



The BANNOCKBURN *Back 9*

Published by the Bannockburn Civic Association since 1953

January 2024

My Top Ten Favorite Things about My Home and Neighborhood

By Tanya Sisler

- This house is filled with love and the light-filled kitchen has been at the heart of numerous gatherings, laughter, and communal feasts.
- The Bannockburn Clubhouse, just down the street, is the jewel of our community. It houses a nurse school, community events, and a lovely playground.
- The Bannockburn Swim Club is also nearby with a shortcut from East Halbert Road through the woods. The pool is a small, old-school neighborhood gathering place of outdoor dinners, raft nights, and swim meets; it is surrounded by mature trees and forest and is a great way to make new friends.
- This house sits on what's called "the hook" of East Halbert, a safe cul-de-sac that is the venue for kids' communal basketball games and street block parties including an annual Halloween potluck.
- Bannockburn has incredible gourmet food trucks and numerous free live music in the Bannockburn Swim Club's parking lot, open to all in the community.
- East Halbert Road is filled with children of all ages, mostly elementary and middle school with a few high schoolers. There is a shortcut to Bannockburn Elementary through a path from the top of the cul-de-sac. The bus stop to Pyle and Whitman is just down the street on the corner of East Halbert and Bannockburn Drive.
- East Halbert Road has a tight-knit group of friends where extra food and baked goods are often shared and requests for missing recipe items are delivered to your doorstep within minutes.



Tanya Sisler

- The Bannockburn Spring Show is a 67-years-running theatrical community tradition featuring musical parodies performed by neighbors ages 8-80+.
- Lawnapalooza is a moveable outdoor music festival held every summer in the front lawns of nearby neighbors.
- When the kids are old enough, riding their bikes down the street to the 7-Eleven for a Slurpee and candy is a rite of passage.

Sisler, formerly of East Halbert Road, is a World Bank employee whose job has taken her to Thailand.

BCA Leadership 2023-2024

Mike Zangwill, President
Elizabeth Kellar, Vice President
Steven Solomon, Treasurer
Patty Howie, Historian
Nancy Forden Ombudswoman
Randall Ingate, Secretary
Pamela Toole, Randall Ingate, Environment Co-Chairs
Beth Rogers, Newcomers' Greeter
At Large: Nancy Roche, Laura Chavez, Brian Moore,
Rachel Stender, Ross Hurt

Back9 Production Team

Beth Rogers – Writer/Editor
Mike Zangwill – Design/Layout

Back9 Contributors

Celia Noya
Tanya Sisler
John Stodola
Pamela Toole

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 contact-bca@bannockburncommunity.org

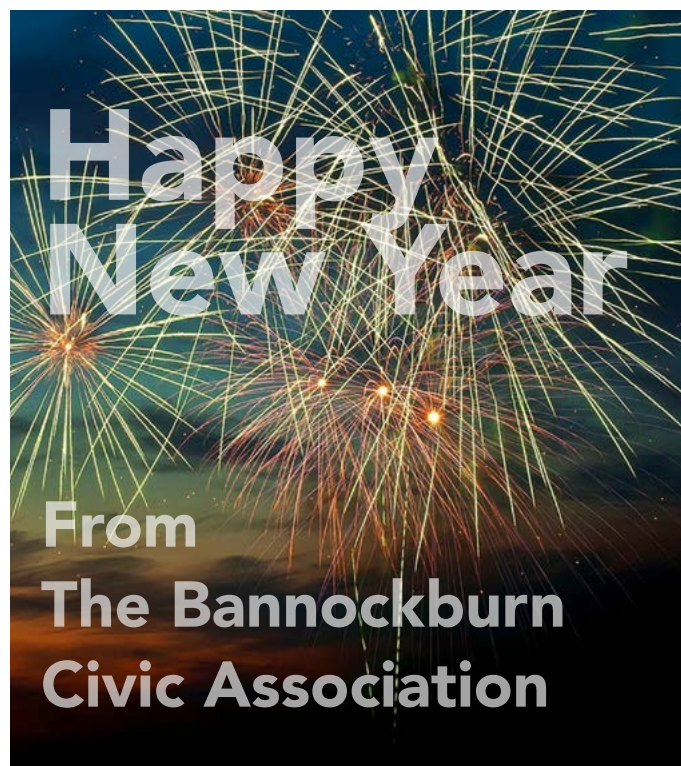
The opinions presented in *The Back9* are the authors' own. The BCA Board neither verifies nor endorses the contents of this community newsletter. While the editors make every effort to ensure published dates, times, and other information are correct and current, errors may occur; the editorial staff, 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*

Sat 1/27 – Two Local Bands Performing at the Clubhouse, 7:30PM. Come shake off the winter doldrums with your neighbors. "Isn't That So?" kicks off the evening with an eclectic mix of blues, rock, soul, folk, country, and swing, followed by "General MacArthur and The Boulevards." Suggested \$10 per person donation to benefit the Clubhouse. Venmo accepted. BYOB. (For more information, see p. 9.)

* Events in bold take place at the Clubhouse.



EXXON

**GLEN ECHO EXXON
AUTO CARE SERVICE CENTER**

6729 Goldsboro Road Bethesda MD 20817

301 229-8666

Farewell Party for Tanya Sisler



Tanya and her daughter, Kyla (in blue T-shirt) at a Club House bon voyage party organized by Susan Wexler on December 10th.

The neighborhood came together to say good-bye to Tanya Sisler, who lived on East Halbert Road for about a decade. During that time she volunteered in numerous ways that made Bannockburn a better place.

From the time she moved into her house, which she initially rented and then immediately bought when the opportunity arose, she immersed herself in the neighborhood.

Her daughter Kyla, now 16, performed in the Spring Show the first year they moved in. Normally children must be eight to perform but an exception was made for Kyla since she was so enthusiastic. "The Spring Show is an instantaneous way to make friendships," says Sisler, "and the same thing happens with the pool." Sisler was so taken by the Bannockburn Pool community that she served as president of the Bannockburn Swim Club for four years.

The pool became a lifesaver for the neighborhood and local restaurants when the pandemic unfolded in March of 2020. Sisler, who has long supported the immigrant community and who is an ethnic food devotee, brainstormed having food trucks use the pool parking lot to conduct business.

The pool parking lot was a space where neighbors could meet outside safely and check in with each other while picking up food orders. For many restaurants, the opportunity to keep their kitchens open and staff employed was a lifeline.



The queen of the foodtruck scene, November 2020.



Susan Wexler, Tanya, and Jeanine Greene.



Pam Toole, Tanya, and Beth Rogers at a Bannockburn Civic Association farewell on December 19th.

Sisler says that [Shouk](#), often on the rotation, admitted that it was kept alive thanks to her efforts. What originally started as "just an experiment" has evolved into a sophisticated system with detailed spreadsheets and a model that has been shared with other neighborhoods. Walt Whitman High School has also welcomed food trucks once a month, to the delight of students.

Continued on page 4

Farewell Party *from page 3*

Elizabeth Kellar of Braeburn Place, and Vice President of the Bannockburn Civic Association, notes, "What Tanya did for Bannockburn during Covid was amazing, creating a safe space for people to gather....Having the food trucks at the pool was a convenient way for me to try different cuisines that I wouldn't have if it hadn't been so easy."

Sisler served on the Bannockburn Civic Association as ombudswoman for the past three years.

She also volunteered faithfully for [Food Rescue](#), working most Sundays at the Dupont Circle Farmers' Market after close of business, to make sure excess food went to social service agencies like senior citizen's homes and homeless shelters rather than landfills. Some of the food that wasn't taken up by those groups was brought back to Bannockburn and shared on the listserv.

Sisler's job with the World Bank is taking her to Bangkok. In the final days of living in Bannockburn, as she worked to pare down her belongings further in advance of her move, she gave away many of her possessions to Afghan refugees.



Tanya inspired NAN President Anne Quinlan of Pyle Road to start volunteering with Food Rescue.




East Halbert Road was well represented on December 10th. At left is Michael Hickson with the new owners of Tanya's house, Joe and Kelly Choi.

VALERIE BLUESTEIN

Heller Coley Reed
of Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.

Thinking of
buying or
selling?
Call me!

301.672.4026 (cell)
240.800.5155 (office)
ValerieBluesteinLNF@gmail.com





Also from East Halbert Road: John Wills and Linda Petursdottir.

New in the Neighborhood

By Beth Rogers

Gibb Laytham and Eliana Facioni and their two children, Lucas, 8, and Emma, 3, bought 6765 Brigadoon Drive in August. The family had lived in Chevy Chase but was looking for a larger place and wanted to be in the Whitman/Pyle school district. The family spent a few months renovating the house and didn't settle in until November, but commuted so that Lucas could go to Bannockburn Elementary School, which he loves. Emma attends nursery school at Bethesda Preparatory Preschool.

Both Gibb and Eliana are fans of midcentury modern architecture, which they find to be a perfect stage for the antiques and art that they sell. "This is as big a house as I could countenance without feeling guilty," says Gibb. "I liked the fact that this house still retained its architectural integrity."

Gibb grew up in Arlington but traveled around the world, living for a long time in Budapest after the

fall of the Berlin Wall and then in Brisbane, Australia. He met Eliana, who is of Italian heritage but who grew up in Argentina, when they were both studying art in London. For a while they had a long-distance relationship when Gibb decided to return to the US to be closer to family.

They are both excited to be in Bannockburn.

Do you know someone who has recently moved to Bannockburn? Please reach out to newcomers' greeter Beth Rogers at bethmrogers@earthlink.net and she will make sure they get an official welcome.



Yoga • Pilates • Zumba • Meditation

*Come see us
upstairs at
the Glen Echo
Shopping Center*



New Student Special
3 classes for \$36



In-person + Online Classes *Adults + Kids*

240 535 5526 • SimonSaysYoga.com

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: Christo Andonyadis

Vice President: Terri Payne

Treasurer: Greg Sherrard

Contact: contact-bcc@bannockburncommunity.org

Remembering Barbara Orden

From Sinai Temple in Champaign, Illinois



Barbara Orden, formerly of Brigadoon Drive, playing her drum.

Barbara Orden, formerly of Brigadoon Drive, died on December 9th in Urbana, Illinois, at the age of 91. Orden was born in Washington, DC, and lived most of her life there and in Bethesda.

Orden received both a BA in Education and an MA in Museum Education from George Washington University. Orden was an active Bannockburn community member, civil rights advocate, teacher, museum educator, dog lover, and enthusiastic participant in a wide variety of artistic endeavors. She and her husband Sol enjoyed folk music, antiques, travel, and spending time at their second home in Chincoteague until Sol's death in 1991.

After over 50 years in Bethesda, Orden moved to Champaign, IL, in 2011 to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law, Julia and Gene Robinson, and their family. Fulfilling a lifelong dream to live on water, and with the help of her son Michael, she moved to the Maynard Lake community. She dove into her new life with characteristic aplomb, making many new friends and creating an eclectic and beautifully appointed home that reflected her exquisite artistic sensibilities.

In 2016, Orden moved to Clark Lindsey Village and again quickly made a new life for herself. She designed a unique and visually stunning living space. She was an enthusiastic participant in a variety of activities, and a proponent of programs to build strong community.

Orden was a passionate life-long learner. She became an accomplished hand drummer in mid-life

and performed regularly in services at Congregation Adat Shalom in Bethesda, and later at Sinai Temple in Champaign. Throughout her life, she participated in a wide variety of classes and workshops. In Champaign, she enrolled in many different classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, from story-telling to the origins of life, reflecting the breadth and depth of her curiosity. She had a special knack for asking probing questions to get to the heart of the matter.

Orden also loved to question authority. She often imagined a better or more humane way to accomplish a particular goal and would actively advocate for her perspective. She loved debate and discussion, in book clubs, at family meals, and in one-on-one conversations. She had a creative and lively mind.

Orden's unique combination of personality traits all came together as a trusted, loving, and inspirational elder. She was drawn to young people, and they to her. She was their friend, teacher, mentor, and confidant. She created life-long bonds with many relatives and friends.

Survivors include her sister, daughter and son, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Her funeral service was held at Sinai Temple on December 12th. To honor her memory, donations can be made to the [Krannert Center for Performing Arts](#) or the [Sinai Temple Music Fund](#).

Raising Backyard Chickens – “It’s different than having a household pet.”

By Celia Noya

(This story initially ran in The Black and White, the student newspaper of Walt Whitman High School, on November 20, 2023. This article, which was lightly edited, is reprinted with the permission of The Black and White and can also be retrieved by clicking [here](#).)

Strolling through Bethesda neighborhoods, pedestrians pass by endless suburban front yards featuring manicured lawns, towering trees, and flower beds. For some families, this classic landscaping is merely a facade disguising a unique reality: their backyards house coops of chickens.

While chickens are a common sighting across the western hemisphere now, that wasn’t always the case. Chickens are native to southeast Asia and were brought to the Americas from Polynesia and Europe between 1321 and 1407 AD. Today, there are over [33 billion chickens](#), and approximately 10 million U.S. households raise them.

For some families, chickens are a source of company and comfort. Pyle Middle School parent Jeremy Joseph and his family received their chickens in 2021 from [Rent The Chicken](#), an organization facilitating chicken rentals and adoption. The Josephs cared for their chickens for six months, and the small farm animals became more than just egg-laying backyard pets.

“For us, they were pets that produced food rather than food-producing things that ended up being pets,” Joseph said. “We really enjoyed them and they were really great.”

Whether it be for a continual source of entertainment or fresh eggs to eat with breakfast, raising backyard chickens [became](#) increasingly popular during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic

provided junior Jack Leotta’s typically busy family with the perfect opportunity to spend time raising chicks, he said.

“COVID had just started and in order to raise them you need a couple of weeks that you can dedicate time to,” Leotta said. “My mom wanted to get chickens, so we figured we had the opportunity and we might as well go for it.”

During the first couple of weeks, the chicks lived in Leotta’s bathtub, and he found that in addition to replacing their food and water daily, it was important to spend lots of time with them so

they became acclimated to humans. As the chickens became more self-sustaining, caring for them became easier. After a while, they started naturally going to their coop when it got dark, Leotta said. Even now, he continues to spend countless hours with the chickens.

“It’s a relatively large time commitment,” Leotta said. “Not all at once, but overall, you’re gonna be spending a lot of time with

them and taking care of them.”

Jeremy Joseph’s eighth-grade daughter, Aven, agreed and noted that having a large grassy area and the time to care for and clean up after the chickens is crucial. She also recommended purchasing high fences to speed up the cleaning process. The fences will help keep the chickens in a designated space. For the Joseph family, despite the commitment, raising chickens was a rewarding experience.

“Chickens are really fun. I just would say make sure [that] you have space and at least an hour a day to clean up,” Aven said. “You have to buy the oyster shells, the bedding and keep them safe.”



photo by Jeremy Joseph

Continued on page 8

Chickens *from page 7*

There's a lot of work that goes into it; you can't just plop chickens in the yard."

The extensive cleanup is a major difficulty that comes with raising chickens. Leotta noted that backyard chickens are not for people who don't want to get their hands dirty. Whether it's changing the bedding, tidying up the coop or dealing with broken eggs, owners are bound to be cleaning up frequently. Despite the hard work, Leotta found that raising chickens has countless benefits and allows him to spend time with animals.

"It's a lot of fun. You don't really get to hang out with animals like that very often, so it's a very interesting dynamic," Leotta said. "You learn a lot and you spend a lot more time outside than you think you would. If you get interested in it, it's very cool."

Another benefit of chickens is their fresh eggs, which leave lasting impacts on a family's lifestyle even after the chickens are returned. Instead of store-bought eggs, the Josephs began to use the fresher, more humanely sourced eggs in their cooking. Generally, chickens lay around one egg every 26 hours. Fresh, unwashed eggs are sealed by a protective layer called a cuticle and can last for weeks on the counter. The Josephs noticed a dramatic difference in the taste and health of their fresh eggs compared to the store-bought eggs they previously used.

"They taste so much better and they're so much healthier. You could tell in the color of the yolk," Aven said. "In some store-bought eggs [the yolk] is very pale yellow and the white is liquid, but for these chickens, you crack the egg into a pan and the yolk is almost red and the white is solid; it doesn't spread out at all."

When they returned the chickens, the Josephs switched from using organic eggs to exclusively buying certified humane and pasture-raised eggs. After owning and researching chickens, Joseph discovered that many chickens are kept in terrible conditions, and the quality of their eggs reflects that. His family now goes out of their way to buy eggs raised humanely, he said.



Despite the enjoyment families gain from owning backyard chickens and the lessons they can learn from the experience, some neighborhoods prohibit chickens due to noise control or other disturbances.

In the Bannockburn neighborhood, the Rannoch Road Homeowners' Association strictly prohibits the maintaining, keeping, boarding or raising animals, livestock or poultry of any kind, Rannoch resident Stephen Gibson said.

Furthermore, to avoid health and safety issues that raising chickens can [spark](#), the CDC recommends that owners be aware of risks to ensure the safety of both themselves and the chickens.

While some downsides have caused neighborhoods to prohibit chickens, the benefits outweigh the drawbacks for others. Chickens provide a constant source of humor and entertainment, Joseph said. His family named their chickens using puns: Chickago, Repeckah, Henrietta, and Eggclipse.

For Leotta, the chickens cause a few more chores but are a lasting source of fun and amusement. He enjoys hanging out with each chicken and discovering their different personalities.

"It's definitely worth it despite all the drawbacks because it's a great experience and it's a great story to tell," Leotta said. "It's different than having a household pet. It's worth it for sure."

Noya, of Kenhowe Drive, is with the Whitman graduating class of 2025.

The New Westwood Barber Shop

By John Stodola

After years of planning, the Westwood Barber Shop has moved to its new location on Westbard Avenue and opened for business on December 11th. The shop is owned by Phung Dinh and is the first store to open in the new Westbard Square.

The new location on Westbard Avenue is across from the CITGO gas station. Access to covered parking within the new building is a few feet past the barber shop. Parking is conveniently on the same level as the stores on Westbard Avenue. There are two additional levels of parking. The third level is designed for the new Giant. Parking is free.

Getting the new shop open was a major task. I asked Phung how she celebrated Thanksgiving and she replied: "We worked all day in the new shop to get it ready!"

Phung Dinh is a Vietnamese immigrant who first worked at the Westwood Barber Shop in 2004. The barber shop originally opened in 1958 and was owned and operated by the Santini brothers for many years. Phung bought the shop in 2017.

The anchor store of the new Westbard Square complex is the new Giant which is expected to open in January.

Congratulations to Phung and her team on their new location!

Stodola lives on Elgin Lane.



Phung, at left, with her crew.



Phung with the previous owners, the Santorini Brothers.

Music in the Hood

By Pamela Toole

Music events are back at the Bannockburn Clubhouse! Neighbors rocked out on Thanksgiving weekend with **"Cosmic Monsoon"** (Lance Crist, Bill Thomas, John Wills, Peppin Thomas, and special guest vocalist, Gianne McNeil) along with the rising new Spring show foursome – Aaron Payne, Stu Levy, Angela Hirsch, and Sebastian Gordon.

On **January 27th at 7:30PM**, another double-header will grace the Clubhouse ballroom with Bannockburn musicians. **"Isn't that So?"**, featuring singer/guitarist Beth Pierce, guitarist/singer Derek Brock, singer/harp player Steve Hall, as well as upright and electric bassist Jody Myers, keyboardist Edward O'Connell, and drummer/percussionist Kelly Garton, starts the evening off with an eclectic mix of blues, folk, country, swing, soul, and rock. **"General MacArthur and The Boulevards"** – Richard Aitken (guitar/vocals), Pamela Toole (vocals), Andy Garrett (vocals/harp), Amr Khani

(guitar), Aaron Zitner (bass/keys), Mark Dubester (sax), and Don Fitzgerald (drums) – will follow with a second set to close out the evening. Both bands are sure to deliver a lively and groovin' night so plan to come on out and shake off some winter doldrums!

Wait, there's more! On **February 24th** (same 7:30PM start time), a new Whitman alum group calling themselves "Abercrombie and Ferb" featuring Ferhad "Fuzzy" Mohammed will open the stage up for **"The Local"** (Gianne McNeil, Amr Khani, Aaron Zitner, Bill Thomas, and David Goldberger). Here is your opportunity to hear and support new local artists!

We bring you these musical events in a collective effort to strengthen our community through music. Raising money for the Clubhouse is encouraged with a suggested \$10 cover per person. Venmo accepted. BYOB.