



The BANNOCKBURN *Back 9*

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April 2025

Newcomers' Dinner

By Mike Zangwill

On Saturday, March 8th, Bannockburn's community spirit was on full display. Newcomers and oldtimers gathered at the Clubhouse for The Newcomers' Dinner. The event was well attended with every seat in the Ballroom filled. We thank the BCC Board, the volunteers, and Bannockburn's chefs for helping to bring this special event back for the first time since before the pandemic. Bart Hawe, the emcee, entertained the crowd. The four presidents, Juliette Searight, BCI; Mike Zangwill, BCA; Anne Quinlan, NAN; and Christo Andonyadis, BCC, each gave overviews about their respective organizations.

As per our tradition each Newcomer stood up and introduced themselves to the community. The Spring Show players sang "Consider yourself." Aaron Payne and Patty Howie led the sing-a-long to the Bannockburn anthem "Secondhand Houses." Here are photos of some newcomers, all taken by Mike Zangwill.



From left to right: Dinner emcee Bart Hawe (Ranoch Road) and BCC/BCA Board member and newcomer Ross Hurt with wife Sarah (Brigadoon Drive).



Rachel Schneller and Bruno Anderson of Benalder Drive.



Nikhil and Deepa Joshi of Bannockburn Drive.



Hortense Korn and Nate Hulley of Cairn Terrace.



Fatima Shah and David McMaster of Benalder Drive.

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BCA Leadership 2024-2025

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,
Ross Hurt
Katy Levine and David Hecht, Woodland Stewards

Back9 Production Team

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

Back9 Contributors

David Hecht
Randall Ingate
Tom Kodiak
JoAnn Krecke
Brian Levine
Marianne Ross
Mike Zangwill

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

Mark Your Calendar*

5/9 -11, 16, 17 – 69th Annual Bannockburn Spring Show performs at the Bannockburn Clubhouse. There are two performances on closing night: a matinee and evening show. Tickets will go on sale to BCC members on April 6 and to the general public on April 13. Check your membership status [here](#) to make sure you are eligible for the pre-sale.

Sat 5/11– Cabin John House Tour, 1-5 PM. Nine houses will be open including one overlooking the canal and Potomac River and an expanded original Sears "kit house." Tickets for this event are \$25 per person and are limited to persons over the age of 12. Tickets can be purchased with cash, check, or Venmo in the parking lot of the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, on April 30 from 12-1 PM, May 1 from 6-8 PM, or May 3 from 12-3 PM. Each participant will be asked to sign a waiver form and will receive an entrance ticket, house descriptions, and a tour map. Proceeds will be donated to the Cabin John Citizens Association.

*** Events at the Clubhouse marked in bold.**

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BCA Board Meeting, March 11th

By Randall Ingate, BCA Board Secretary

The Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) Board held a meeting on March 11. In attendance were Mike Zangwill, Beth Rogers, Pam Toole, Nancy Roche, Steven Solomon, David Hecht, Nancy Forden, Patty Howie, Ross Hurt, and Randall Ingate.

BCA Board President Mike Zangwill began with a recap of past events including the Newcomer's Dinner which was held on March 8th for the first time since 2019. The event was well attended with a number of new neighbors present. The new caretakers of the Clubhouse, Tom and Christine Mitchell, were introduced. Presidents of BCC, BCA, BCI, and NAN gave brief presentations on their organizations.

Zangwill noted that the annual Glen Echo Gala will be held on May 17th and honor award-winning filmmaker Ilana Trachtman whose "Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go -Round" documentary tells the story of the 1960 era protests to integrate Glen Echo Park. Several BCA Board members will attend the Gala. For tickets or information, click [here](#).

Bannockburn Spring Show 69 will return to the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse the second and third weekends in May. Stay tuned for ticket sales.

Zangwill noted that work continues on verifying current residents for the directory and will conclude by April 26th. Advertising for the new edition has done well with the addition of several new advertisers. [If you notice a change that needs to be made to the directory, please reach out to Beth Rogers at bethmrogers@earthlink.net.]

Steven Solomon, BCA Treasurer, gave an update of the budget. The BCA received \$1372 from Montgomery County to cover costs to restore damages to the garden at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Bannockburn Drive. BCA also paid \$270 to permit the garden through the County. Dues for BCA were raised from \$20 to \$30 in January of 2024 but are still listed as \$20 on the website; this issue will need to be addressed to increase the amount on recurring charges.

David Hecht, who leads BCA's Woodlands Stewardship Group along with Katy Levine, gave an update on the four events of woodlands stewardship held thus far in 2025. He reports that the Bannockburn Pool Board have been great partners;

cleanups will continue between the Bannockburn Pool and creek area.

Work continues at Bannockburn Elementary School (BES); six trees will be planted in collaboration with [ReForest Montgomery](#). Hecht will work the BES PTA to engage them in watering the new trees. He will also work in conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools to start poison ivy treatment this summer. There has been significant progress on BES grounds with most invasive shrubs and vines removed, but future work will focus on ground cover removal and eradicating the poison ivy is an essential first step in accomplishing that goal. Hecht added that one of the winning entries in the BCA's Environmental Committee's storm drain art competition will finally be painted, with County supervision, on June 6th, weather permitting.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8th.

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Newcomers' Dinner from page 1



Eliana Facioni of Brigadoon Drive.



Mare Sakai of Selkirk Drive.



Vanessa White of Rannoch Road.



Tom and Christine Mitchell, the new Clubhouse caretakers.



Keith and Heidi Rebello of Ken-howe Drive.



Ed Carroll and Alison Ritchie of Bannockburn Drive.



Violeta Noetinger and Miguel Braun of East Halbert Road.



Hilary and Dan Thain of Benalder Drive.



John Master and Christina Quinn of Selkirk Drive.

Words from the Woodlands

By David Hecht



Area at Bannockburn Elementary School designated for planting six new trees.

Reforest Montgomery and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are preparing to plant six new trees in the existing woodlands at Bannockburn Elementary School. These trees will fill a canopy gap that resulted from the removal of a large, dead white oak near the school's property line with Rannoch Road. The trees are also an MCPS invest-

ment in the resiliency of BES woodlands, in partnership with our community's volunteer efforts to stabilize and enhance the native tree canopy and ecology of the grounds.

On March 8th, Woodlands Stewardship volunteers met at the school and focused on preparing the planting sites by removing non-native invasive ground cover and creating community watering-access paths to be used during the first growing season.

I've witnessed families engaging with the woodland trail that we have worked on these last two years, and children asking their parents what the plant ID tags say. This gives me energy: that when we build it, our community will naturally come. The work we do at BES has an especially large role in shaping community for our newer/younger neighbors. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to improve our natural spaces.

Hecht, of Kenhowe Drive, is one of the chairs of the BCA's Woodlands Stewardship group.

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Woodlands Work Day



On March 23rd, the Bannockburn Civic Association's Woodlands Stewardship Group, led by David Hecht (left) and Katy Levine (right), organized a cleanup behind Bannockburn Elementary School. About 20 volunteers removed non-native invasive plants and spread wood chips to create a well-defined woodland trail (below, at right).



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Update on Anthony Hyatt

By Beth Rogers

I ran into Anthony Hyatt at the protest at NIH on March 8th (see page 8). Hyatt, who lived on West Halbert Road between 1967 to 2008, recently married his longtime partner, Kristen Barney. He has started the process of leaving his Bethesda apartment and moving to Arlington to live with Kris in what was her family home.

Hyatt continues his work throughout the DMV bringing his music to the bedsides of patients in local hospitals, to residents in assisted living communities, and to participants in adult day health programs. He is working on a book about those experiences. He says that “a part of him will always live in Bannockburn.”



Kristen Barney and Anthony Hyatt make beautiful music on their wedding day.

NAN Is Looking for Block Coordinators

By JoAnn Krecke

Neighbors Assisting Neighbors ([NAN](#)) provides help and support to seniors in our neighborhood who would like to remain in their homes. Block coordinators are assigned to each block to help the seniors on their street. They assist them in various ways such as helping with transportation for medical appointments and grocery shopping as well by connecting them with relevant resources.

Right now we have several blocks with no coordinators. NAN works best with block coordinators on every block attuned to the needs of the people there.

Presently we need block coordinators on the following streets: Barr Road, Vorlich Lane, Lower East Halbert, the hook on East Halbert, West Halbert, Orkney Parkway, and Crathie Lane.

If you would like to get to know your neighbors and contribute to the community, this is a great way to do so. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please call Anne Quinlan (301) 908-0662 or JoAnn Krecke (301) 706-1384.

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

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It's Suicidal to Gut the NIH

By Marianne Ross

We moved to Bannockburn in 1961, when my husband Phil, directly out of his post-doc studies, became a research scientist at the NIH. He discovered that the campus was close enough to bike to work, which he did until he retired in 2004.

Among his many projects was the search for treatment/cure of sickle-cell anemia.

We are dismayed that much life-saving research such as this is now under threat by the current administration

Five years ago today the Covid 19 pandemic brought into focus how essential NIH research was in the development of vaccines in record-breaking time, that saved millions of lives and changed our very way of life.



Marianne Ross, the most stylishly-dressed protester.

Regrettably, Dr. Anthony Fauci [former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases] was pilloried for his integrity.

In early March, Dr. Francis S. Collins, the former NIH director responsible for the human genome project among many other health advances, retired from his research lab, implying fear for his safety from MAGA supporters.

It is suicidal for the Trump/Musk administration to gut the government agency whose mission it is to enhance and extend life.

We must fight back and I am heartened by the Bannockburners of principle who are fighting back.

Ross lives on Owen Place.

Bannockburn in Action

Bannockburn Shows Up at NIH Rally, March 8th



From left to right: Sarah Wolek, Marianne Ross, Beth Rogers, and Anne Quinlan.



Anthony Hyatt, formerly of West Halbert Road (see page 7).



Emily Shaw.

Meet Your Block Coordinator: Kristin Regen of Wagner Lane

By JoAnn Krecke

Even before she became Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN) block coordinator of Wagner Lane, Kristin Regen cared about her elderly neighbors. She talked with them about their problems, helping them to find solutions. She shoveled snow for them and took them out for coffee.

Kristin has lived on Wagner Lane since 2008 and has had a most interesting and adventurous life. Her father was a naval officer and the family lived in exotic places like Hawaii and Japan. But perhaps the most unique of all their assignments was their two-year adventure living on the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska in the Bering Sea. Kristin remembers this as a barren, wind-swept land with dramatic weather and only ten days of sunshine a year. She was a teenager then and you might ask what a teenager could do in such an isolated setting! Kristin spent a lot of time babysitting, going to movies in the only theater, bowling in the only bowling alley, and spending time with friends although there were only 20 other students in her high school class. Fortunately there was a pottery studio there and Kristin and her family enjoyed making and painting pottery.

Kristin was a junior when the family returned to the States. They settled in Rockville where she attended Richard Montgomery High School. During her junior year, her family hosted a student from France and the next summer Kristin lived with a French family and fell in love with the French language. After graduation, she enrolled at Williams College where she majored in psychology but also studied French and German. Between her freshman and sophomore years, she spent more time in France, this time in Paris as an au pair. And then she spent her junior year abroad, in France once again.

After graduating from Williams, Kristin joined the NSA where she worked as an intelligence and



Kristin Regen.

language analyst for twelve years. Before beginning her work, she studied languages full time for 13 months. From 2004 until 2007, she worked for the State Department in Switzerland where again she had an opportunity to speak French.

Kristin met her husband, Jeff, in 2007 and a year later they moved to Bannockburn. They were looking for a great place to raise children and now they have a 13-year-old son, Benjamin and a daughter, Jillian, who is 11.

When her children were younger, Kristin had a variety of part-time jobs, but now her life has taken a very different path. From July through December, you can find her at the Brookmont Farmers' Market where she has a floral business called Mac and Moore. Some of the flowers come from her own cutting

garden, the others are from local farms. Kristin not only sells flowers but also does floral arrangements for individuals and for special events. She hopes to expand her business beyond her booth at the Farmers' Market. Kristin is a great supporter of local businesses and frequently uses pottery vases from the Glen Echo studio. Kristin's daughter, Jillian, has also enjoyed being an entrepreneur and she, along with several of her fifth grade friends, sometimes borrow Kristin's booth to sell crocheted stuffed animals, scrunchies, and bookmarks.

In addition to expanding her floral business, Kristin enjoys cooking, walking, yoga, pilates, and all things creative. And amid all these activities, she still finds time to care for her elderly neighbors.

When Spring comes, I'm sure many Bannockburn neighbors will be joining me as I visit Mac and Moore looking for beautiful flowers and Jillian's crocheted creations!

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

Try Bonsai

By Tom Kodiak



Tom Kodiak as a bonsai apprentice in Japan.

It is said that grand old trees can add thousands of dollars to the value of a property. It seems intuitive, but have you ever given much thought as to the reason why we value trees?

Trees help us feel calm and connected to nature in a way that only an absence of trees makes apparent.

Perhaps nowhere is this reverence for and connection to trees best manifested than in the art of bonsai. When you purchase a tree from any nursery, you are taking the future of the tree into your hands. The tag will say whether it likes shade or full sun; but ultimately, as steward, it is in your control where to plant the tree so that it will flourish. If you don't understand the tree that you are caring for, you can shape it into the image that you like, but if you don't shape the tree into a form that is more natural to its character it is likely to fail and die.

After a year of living in Japan and not really getting to know the culture, I decided that if I was to stay longer I really needed to learn an art. The art that called to me was bonsai. I was living an hour north of Tokyo in an area that has often been

described as the New Jersey of Japan. It had little natural beauty, no mountains or oceans – only people. In that environment, on the outskirts of one of the largest cities in the world, bonsai seemed like it would offer me a connection to nature.

I was lucky enough to find a bonsai club in the town next to mine. I joined a group of men (yes, there were never any women) on Saturday morning to sip tea and initially watch and later assist and participate in the bonsai club. My sensei, Suzuki-sensei, spoke no English but he was kind and patient and would guide my hand as I learned to wire branches. He would point at branches that I had cut and say either “yes” or “no”, (he did know those words), indicating that my cut was good or bad.

Over the course of the next two years my knowledge of bonsai increased as did my Japanese vocabulary around horticultural-related words. In my fourth year in Japan I took the plunge and apprenticed at [Shunka-en bonsai nursery](#) under master Kunio Kobayashi. Serving as a bonsai apprentice for one year and living at the residence I began to really understand the art of bonsai.

Now, back in the United States, living in Bannockburn, people sometimes ask me why I didn't go professional. The simple reason is that I didn't want to make a job out of something that I loved because I was afraid that it would kill my passion for it.

Today, I continue to work in bonsai as I really enjoy the living art and how the trees change through the seasons and year after year. Every time I shape a tree, it always surprises me as it becomes something new and original. A bonsai I possess will change when I pass or gift it to another person, and that is part of the experience. There are few living arts in this world and bonsai is **the** ultimate living art.

I do sometime teach classes for friends or the community as well as for private events such as [Ned's Club DC](#). I share my passion by serving as President of the Brookside Bonsai Society, which

Continued on page 10

Bonsai *from page 9*

Bonsai nursery where Kodiak did his apprenticeship.

meets monthly in Chevy Chase, and helping the other bonsai hobbyists in the DMV area. Just recently I had a few friends over and I taught them about trimming, wiring, and styling of junipers.

The Washington, DC, area is a great place in which to learn bonsai because there is a relatively large number of enthusiasts and clubs. It is home to one of the nation's finest collection of bonsai trees at the National Arboretum and the greatest event of the year is coming up next month: the Potomac Bonsai Festival, held from May 9th through 11th.

If you have an interest in seeing what bonsai is about, this event is for you because all of the local bonsai clubs come together to bring the trees that club members are working on and assist with volunteering at the show, helping to answer guest questions, and hosting new beginner workshops. You can

join free demonstrations from professional bonsai experts that are brought in from around the country and sometimes from around the world.

If you are looking for something more local you are welcome to join the local bonsai club, Brookside Bonsai Society (BBS). Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 17th at 7 PM at Capitol View Local Park, 2929 Edgewood Road, Kensington. (Note, our standard location is at Meadowbrook Local Park, 7901 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase.) As President of BBS, I will be there and would be happy to welcome you and we always have a few new people. There is no pressure to join.

Kodiak lives on Wilson Lane.

BES Lights Dimmed



December 2024

Last December, Dalroy Road resident Henriette Rahusen sent a letter to Bannockburn Elementary School principal Alison Serino, noting that the school's newly-installed exterior security lights were way too bright. (Rahusen's letter was printed in the January *Back 9*.) The lighting issue has been recently resolved. Rahusen sent a copy of the grateful email she sent to Serino, and Serino's response, to *The Back 9*:

Dear Ms. Serino,

Thank you so very much for taking action on the light pollution issue and having the MCPS system make the changes. Following Friday's work on the exterior & parking lot lights of BES, the difference in the level of ambient light around the school building is dramatic.

My neighbor Katy Glakas...came by yesterday and immediately commented on the disappearance of night-time glare into [her] bedroom.

The next time there is a noteworthy astronomical event the soccer field will once again attract a lot of happy stargazers.

*In gratitude,
Henriette*



March 2025

Principal Serino responded:

Ms. Rahusen – I am so delighted that the changes to our lighting had such a noticeable effect. We are very happy with the upgrades and welcome those stargazers!

Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.

Board Members 2023-2024

Juliette Searight, President

Nicolette Romano, Vice President

Tom Holzman, Secretary-Treasurer

At Large: Patty Howie, Ava Hillman, Amy Tenney Curren, Kelly Collins Choi, Michael Schwartz

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.

Helping Government and Military Professionals with FormerGov.com

By Brian Levine

As a longtime Bannockburn resident, I'm excited to share some big news with my neighbors. Alongside Bannockburn alum Max Lang, I've co-founded [FormerGov.com](https://www.formergov.com)—the first-ever online directory for former government and military professionals. Our goal is simple: to create a nonpartisan, apolitical platform that helps former federal, state, local, tribal, and foreign government and military professionals connect with new opportunities. Whether someone left government service last year or decades ago, Former Gov is here to bridge the gap between their expertise and those who need it.

The idea for Former Gov came directly from my own experiences. After serving as a Justice Department Cybercrime Prosecutor and National Coordinator for more than 300 federal cybercrime prosecutors, I regularly searched for professionals with former government experience to help with private sector challenges. Even with my extensive government network, I found the process frustrating and time-consuming. I'd spend hours trying to track down the right people—only to come up empty-handed.

That's when I teamed up with digital marketing expert Max Lang to solve this problem. Max, who has worked with global brands on everything from search engine marketing to website strategy, pointed out a key issue: most Internet resources are focused on what people are doing now, not what they used to do. But for former government professionals, their past experience is often their most valuable asset.

Together, we built Former Gov to make it easier for searchers—like law firms, in-house counsel, recruiters, journalists, employers, and more—to quickly find former government professionals with the expertise they need. Whether it's for legal representation, lobbying support, consulting, public



Levine with children Sophie and Micah.

relations, board positions, expert witness testimony, media commentary, academia, arbitration, or other specialized roles, Former Gov provides a targeted search engine that combines tailored filters with natural language searching.

After more than a year of development, Former Gov is now live! Best of all, it's free for searchers, and as a special offer for my fellow Bannockburn residents, you can use the discount code BBURN2025 for a reduced rate on your first year of membership.

I'm thrilled to bring this resource to life and hope it will help both former government professionals and those seeking their expertise. If you

have any questions, I'd love to hear from you—after all, Bannockburn is where this idea took root!

Levine lives on Kenhowe Drive. He can be reached at Brian.Levine@formergov.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 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



Bannockburn Community Directory 2025

The Bannockburn Community Directory represents the loyal patronage of more than 600 households associated with the Bannockburn neighborhood bounded by Wilson Lane, River Road, MacArthur Boulevard, and Goldsboro Road. The directory is printed every three years by the Bannockburn Civic Association.

Advertising Contract

This contract is entered into between the Bannockburn Civic Association, hereinafter called the "BCA," and

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The BCA agrees to include an advertisement on behalf of the Advertiser, in the Bannockburn Community Directory to be published in Fall 2025. The Advertiser agrees to provide advertising copy, using the dimensions specified below and to pay the price indicated below. See payment methods below.

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