



The BANNOCKBURN *Back* 9

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May 2023

Meet Your Block Coordinator: Richard Boltuck, Cairn Terrace

By JoAnn Krecke

Richard Boltuck, a child of the Midwest, was born in Illinois and spent part of his childhood in Ohio where his mother taught psychology at Kent State University. When he was in third grade, his family moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota. His parents were psychologists and there were lively discussions at the dinner table about the events of the day. Richard loved chess and reading and was a good student who eventually became a National Merit Scholar. As a high school senior, he worked on the George McGovern presidential campaign and organized petitions opposing the war in Vietnam. When he attended Macalester College, a private liberal arts college in Saint Paul, he majored in math and economics.

At Macalester, Richard was active in student government. In his senior year, he was fortunate enough to be accepted as an intern with the Joint Economic Committee led by former Vice President, then senator, Hubert Humphrey. This was such an interesting and rewarding experience that he then went on to earn a graduate degree in economics from the University of Chicago.

Richard's interest in economics led to a job with the International Trade Commission from 1985-1991. In 1986, he married Misook Yu whom he had met in Korea three years earlier. Misook enrolled at the University of Maryland and received her Ph.D. in biochemistry. She currently works for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office where she is a supervisory patent examiner.

After his stint with the International Trade Commission, Richard worked for a year at OMB and then ventured out on his own to begin a career in consulting. His specialty was international trade disputes, researching underlying economic issues involved in these disputes.

After his retirement in 2008, Richard turned his attention to issues closer to home. He served on the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) Board for many years, including as Vice President of the BCA.

Much of his time was spent on advocating for a light at the intersection of River Road and Braeburn Parkway, an effort that received a great deal of media and community attention after the death of three members of one family in an automobile accident there. After years of effort, Richard, working with other community and school leaders, was successful in this initiative. He was also instrumental in sustaining support for a crosswalk protected by a crossing light for students walking to and from Whitman. As part of the same effort to promote River Road safety, he helped lead a successful community effort to lower the speed limit on River Road to 35 mph.

In 2016, Richard took on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) filing a case with the Maryland Public Service Commission challenging WSSC's volume-based rate structure which he contended discriminated against large families. He won his case and WSSC was compelled to revise its rate structure affecting roughly 1.8 million water users.

Richard recently moved back into the neighborhood after living near Westbard for a year while his house was completely renovated. He is settling back into life in Bannockburn and has resumed his eight-mile daily walks. But certainly if another challenging problem arises, Richard will be ready to tackle it!

Krecke, of Bannockburn Drive, is NAN's coordinator of block coordinators.



Photo by Beth Rogers

Boltuck is wearing a T-shirt that commemorates Robert Kennedy's 50-mile walk on the C&O Canal. For the past 20 years, Boltuck makes the same hike, leaving at 3 AM from Old Angler's and getting to Harper's Ferry by around 8 PM.

BCA Leadership 2021-2022

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Tanya Sisler, Ombudswoman
Ana Rasmussen, Environment
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The Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) has published our neighborhood's newsletter since 1953. *The Back9* is published monthly September through June and currently reaches almost 700 households. To make sure you receive a copy of this newsletter, visit <http://bannockburn-community.org/newsletter/>.

Interested in submitting an article or running an advertisement? Please email bannockburn-back9@gmail.com.

The opinions presented in *The Back9* are the authors' own. The BCA Board neither verifies nor endorses the contents of this community newsletter. While the editors make every effort to ensure published dates, times, and other information are correct and current, errors may occur; the editorial staff, authors, and the BCA Board are not liable for any damages that may result from readers' reliance on the information published in good faith herein.



Mark Your Calendar

May 4-6 and 10-13. "A Pre-Summer Night's Meme."
The 67th Bannockburn Spring Show returns for seven side-splitting performances. Tickets go on sale in mid April. Check your inboxes, the Bannockburn community email group, and the website (www.bannockburnspringshow.ticketleap.com/ss67) for information on how to buy tickets. Also see ad on p. 4.

Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.

Board Members 2022-2023

Juliette Searight, President
Ava Hillman, Vice President
Tom Holzman, Secretary/Treasurer
At Large: Patty Howie, Margie Gustafson, Ana Rasmussen, Nicolette Romano

BCI owns the Clubhouse and adjoining property as well as the two properties in the Valley. BCI has an agreement with BCC (Bannockburn Community Club) to manage the Clubhouse property. It also cooperates with BCC, BCA, and NAN.

BCI has shareholders. Residents become shareholders of BCI either by transfer from the previous owner of their house or by paying a one-time \$10 fee. Shareholders can participate in major decisions regarding BCI property. If you have received a notice of eligibility or would like to check your shareholder status, please contact Patty Howie, pbhowie@verizon.net.

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BCA Board Minutes, April 11th

By Anne Quinlan, BCA Board Secretary

The April meeting of the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) was called to order at 7:41 PM. In attendance were Mike Zangwill, Beth Rogers, Anne Quinlan, Tanya Sisler, Patti Howie, Beth Kellar, and Nancy Forden.

The annual meeting of Bannockburn's community organizations –BCA/BCC/BCI/NAN – is scheduled for June 1. All members are welcome to attend. Check the listserv and website for more information.

Tanya Sisler and Anne Quinlan indicated they may be stepping down from the Board which means the Board will need to fill at least two positions.

The Glen Echo Park Gala is on May 20th and the Board purchased a table for some of its members.

Dates of the Bannockburn Spring Show are May 4-6 and 10-13. Tickets will be on sale soon. Quinlan noted that there will be a NAN pizza night on May 10.

Vice President Elizabeth Kellar, who also serves on the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory

Board, noted that the Library system has a three-year Strategic Plan. One of those core services is to ensure that children are ready for kindergarten.

On March 21 Sarah Wolek of East Halbert Road was selected by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee to replace Arianna Kelly and serve as one of three delegates for Maryland State Assembly District 16. Wolek was very grateful for the community support, which included a letter drafted by the BCA.

There was discussion of the need for weeding and watering of the newly planted garden around the Bannockburn sign at the neighborhood entrance of MacArthur Boulevard and Bannockburn Drive. Several people on the board volunteered to do the weekly watering. The suggestion was made to have personnel of the contractor who did the plantings do the weeding approximately once per month if they are available.

The next meeting is the annual joint meeting on June 1. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!

MAY 20

11AM till 3PM

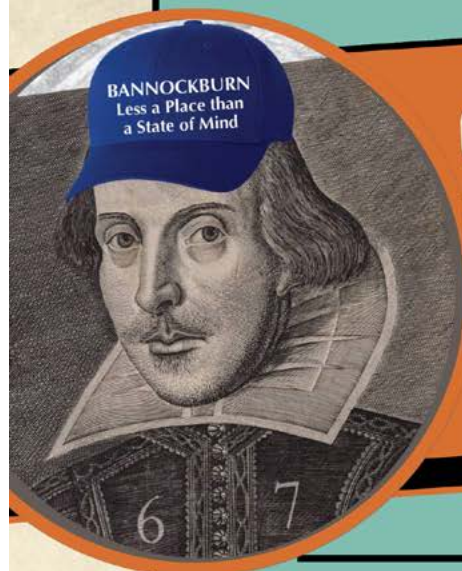
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@ ADVENTURE THEATRE

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TICKET INFO

TICKETS \$20-35
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New in the Neighborhood

By Patty Howie

Gabi McClarty-Roberts and **Lee Roberts** recently moved into 7012 Wilson Lane and hope to be renting it for the next couple of years. Gabi is a native Washingtonian but has lived in several places around the world; she recently retired from the NEA (National Educational Association). Lee grew up in South Africa; his family was forced to move to the UK in his early adulthood. He also has travelled the world, working as a teacher, a reporter, and World Bank employee before his retirement. Gabi and Lee met each other in 2004 and fondly remember Wolf Trap as the place where they connected. Having recently lost their ten-year-old dog, they are hoping to welcome a new one to their home soon. They are looking forward to getting to know the Bannockburn neighborhood and participating in its many events and activities.



Bannockburn Community Club (BCC)

The BCC is the 501(c)(3) organization that manages the clubhouse and grounds on behalf of the BCI. As a result of this designation, any donations to BCC are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

BCC promotes, supports, and sponsors educational and cultural activities at the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse, including a not-for-profit nursery school, a children's summer camp, theater (including the Spring Show), art, music, dance, forums, lectures, and discussion groups.

Membership:

Area residents, former area residents, and friends of Bannockburn.

Annual Dues:

Set by elected Board of Directors (currently \$250 for sponsors, \$50 for families and \$35 for single heads of households).

President: Susan Wexler

Vice President: Terri Payne

Treasurer: Greg Sherrard

Contact: contact-bcc@bannockburncommunity.org

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Bannockburn resident wins lottery! No, not the Powerball or Megamillions, but some regard this a big win. Keith Parsky won the purchase rights for a rare \$2,000 Double Eagle whiskey. Not very astute or wealthy, Parsky reached out to fellow Bannockburnians for advice. In conference are Andy Kline (on left, leaning on bar); behind Andy and moving right: Carl Gouldman, Jim Robinson, the rare whiskey (only 199 bottles made), Howard Isenstein, Keith Parsky (big smile), Eric Nichols, Eric London, and Roland White.

BSin' with Steven

Turn Off the Gas with Induction Cooking

By Steven Solomon

This column series is intended to provide information about the discipline known as Building Science (commonly shortened to "BS"), which is broadly the study of how to make buildings more energy efficient, comfortable, and healthy for occupants, as well as more durable. Many architects, builders, and suppliers to the industry are adopting practices that contribute to these practices. In each column, Solomon will focus on an individual element and the thought process behind it, as well as suggestions how to address the issue at hand.

Natural gas has been in the news lately, specifically regarding the use of gas stoves and ovens in residential homes. The EPA is studying rules (plus some local jurisdictions are implementing bans on new installations, including [Montgomery County](#)) to restrict the indoor pollution generated by these appliances.

The burning of natural gas emits pollutants – no matter how "clean" the appliance burns when it is on, there are products of that burning, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and PM2.5 particles (fine particles that embed in lungs, one of the metrics used to assess outdoor air pollution).

Additionally, studies are showing that even when off, these appliances leak a small amount of gas. As we have been greatly increasing the air sealing of houses (this itself is a large topic for another column), these pollutants stay in the air we breathe and circulate throughout the entire house.

If you have a gas stove or range, there are a few steps you can do to help improve the air quality. First, if your exhaust hood vents to the outside, run the exhaust *any* time you turn on the stove or gas oven, until you turn the gas off. If you do not know if your exhaust vents to the outside, consult a contractor to evaluate. Additionally, ensure the filters in the exhaust hood are clean (so the fan can do its job and pull the air). Most filters are metal and designed to be able to be cleaned in the dishwasher. (Search the model number and

manufacturer online if you do not have the use and care manual.)

If your exhaust recirculates the air (most over-the-range microwaves are set up this way), at least crack open a window when you run the fan and the gas. Consider consulting a contractor to evaluate how to vent the fan to the outside.

Many people still believe that gas is a better method for cooking than electric (although most people who really like to bake have historically preferred electric ovens to gas, because electric offers a more controlled, consistent heat). Another often-cited advantage to using gas is being able to cook when there is a power outage (which is a great excuse to have an outdoor grill with a side burner, as you keep all that heat and air pollutants outside). However, the adage about gas boiling water faster than electric is absolutely untrue when you look at electric induction cooktops. In addition, chefs rave about their ability to fine tune the heat and get ultra-low simmers, something almost impossible to achieve with gas. Cleanup is a breeze as spills don't get burnt on to the cooktop surface.

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Photo by Steven Solomon

Solomon's induction cooktop.

BSin' from page 6

Induction restricts you to using magnetic cookware, but it is far safer as the induction heats the pot/pan itself using a magnet field – not the cooktop surface. Some cooktops can even detect when a pot boils over and shut themselves off. The unparalleled safety of induction is a good feature to keep in mind if you live in a household with small children – or forgetful adults. With induction you could literally turn on the cooktop and put your hand on it and nothing would happen. It only heats up when something magnetic is placed on it. (The technology is similar to how many mobile phones now charge using a magnetic charging pad.) While the technology may seem space age, Europeans have been using induction for many years – you can buy a [single plug-in portable induction cooktop at IKEA for \\$70](#) (at the time of publication), for example, if you want to evaluate it.

Retrofitting electric appliances can be challenging as these appliances require a large amount of power – older homes might not have enough power coming into the house to support them or enough

capacity in the electric panel, requiring upgrades in addition to new wiring. For example, an IKEA 30" induction cooktop requires a 30-amp breaker, the same as a typical clothes dryer. However that does not mean induction uses more energy overall – breaker size is for peak, not continuous, capacity. Induction is very efficient, as approximately 90% of the electricity used goes to cooking the food, compared to approximately 65% of the energy used by standard electric or gas. Another thing, certain to be appreciated in our steamy summers, is that the heat emitted goes directly into the cookware, not the room. Operating an induction cooktop should not have a significant impact on your power bill.



Solomon, of Owen Place, became a building science enthusiast while planning an addition to his house, ultimately deciding to make a career change and enter the construction industry.



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I grew up in Bannockburn and consider it home, frequently visiting my parents, who still live on Brigadoon Drive. I've known this special community for decades and love promoting it for my clients.

I welcome the opportunity to work with you!



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