply be too lazy or cold to take down their lights, but they are contributing to keeping the Elsa and Olaf spirit of winter alive.

What are *winter lights* one immediately asks Google? Luckily, you live in Bowmanville, where the venerable Bee eschews modernity to share truths and tales found

*Continued on Page 13*



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## COMMUNITY INTEREST

## Let There Be (Winter) Light!

**Continued from page 12**

only in our patented daffodil yellow print. Winter lights are a general term used to express — wait for it — lights in winter. And more specifically, an assortment of indoor and outdoor lights that bring a sense of warmth to a darker, colder time of year.

If one was to simply leave all their indoor and outdoor lights on all winter, would they be participating in the spirit of winter lights? NO. But they would get one of those lovely ComEd notes telling them how poorly they are faring against their energy efficient neighbors.

**Think “Cozy”**

The winter light spirit involves lights that give off warmth. Anything that would make one feel captive in an interrogation room will not be credited. “White” LEDs are out. Fluorescents too. Don’t even think about those halogen floodlights that wake your neighbor up every time a squirrel races down your gangway. Think incandescent Christmas lights, candles – via fire or battery, lowered dimmers, lamps, fireplaces.

Have you noticed how the newer Chicago streetlights aren’t as appealing, but you can’t quite figure out why, and that perhaps this feeling is stronger during these darker winter months? Blame LEDs. And well, everything else that caused Chicago to go bankrupt. Older streetlights used high pressure sodium, a rather unfortunate name in a nation of overworked salt addicts. Google can drown you in the arcane details of these HPS lights, but the *Bee* will simply share that they looked a heckuva lot better, especially in winter!!

It has recently become known to us Americans that these



lighting scenarios can create the Scandinavian sense of “hygge” (yes nerds, we know it is technically Danish) or the German “Gemütlichkeit.” These concepts tend to relate to interior spaces, particularly the coziness effect on a home or establishment. But winter lights are what individuals provide to the community. Everybody must get through winter. So rather than count down the days until the Groundhog bathes naked, the warm glow of lights can help one appreciate winter.

**Comfort and Joy**

Have you ever found yourself walking down a snowy sidewalk, the nighttime quiet suddenly apparent, and were taken by the sheer beauty of it all? Snow manifests nature’s raw beauty, partly as a radiator of these light waves. Adding window candles and warm outside lights amplifies this feeling. It replaces, temporarily anyway, an urge to book the next flight to the Caribbean, with an actual appreciation of winter.

Many of Bowmanville’s post-Wigwam pre-McMansion residents were Swedish and German immigrants who understood the transformative effects of winter lights. They didn’t have access or funds for dozens of 300 count strand holiday lights. But they knew that lighting a candle or three in their street facing windows could replicate that feeling they grew up with in northern Europe. It was a feeling of camaraderie and joy. And when mixed with a shot of aquavit, a mug of steaming glogg, a bowl of hot kartoffelsuppe and some fresh warm bread, well, winter became a time to cherish rather than flee.



## Ask Aunt Bee

Dear Aunt Bee,

Can you settle an argument my husband and I are having? We received a bird feeder as a gift, and I'm excited about seeing cardinals and other birds use it this winter. But my husband strongly believes that seeds falling from the feeder are going to invite rats or other pests into our yard. I think he's wrong, but would like your advice on this question — to feed, or not to feed?

I love the birds

Dear ILTB,

This is a common debate among bird enthusiasts and homeowners alike. Your husband's concerns about attracting pests like rats are valid, as bird feeders can sometimes lead to unintended visitors if not managed properly. However, with the right precautions, you can enjoy feeding your feathered friends without turning your yard into a rodent haven.

Here are some tips to keep pests away while feeding the birds:

1. **Choose a seed-catching feeder.** Some feeders come with seed-catching trays that prevent spillage. Less mess on the ground means less chance of attracting rodents.
2. **Do regular cleanup.** Make it a habit to clean the area beneath your feeder regularly. Fallen seeds are a primary attraction for rats and mice.
3. **Store seeds properly.** Always keep your birdseed in a secure, airtight container to prevent pests from accessing it.
4. **Use rodent-proof feeders.** Consider investing in feeders designed specifically to deter rodents. These feeders often have features like baffles or weight-sensitive perches that close off access when a heavier animal tries to feed.
5. **Avoid overfilling.** Only put out as much food as the birds can eat in a day. This minimizes leftovers that might attract other animals.
6. **Think about feeder placement.** Place your feeder away from structures, fences, or overhanging branches that could provide easy access for rodents.

*Continued on page 15*

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## BOWMANVILLE ADVICE

## Ask Aunt Bee

*Continued from page 14*

**7. Bring feeders in at night.** Rodents are most active after dark, so removing feeders at night can be a simple way to deter them.

By taking these steps, you should be able to enjoy the beauty of cardinals and other winter birds without worrying about an unintended rat population. With a little extra effort, your yard can be a haven for birds while staying pest-free — and you and your husband can enjoy lovely moments together watching them dance around on your feeder.

Wishing you peaceful birdwatching!

**Warmly, Aunt Bee**

**Dear Bird Feeders,**

You gotta be kiddin' me! You think those birds need your stinkin' seeds? They've been here a lot longer than us. And they probably will be here when we all disappear as well. STOP FEEDING THE BIRDS PEOPLE!!! I can promise you one thing, if not one more single person puts out a bird feeder, those birds are not gonna start dying on your lawn. But if I'm wrong... don't worry, 'cause the rats will eat 'em all!!!

**Uncle Bo**

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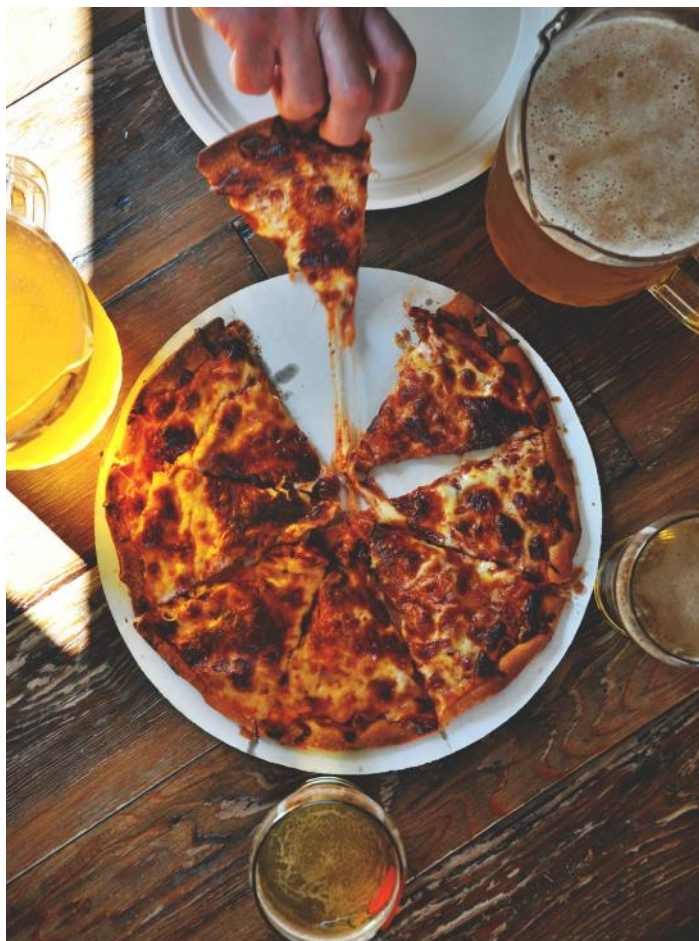
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## BOWMANVILLE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bco+arts@bcochicago.org) to get involved or with new ideas.

## BCO MEMBERSHIP— JOIN TODAY!

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