



The BANNOCKBURN *Back 9*

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May 2026

BCA Board Meeting, April 7th

The April Meeting of the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) board started earlier than usual to accommodate special guest Josie Caballero. In attendance were Mike Zangwill, Beth Rogers, Patty Howie, Nancy Forden, David Hecht, Elizabeth Kellar, Brian Moore, and Emily Shaw. Ross Hurt attended by phone.

The first half hour mostly focused on solidifying which board members would go to the Glen Echo Park Gala in May.

At 7:30 board member Emily Shaw arrived with [Josie Caballero](#), a candidate for Montgomery County at-large whom Shaw has been canvassing for.

Caballero is one of a field of 18 at-large candidates, which will include current County Executive Marc Elrich, who has been term limited, and one Republican. Caballero, a US Navy veteran recently endorsed by the AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, Montgomery County Education Association, CASA, and others, is one of seven who have qualified for public financing. Caballero views the role of at-large council member as being mostly to set policy, although members also handle constituent services.

Caballero, who was born in Mineral Wells, TX, joined the Navy when she was 18 and became certified as a nuclear power operator, serving on the *USS Reagan* and deploying four times to hostile waters, including during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Eventually she didn't find herself aligned with the military's mission of killing people and went to San Diego State University and studied public policy and ran for school board races in San Diego.

A job as the director of voting and elections with Advocates for Transgender Equality (A4TE) took her to Montgomery County, where she finally started to feel at home, drawn to its combination of green



Josie Caballero (third from the right), candidate for Montgomery County Council at-large, joined the April BCA Board meeting. Photo by Beth Rogers.

space and urban areas, transit, and a politically-engaged population

In 2023 Governor Wes Moore appointed her to his LGBTQIA+ Affairs Commission.

Caballero's major issues are affordability, education, transit, and preserving green spaces. When Beth Rogers asked what Caballero could do to support BCA's Woodlands Stewardship Group (WSG) efforts, she responded, "You will always find an ally in me." David Hecht, one of the founders of the WSG, observed that the County's numerous school properties were an underutilized resource, both in terms of preserving nature on their grounds and as a way of using that nature to educate students.

Caballero supports making the County more bikeable and walkable; developing areas that are connected by transit; and maintaining the quality of the schools which attracts people to live in this area and then generates a stronger tax base.

Continued on page 3

BCA Leadership 2025-2026

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, Emily Shaw
Katy Levine and David Hecht, Woodlands Stewards

Back9 Production Team

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

Back9 Contributors

Diana Newhart
Rabbil Leibel Simpson
Mike Zangwill

Mark Your Calendar *

May 1-2 – Bannockburn Spring Show '70.

Please check www.bannockburncommunity.org for more information.

Fri 5/8 – Clash of the Clans Trivia Night, 7 PM.

Here's a great way to meet new people in the neighborhood. Drawing a table number from the "Helmet of Chance" will bind you to a new "clan" for the evening and help you discover Bannockburn's secret geniuses. BYOB. Snacks and desserts included in the \$35 ticket price. For more information, see page 6.

Sat 5/16 – Glen Echo Park Gala, 6 PM.

Reception and silent auction, dinner and awards, live music, swing dance, and carousel rides. Support the Park. Purchase tickets at <https://glenechopark.org/gala>

** Events in bold held at the Clubhouse.*

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 600 households. To make sure you receive a copy of this newsletter, visit <http://bannockburncommunity.org/newsletter/>.

Interested in submitting an article or running an advertisement? Please email contact-bca@bannockburncommunity.org.

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BCA Minutes from page 1

After Caballero left, Hecht provided some reports. He noted that he got confirmation that the driveway aprons around the sidewalks that were laid four years ago on Kenhowe Drive will be sealed sometime in April. As Hecht noted, County specifications require that sealant be used in the joints between driveway aprons and new sidewalks to protect that investment – the contractor failed to do that part of the job. About a dozen new driveway aprons were poured in conjunction with the sidewalks and homeowners will get notification that the work will be done, which may result in short-term closure to their driveways while the sealant cures.

Eighteen large trees will be planted on the grounds of Bannockburn Elementary School starting on April 14th or 15th. Tree Montgomery had already been on the premises marking the locations of where the trees would be planted.

Hecht noted that the WSG has an agreement in principle with BCI (Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.) to work on creating a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations enabling stewardship of BCI land in the Bannockburn Valley. When WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission) worked Bannockburn Creek more than a decade ago to correct an exposed sewer pipe it was obligated to restore the area that had been damaged by construction and equipment. Hecht noted that WSSC did 2000 live stake plantings (and much more) that have subsequently become overgrown. "We have uncovered so much good planting, but multiflora rose is a major issue," he said. "We have a real asset that we need to encourage along." As invasives are removed, natives like pawpaw will have

a fighting chance. Hecht expects the agreement to be put in writing by July 1. In the meanwhile, a small group of people worked by the Bannockburn Pool on Easter weekend, focusing mostly on removing multiflora rose. Hecht anticipates that with this new area of focus, people abutting the Valley will be motivated to join stewardship events.

With permission from Montgomery County's forest conservation easement inspector, Hecht has purchased six signs that help delineate the border of forest conservation easements (FCE). He has been working with Merrimack Park HOA and the Merrimack Pool to facilitate where these borders are. The signs help draw awareness and prevent dumping. The FCEs the WSG stewards are all Category 1 [easements](#).

A brief discussion was held about the deteriorating bridge behind the Bannockburn Pool which crosses Bannockburn Creek and connects the pool with Laverock Court. A design was finalized on the bridge but approval needs to be granted from the County before any construction begins.

Brian Moore, an avid biker, noted the simple aluminum bridges along the Cabin John Creek trail and suggested that something of that type could be used.

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.

Metro Motor

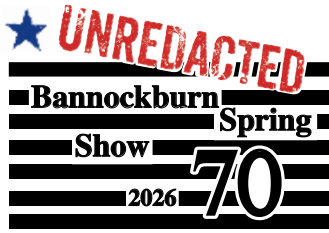
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Bannockburn Spring Show 70

By Mike Zangwill



Debuting in 1957, the Bannockburn Spring Show celebrates its 70th Anniversary. Six shows will be performed at the Clubhouse including

helped with the complementary happy hour. We thank Gitika Kaul for sponsoring the program printing. It all adds up to one unique neighborhood!

Check ticket availability at www.bannockburncommunity.org

Zangwill lives on Brigadoon Drive.

two matinees. Show dates are April 24-26, and May 1 and 2. As of this publication just a few seats remain.

Caption monitors were introduced to help the audience get every word. We thank Eric Nichols of Crathie Lane who completes his second year as director.

The Spring Show has long fostered Bannockburn's community spirit. The show recognizes the dozens of volunteers who helped with tasks like ushering, lighting, videography, and stage management; and those volunteers who



A sneak peek of this year's show with caption monitors.

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New Chabad Rabbi in the Area

By Rabbi Leibel Simpson

My wife Devorah and I, along with our two young children, Mendel and Mosey, recently moved close to the Glen Echo/Bannockburn area, and we wanted to take a moment to introduce ourselves. We arrived about three months ago and have already been struck by how warm and welcoming everyone has been. Whether through quick conversations, chance meetings, or kind gestures, it's clear that this is a place where people truly look out for one another.

A little about us: I was born and raised in Brooklyn, and my wife grew up in Berlin, Germany. Growing up, her home was always open – full of guests, Shabbat meals, and lively conversation around the table – which helped shape her love of cooking and hosting. Our paths eventually brought us together with a shared passion for building community and creating spaces where people feel comfortable and at home. I've always been drawn to connecting with people – whether through learning, conversation, or simply spending time together – and we're excited to bring that into our life here.

Our goal is to serve the local Jewish community while also contributing to the broader neighborhood by creating opportunities for connection – through holiday celebrations, Shabbat dinners, classes, and informal gatherings where people can meet, learn, and spend time together. We also hope to be a resource for life's meaningful moments, whether celebrating happy occasions, offering support during challenging times, or simply providing a welcoming place to stop by, connect, and feel at home.

As newcomers ourselves, we especially appreciate how meaningful it is to feel at home in a new place. We're looking forward to building relationships, meeting more neighbors, and becoming part of the rhythm of life here.

We'd love to meet you – whether at a community event or around the neighborhood. And if you're interested in joining for a Shabbat dinner or upcoming program, please feel free to reach out.

Rabbi Leibel Simpson
Riversidechabad@gmail.com
 917-625-6230
www.riversidechabad.com



Rabbi Leibel Simpson and family



If you have friends who are looking to move to Bannockburn, I'm your girl. With deep roots in the neighborhood and a track record of successful sales right here, I bring a hyper-local lens that makes a big difference for both buyers and sellers. Curious what your home commands in today's market? #KaulMe

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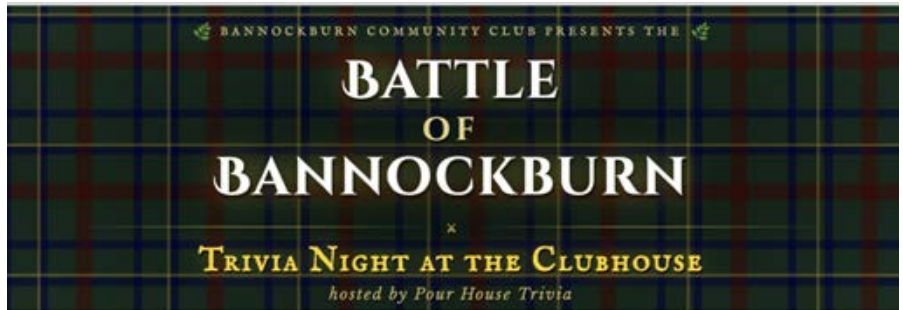
Bannockburn Trivia Night May 8th

By Diana Newhart

Citizens of Bannockburn! Everyone fifteen and older is invited to attend Bannockburn's first "Clash of the Clans" trivia night Friday, May 8 from 7-10 PM, at the Bannockburn Clubhouse.

For too long we have lived side-by-side in peace, waving across driveways, but never truly testing the mettle of our neighbors. In the spirit of the great clans of old, we are discarding our usual alliances. No longer shall you cling to those you know!

To make this a true community mixer (and to prevent any one "super team" from dominating) we are mixing things up! Upon crossing the Clubhouse threshold, you will draw your destiny from the Helmet of Chance – a table number that will bind you to a new "Clan" for the evening. Will you be seated with the history buff from down the street? The pop-culture wizard from the cul-de-sac? Or the quiet neighbor who secretly knows every answer to 80s music trivia?



At Clash of the Clans, strangers become allies, neighbors become teammates. Only one clan will rise to rule the neighborhood!

Snacks and desserts included in the \$35 ticket price. BYOB. Tickets are limited, so don't delay! Proceeds support Clubhouse maintenance and improvements. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/bannockburnspring-show/trivianight>

Newhart lives on Braeburn Parkway.

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: Terri Payne

Vice President: Brenda Hanning

Treasurer: Greg Sherrard

Secretary: Cris Weals

Contact: contact-bcc@bannockburncommunity.org

New in the Neighborhood

By Beth Rogers

John Patton and Colleen Nguyen are the new owners of 6418 Bannockburn Drive. They have a six-month-old son, Kai.

They had been living in an apartment in downtown Bethesda and were looking for more space.

John, who was born in the US but raised for the most part until the age of twelve in England, still has a slight English accent. His parents live in Leesburg. He met Colleen, who is originally from southern California, when they were both students at Virginia Tech.

John now works for the FDA as a clinical reviewer working in rare diseases. Colleen, a pharmacist, works remotely in patient assistance.

