



The BANNOCKBURN *Back 9*

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The Games People Played – Bannockburn Pool in the '70s

By Allen Hamers



Marlin Cup, Bannockburn Pool, late 70s. From left to right, brothers Larry and Ken Wagman; brothers Rob and Allen Hamers, Jeff Stambler, Lawrence Band, Sam Johnston, and Tom Salcetti.

We were a creative bunch at Bannockburn Pool. We played many of the standard card games you might think of – hearts, spades, bridge, crazy eights, solitaire, war, gin rummy, 500, oh hell, black-jack, poker, spit, casino, and more.

And we played chess and checkers. Outside, in the parking lot, we had a basketball pole, and played two on two, horse, 21, touch football in the grassy area, and some other games. But, being at a pool, we had plenty of interest and room for more games.

Cap Baseball

Our field may have initially been the grassy area just behind the diving board, which was sizeable, and which worked on days when there were not many members at the pool.

But, nearly always, we played on the grassy area outside the pool's back fence. Back then, the fence

was much closer to the diving board. Second base was closest to the fence, and home plate was further back away from the fence toward the bridge over the creek.

We often played with two or three people on each team. We borrowed a woman's heavy, rubbery swim cap and that became our ball. We rolled up a bath towel or beach towel and that was our bat. Footwear consisted of sneakers, flip flops, or feet au naturel. The pitcher wadded up the cap and pitched it to the batter. If we whacked the cap over the fence, it was a home run. Of course, then we had to beg someone on the other side of the fence to throw the cap back to us. There were few injuries to speak of, despite the intense competition.

Closer to the pool itself, we had a variety of games.

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Mark Your Calendar

Sun 8/23 – Washington Folklife Festival, Glen Echo Park, Noon-7PM. Come enjoy more than 40 performing acts. This year's Festival features a focus on Middle Eastern culture. For more information, see page 17.



Sat 9/26 – Lawnapalooza. Get ready for Bannockburn's fall music event. Modeled after community porchfests, Lawnapalooza began in Bannockburn during the pandemic in place of the Music Festival. It's a community-wide event and anyone who wants to set up in their front lawn to play music for their neighbors is welcome to join the fun. Contact Pamela Toole at pstoole28@gmail.com for questions/interest. Stay tuned on the website and listserv for more information.



Bannockburn Pool Games *from page 1*



Card games on the deck.

Kickboard Throwing

Rainy days saw the development of kickboard throwing competition. A stack of hard foam kickboards was commandeered for the task. Standing on the deck at the shallow end of the pool, each person in turn would hold up a kickboard with one hand, and throw it as far as he or she could manage over the pool toward the deep end.

It took little time for the talent to rise to the top. Initially, kickboards were landing no further than the deck around the diving board, and on the grass behind it. But eventually the elite throwers sailed the kickboards over the fence onto the cap baseball field.

The most popular technique was to take the kickboard in the right hand, wrap four fingers around the long end of the board near the rectangular end, hold the board tight against the palm of the hand and level with the ground, lift it up and back over the shoulder and behind the back, and then fire it forward. At launch time, the board was at a 45-degree angle to the ground with the hand-held side of the board higher than the other side, with the goal

of throwing it long and hard with a counterclockwise spinning motion.

A slight variation of that style had the board angled perpendicularly to the ground as it was brought forward over the shoulder, and spun with the top, back edge of the board spinning up and over the front end. There was one alternate technique practiced by one person that proved to be competitive. He used the pinch method, holding it between thumb and second finger around the same rectangular corner of the board, bracing it against the palm of his hand, and launching it with a spin.

Pool Chair Knockdown

Another game was pool chairback knockdown. At the time, the game didn't have a name, but now it does. We played this game on rainy days, cool days, and at other times when there were or few or no other members at the pool. One pool chair was set up on each side of the pool, width-wise, near the midline of the pool, but usually slightly closer to the

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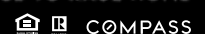


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Bannockburn Pool Games *from page 3*

shallow end. Back then, the chairs were made of tubular aluminum, I believe, with several wide, hard plastic slats to sit on, and several slats along the back of the chair. The slats had semicircular plastic ring shapes on each slat, and they snapped onto the aluminum frame with a hearty sound, confirming the secure nature of the hold. The back of the chairs easily folded down so that they could be stacked.

For the game, the back of each chair was raised, and the chair was placed on the deck at the edge of the coping and turned so that the back of the chair could be knocked down away from the pool. One of us picked up the best available ball, whether it was a 12" or bigger beachball, or a version of a water-proof soccer-like ball. A basketball was too heavy. Taking turns, we would throw the ball full speed at the opposing person's chair, skipping it off the water artfully, to try to knock down the back of the chair. One point was earned for each knock-down. There was no defense, so it was a totally offensive game. The slats were tough and resilient, and nearly always weathered the game.

Jacks

We played jacks on the rough concrete deck occasionally. One summer we played so much that our hands were scraped and raw from it. Notice that we are not even in the water yet.

Water games were quite popular at Bannockburn Pool.

Cross Tag

One commonly-played game gave every interested person at the pool the chance to join in. In cross tag, all interested members were invited to play. The game was played width-wise in the pool, generally between two arbitrarily chosen endlines – one closer to the deep end, and one closer to the shallow end.

One person initially volunteered to be "it." All the other people were amassed on the far side of the pool on the deck. The person who was it jumped into the pool on the other side, and declared that he or she was ready. All the other people jumped or dove into the water, and headed for the other side of the pool. Anyone and everyone who was touched by the person who was it was considered "caught" and was now also it.



Meet up with medley relay swimmers, years later. Sitting on chairs, left to right: Rob Hamers, Ken Wagman, and author Allen Hamers. Foreground, Larry Wagman.

The same process was repeated until everyone was caught. Games were short because ultimately even the fastest-swimming, furthest-diving, deepest-swimming participants were caught.

Sharks and Minnows

We also played a close relative of cross tag called sharks and minnows, or beaver. In this game, the initial person in the pool was the shark, and the rest of the swimmers were minnows, starting on the deck. All the minnows had to cross the pool underwater to the other wall to be successful. The shark could catch his prey by grabbing an arm, a leg or a torso, and lifting at least some body part up to the surface of the water, or by getting in the way of the minnow until he or she ran out of air and surfaced. All caught minnows became sharks.

The rounds continued with an increasing number of sharks, and the game was over when all minnows were caught. While cross tag called for speed and elusiveness, this game also called for breath holding, underwater escape tactics, and strength. Occasionally, there was a bruise, scratch or other injury in this game. No biting was allowed. The best players tended to be the lifeguards and the older swimmers.

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Bannockburn Pool Games *from page 4**Bathing cap relays.***Water Hoops**

I only recall seeing the aquatic basketball hoop a few times. I believe it was someone's personal hoop. It was set up along the side of the pool in 4-5 feet of water. The ball couldn't be dribbled very well on water, though you could mimic the motion by pushing it down and letting it bob up repeatedly.

It turned out to be a physical game, similar to water polo, where the defender had to body the shooter away from the basket and try to block the shots.

Water Polo

We played a version of water polo on rare occasions using the same chairs that we used in the pool chair knockdown game. It was played width-wise and was pretty demanding physically, but didn't even approach the attacking style seen in college and high-level games.

The Game

This was a short-lived game that combined Marco Polo with physical contact, but is better left out.

Jump or Dive

The diving board was quite springy. There was one game that became popular, called jump or dive. Anyone and everyone could play. We had a couple of locally-talented divers who dove for fun. But this game tested both the novices and the more skilled divers.

A volunteer was recruited to act as the caller. A line of people formed at the diving board. One at a time, each player would climb onto the board and start the standard walk-up toward the final spring up off the board.

Generally, the caller waited until the person on the board was springing up off the board and then called out the word "jump" or "dive." That gave the person on the board about one second to follow the command and perform a jump or a dive while in mid-air.

It was often a struggle to turn an intended jump into a dive, or vice versa. The result was often a splat or a bellyflop.

Catch the Cap

This game didn't have a name either, so now it has one, too. Similar to jump or dive, each player would do the walk to the end of the diving board, and spring up off the board into a jump or dive, whichever was desired.

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Bannockburn Pool Games *from page 5*

Instead of a caller, this game had a thrower, or pitcher. The ball of choice was a borrowed swim cap, again the heavy, rubbery kind. The pitcher threw the cap to the diver after the final launch off the board. Sometimes the diver would catch it gracefully, and sometimes it resulted in a splat.

The more talented divers could catch the cap after performing a flip or other type of dive, if the pitcher's timing and aim were good. And some jumpers were able to throw the cap back to the thrower. No score was kept.

Cap Launching and Retrieval

Cap launching and retrieval was an offshoot of catch the cap, and had two people for each attempt. The first person placed a swim cap loosely on his or her head, did a can-opener, pineapple, or cannonball off the diving board, and tried to create enough vertical, radical splash such that the cap actually left the person's head, rode the splash upward, and shot into the air. The other person had to run off the diving board and catch the cap before it landed back in the water.



Card games at the pool.

Underwater Drain Cover Races

Initially we wanted to race each other width-wise along the bottom of the pool in the diving well, after a chair was placed on the diving board to avoid collisions in the water. But it didn't work well because we floated up from the bottom of the pool after taking in all the air we could hold and then descending to the bottom.

We found that if two of us each picked up a metal drain cover from the bottom of the diving well, we could walk around on the bottom of the pool

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Current Bannockburn Swim Club on Laverock Lane. The bath house was recently renovated as the Pool celebrates its 70th anniversary.

Bannockburn Pool Games *from page 6*

without floating up. Thus we had the means to get good traction and have competitive races usually one width across the deep end.

Air Rings

This was more of an art competition than a physical game. Purportedly imported from a scuba magazine, it was patterned after the air rings created by scuba divers underwater.

Our technique began with a person taking in a lungful of air and then holding him or herself underwater with one arm wrapped around one of the ladders that extended down into the deep end of the pool. The ladder could be held with one arm, or a combination leg wrap too.

With the fingers of one hand pinching the nose shut, and having a full breath of air, and positioning the head three or four feet underwater, the air ring artist filled the mouth with one large mouthful of air from the lungs, leaned the head back so the mouth was toward the surface, and then gently let that mouthful of air out from between the lips in one big bubble with a puckering motion.

At its finest, a nearly perfect single bubble ring of air would rise up in the water and break the surface in a nice circle.

Pop-it

The most popular water game of all time at Bannockburn Pool was pop-it. Lloyd Emerson, who lived up the street from us, was credited with creating the game. Lloyd was the father in a "swimming family" that had two swimmers, Lynn and Leigh, who were on the team for many years. Lloyd was an interesting person who liked to bring his newspaper, his pipe, and his pop-it beads to the pool and relax, except during pop-it games.

People of nearly all ages played it, as long as they could stand up in the shallow end of the pool. As many as 15 people could play at a time.

The game required a single plastic pop bead roughly a half inch in diameter, though larger or smaller beads were used also. The bead had a little knob on one side and a similarly sized hole on the other side. Beads could be snapped together to form necklaces or bracelets to wear outside the pool. But in the game of pop-it, only one bead was needed. The little knob helped people grab and hold the bead in the water.



A Pop-it game invented by Lloyd Emerson is still played at the Bannockburn Pool. Bucket full of pop-its, Summer 2026.

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).

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Bannockburn Pool Games *from page 7*

Lifeguard Lily Rogers holds pop-its.

The goal of the game was to grab the bead from the water and hold it up to show everyone that a victorious grab had been made. Each time a person held the bead up for all the losers to see, he or she launched it underwater to start another round.

There was no scoring, although there's no reason that a grudge match couldn't be scored. The initiator of the game released the bead underwater in the three-foot deep end of the pool, typically with a good splash or two to make it difficult to see the bead. The lighter the color of the bead, the harder it was to see it in the water.

After release, the bead traveled sideways with the man-made currents and slowly surfaced. It was small, slippery, and difficult to grab. It was also difficult to grab when someone pushed your hand out of the way, splashed the water in front of you, splashed water in your face, made larger leg splashes near the bead, pushed you out of the way, or swam through the zone where the bead was last seen.

The bead sometimes worked its way into the deep end, followed by a cluster of motivated players, and had to be redirected back to the shallow end. There was the rare but occasional loss of the bead due to cleavage, and that was off limits to everyone else until the owner produced the bead of her own accord. Games lasted for minutes or up to an hour or more.

Surf Kill

This was a scrappy game played by more advanced swimmers generally. It took place in the diving well on the side of the pool toward the hill, after a chair was placed on the diving board. The site of the game's location grew to be called "Death Corner."

Created originally as a calm underwater sport at another County pool, it was probably brought to Bannockburn after one of our guards saw it and then introduced it to us. At that pool and at Bannockburn, surf kill evolved into a contact sport practiced by die-hard swimmers and other hearty souls.

The sport took its roots from a noncontact game where swimmers took a hard foam kickboard, held it underwater, stood on it, balanced themselves with hand and arm motions, and raced each other widthwise across the pool to the other wall. The preferred way to keep a surf kill board in place was to stand on it, and then use hands and arms to improve balance and provide mobility.

During the early days of the game, the term "Gorilla Grip" arose, whereby people like my friend Sam Johnston actually curled their feet and

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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, pb-howie@verizon.net.

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toes around the board a bit while standing on it in the water. But it was not easy to do that routinely for extended periods of time, and it wouldn't be good in warfare, as it would probably cause feet to tire and then cramp.

Eventually, just racing on the kickboards wasn't enough of a challenge. So the new goal became to unseat the other person from his or her kickboard. When a person's board reached the surface of the water, that round was over for that victim. Anywhere from one to five people could play at a time. Early pioneers would kick the other person's board sideways until it rocketed up to the surface and then quickly rebalance him or herself on their own board. That was a victory point. Sometimes we kept score up to 10, sometimes not.

Sometimes, a board would shoot up between the legs of the loser and cause discomfort. It was fair to grab the opponent's wrist and yank back and forth, as long as you maintained balance on your own board. If it caused the attacker to lose his or her board first, the person who had been attacked earned the point. Sometimes both players had simultaneous wrist locks on each other. That was a grand battle. In some cases, both boards surfaced in the melee, and the winner was the person whose board surfaced last, if that could be determined.

Body grabs were fair, but were suicidal and led to instant board loss all too often.

Then came the alligator position (my preferred attack style), with new rules added. A player could let the board float on the water, lie on his or her side, place the lower half of the leg on the board so that the medial surfaces of the knee and ankle were on top of the board, and stabilize the board with the side of the knee. It actually worked well. It freed the alligator to attack from the surface, grabbing an opponent's wrist and wreaking havoc with the opponent's balance.

The alligator lost the match when the last body part came off the board. Occasionally, only the big toe was still on the unstable board, and the loss became imminent. Laughing too hard during the precarious toe contact usually finished off the alligator.

While it was possible for a player in the alligator position to win points, a fast, skillful player could occasionally descend under water on the board,

come up under the alligator's board, grab the board quickly for the win, and hand it to the opponent.

Goggle warfare was legal, consisting of removal of the opponent's goggles, leading to flooding, poor vision, and a subsequent win.

Baby Pool Races

The baby pool was only about a foot deep, and had a nice, curved coping to sit on. On rainy days, or when few people were at the pool, and nobody was in the baby pool enclosure, we sometimes held informal baby pool races. The object was to lie on our stomachs and race across the pool in a baby crawl motion to the other side. The distance was never measured if I remember correctly. Perhaps it was 20 feet in diameter. No score was kept, and we rarely did it.

The Marlin Cup Race

There were various races and activities for all comers. The culminating event was the Marlin Cup Race, which began around 1964. It was open to everyone. It consisted of a four-length relay. Swim team and former swim team members had to swim a medley relay. Other relay teams could swim free-style.

The swim team members had a team, the parents had a team (sometimes one for each gender), the former swimmers had a team, and the lifeguards sometimes had a team. There was only one heat. There was no prize ready at hand for winning the event, and time was of the essence. So the prize was created on site, at the last minute. The winning relay team was awarded a handful of wildflowers and weeds in a cigarette butt can with the butts removed.

Hamers grew up on Bannockburn Drive. After leaving Bannockburn he eventually went to the University of Maryland Dental School, married a dentist, and worked as a dentist at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Now retired in Lancaster, PA, with a son starting his dental residency, Hamers still swims on a masters team. Hamers has fond memories of Bannockburn. He remembers playing touch football games in the valley, potluck dinners at the Bannockburn Pool, and lifeguards taking swim team kids to Bethany or Rehoboth after swim season.

UFOs Over Bannockburn

By Sam Johnston

UFOs are back in the news again. I'm a scientifically-oriented, naturally skeptical person and am not yet fully convinced that Earth is being visited by aliens from another world. It is said that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, and I'm still waiting for irrefutable proof. Regardless, given this renewed interest in UFOs, my strange but true story is perhaps more timely than ever.

I believe it was around the middle of June in 1971 when, at the age of 9, I had my first and only experience seeing a UFO...in Bannockburn of all places! At that time, my younger brother and I shared a bedroom with a window facing the eastern sky, giving us a great view of our backyard, as well as our East Halbert neighbors behind us, and the tall trees behind them.

One bedtime, our mother was tucking my brother in while I gazed out the window. As I focused my attention on the small, dusky patch of sky situated between two large, leaf-filled trees, I suddenly noticed a strange cigar-shaped object covered with multi-colored, blinking lights, moving slowly in a northerly direction. Mystified, I asked my mother, "What's that thing!?"

By the time she craned her head to see, the UFO had already moved behind the trees. She said, "It



must have been just an airplane," but I know what I saw and it looked nothing like any airplane then or since. Perhaps fearing ridicule, I rarely discussed the incident with anybody outside my family.

Fast forward some 40 years. An old childhood friend, who lived on Owen Place in the 1970s and 1980s, came to visit one afternoon in 2011. We

were discussing a UFO documentary that we had both recently seen on PBS, and I asked him, "Have you ever seen a UFO?"

He replied that not only had he seen one, but it was when he lived in Bannockburn! I said, "Me too!" I then asked: "What year did this happen, and what did it look like?" He replied it was around 1971, and went on to describe the same type of cigar-shaped craft with multi-colored lights.

I was incredulous. Before he said another word, I found a Bannockburn plat (which shows the orientation of every lot in the neighborhood), unrolled it on the dining room table, and asked him, "Okay, your house was 6314 Owen Place, so what part of the sky did you see it, and in which direction was it traveling?" He located his home on the map, determined which window he was looking through, and said, "It must have been over here in the eastern part, and it was heading north," to which I immediately exclaimed, "HOLY S*** – we absolutely saw the same UFO!"

To this day, I don't know if this UFO contained aliens from another dimension, another planet, or another country. I do know that it was not an airplane, balloon, kite, atmospheric phenomena, or a figment of my imagination. It was real, it was weird, and it was here, flying over Bannockburn.

Johnston lives on Bannockburn Drive.

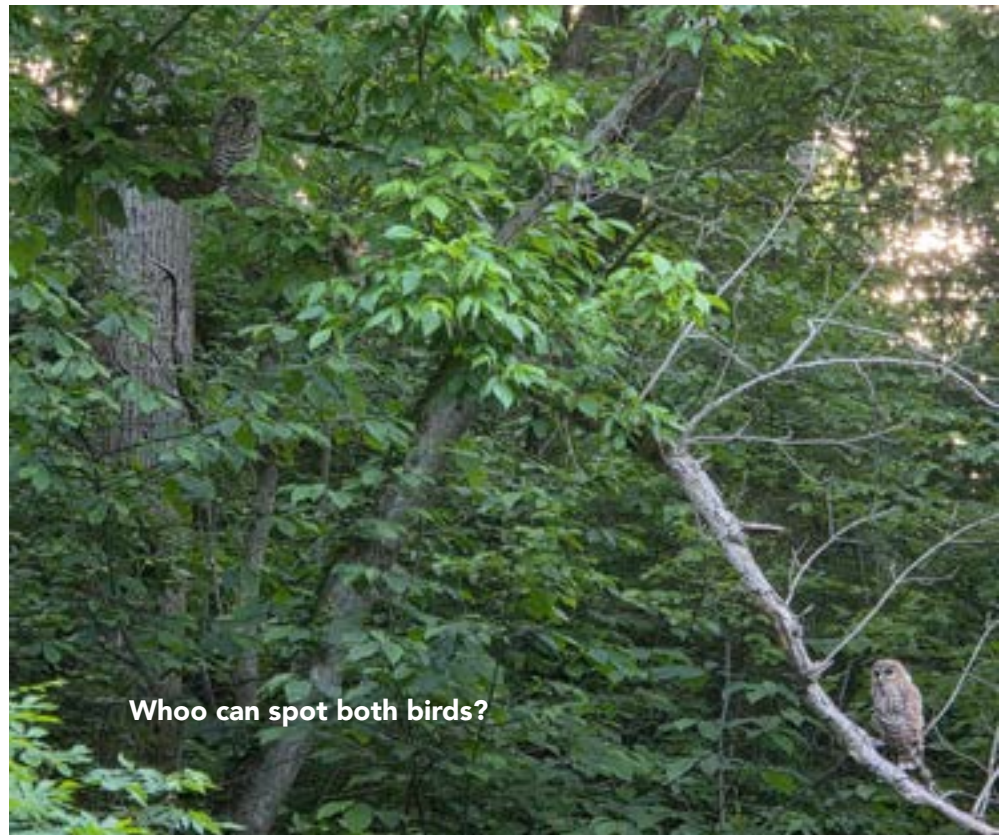


Parliament Over the C&O

By Anthony Damico

From the MacArthur Boulevard one-lane bridge canal path, this family lives immediately west of the footbridge to the towpath (halfway between lock seven and lock eight). Arriving closer to sunrise seems to increase the chances of a sighting.

Damico lives on Kenhowe Drive and took the photo to the right.



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Where Community Begins

By Cristin Kumar

As we prepare to open the doors for a new school year at Bannockburn Elementary School, I want to extend a warm welcome to every family, both those just joining our community and those who have called it home for years. There is something special about this moment: sharpened pencils, new backpacks, and the quiet hope that this year will bring growth, connection, and joy for our children.

I am writing this not only as a PTA president, but as a parent of three boys, ages 3, 7, and 10, and as someone whose educational and professional background is in federal education policy and advocacy, and early childhood and K–12 systems. In that former life, I worked on efforts to strengthen how schools and families support children and spent years in rooms where education policy was debated at scale. As a parent, though, I have learned that the most meaningful impact on a child's life happens much closer to home.

It happens in classrooms, on playgrounds, and in the everyday life of a school community.

Our children are not only learning reading, writing, and math. They are learning how to exist in the world. They are learning how to work with others, solve problems, handle disappointment, and how to belong. They learn those lessons by watching us just as much as they learn them from their teachers.

I think often about the moments in history that shaped how I understand schools and childhood. I remember where I was during Columbine, 9/11, and Sandy Hook. Like many parents of my generation, those events are not abstract to me. They are part of the backdrop of how I think about sending children into the world each morning.

Because of that, I do not take lightly the idea of community in a school setting. I have also seen, through both my professional work and my own life, that the strength of a school community is not measured only in programs or test scores, but in how connected people are to one another.

In the post-COVID world, I have noticed something many of you probably have, too. It has become common to step back from community in-



The Buddy Bench at Bannockburn Elementary School.

volvement, to assume others will carry it, or to treat participation as optional in a way that feels cultural. Life is full, and the demands on families are real. Between work, schedules, activities, sick days, and everything else, there is barely enough space to breathe some days.

But communities and the schools that operate within them are not systems that run on their own.

They depend on people showing up in small ways. In the school context, that might mean volunteering for an hour at a PTA event. Sometimes it means helping at lunch or attending a school gathering. Sometimes it means simply saying yes when there is a way to be involved, even briefly. None of it has to be everything. It just has to be something.

Research in education consistently shows that when families are engaged in their children's school communities, students do better academically, develop stronger social skills, and show growth in emotional development. Schools also tend to have fewer behavioral issues and stronger overall school climate when families are connected and involved.

But beyond the data, I think about what it feels like for a child to see their parent or caregiver present in their school. They notice. It shapes how they feel about belonging and how they understand their place in a larger community.

There have been seasons in my own life that were difficult, where community was not optional – it was what carried me through. And in more ordinary moments, I have seen how much it matters to my own children when they see me in their school, even in small ways. When they see familiar faces

BES PTA *from page 13*

around them, they feel more at ease. They feel that school is not something they are doing alone.

As we ready for the coming school year, I find myself coming back to a simple question: what is our "why?"

Why does it matter if one person shows up?

Because small actions add up. Because communities are built, they don't just happen. When we participate in our children's schools, we are teaching them something that cannot be taught in a lesson plan. We are teaching them what it looks like to care about the place where you live and the people around you.

So I would ask each of you to consider one small step this year. For parents, start with your child's school (and make sure to say hi if that school is Bannockburn!). It does not need to be large or constant, even sending an email or bringing the napkins to a party count.

When we show up for our schools, we are showing our children how to show up for the world.



And that is where community begins.

P.S. If you have any questions about the Bannockburn PTA, ideas for how we can better support our students and school community, or if you'd like to get involved—whether for an hour or throughout the year—I would love to hear from you. You can reach me anytime at bannockburnelementarypta@gmail.com.

I hope to meet many of you this school year, and I look forward to working together to make this a wonderful year for every child and every family at Bannockburn.

Kumar of Elgin Lane is President of the Bannockburn Elementary PTA, a native Washingtonian, and a mother of three. She has a master's degree in education policy and worked in Congress and the nonprofit advocacy sector negotiating childcare and education policy. Those experiences continue to shape her commitment to strengthening education, building community, and fostering meaningful connections among families and neighbors.

A Note about Milkweed at BES

By Henriette Rahusen

The June edition of the *Back 9* contained information from David Hecht and the BCA Woodlands Stewardship Group on the sprouting of a patch of milkweed on the school grounds.

The milkweeds are likely remnants/offspring of the robust milkweed presence at BES in the 70s and 80s, which attracted lots of monarch butterflies. Both were the result of the enthusiasm and agency of Mrs. Francine Zucker, long-time teacher of first graders, who each year led her students in a study of the monarch butterfly and its amazing annual migration. Zucker actively promoted the presence of milkweed in the woodland sections of the school grounds.

I hope the current milkweed patch will thrive and attract lots of monarchs.

Milkweed in the woods at BES was rescued from porcelainberry by the BCA Woodlands Stewardship Group. The milkweed had formed pods by mid July.



Bannockburn in Action

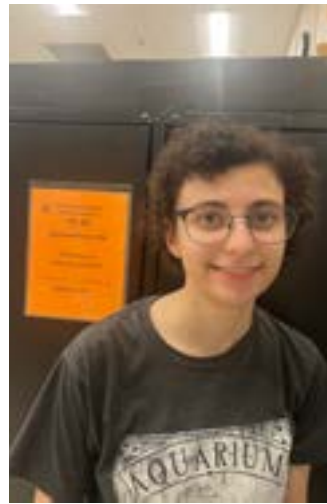
Maryland Primaries June 23rd



First-time voter, Della McCahill of West Halbert Road and her mother, Erin.



First-time voter, Elie Fisher of Brigadoon Drive and his mother, Mara Bralove.



First-time voter, MJ Solomon of Owen Place.



Election Board Chief Judge Noah Guthman of Brigadoon Drive is a familiar presence. He has been working elections half of his life!



Mark Pennybacker of Kenhowe Drive biked down to the Great American State Fair on the Mall on June 27th. Pennybacker described the Fair, which was one of America's sesquicentennial events, as being "sad and weird."



The Bannockburn Civic Association Board held its annual barbeque on June 27th. Everyone had to come inside after a rain storm. (Photo by Lisa Solomon.)

Bannockburn In Action continued from page 15



General MacArthur and the Boulevards performed at Merrimack Pool on July 25th.

Keith and Chelle Parsky of Pyle Road on their second honeymoon in Italy.



Enjoying Glen Echo Park



Patty Howie (left) of Laverock Court and Malla Wedberg of Cairn Terrace at Bannockburn Donor Appreciation Day.



Hans Engler and Susan Wexler of East Halbert Road with their grandson Theo at Bannockburn Donor Appreciation Day.



Mike Schwartz and Sharon Scanlon of West Halbert Road dance in the Bumper Car Pavilion at a Thursday night concert.



Stu Levy of Braeburn Place with son Isaac at Bannockburn Donor Appreciation Day.

Washington Folk Festival Returns to Glen Echo Park

By Ayan Kishore



Mark your calendars, Bannockburn: on Sunday, **August 23rd, from noon to 7 PM**, the Washington Folk Festival returns to Glen Echo Park, just a short walk or bike ride from home. Six stages, more than 40 performing acts, and a full afternoon of music, dance, and storytelling await, all completely free and open to everyone.

The full festival lineup spans genres and traditions, with sets from Little Red and the Renegades, Lydia Martin, Mutual Agreement, Foggy Bottom Whomp Stompers, Raymi, Charlie Bryant, Djangolaya, Rick Franklin and Tom Mindte, Ardmore, Sunshine Skiffle Band, Collide, and more, plus a contra dance for anyone who wants to get up and move.

This year's festival carries a special honor: the 2026 Washington Folk Festival has received an official citation from Governor Wes Moore in recognition of its contribution to the cultural life of our region.

A New Stage Just for Kids (and the Young at Heart)

The festival is debuting a sixth stage this year: Songs for All Ages, dedicated to family-friendly performances that delight children and grown-ups alike. Look for Donna Elanor presenting Tricorn Tales, Bill Jenkins and his ever-popular drum petting zoo, Maureen Andary and more. Then, as evening approaches, the same stage will host a special segment called "Liberty and Justice for All," featuring beloved songs of conscience and hope – the kind that have carried movements for freedom and unity throughout American history – sometime between 5 and 7 PM.

A New Middle Eastern Spotlight

New this year, the festival is partnering with the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs to present a Middle Eastern Spotlight, bringing together a Jewish Music Showcase, the Sarv School of Persian Music, Group Mavi Turkish Music Ensemble, Humayun Khan with Whirling Dervishes, and Kylie Hilali and The Fez Tones with



belly dancing. A Turkish food stand will be among the offerings. Speaking of food, festivalgoers can expect at least five food trucks this year, twice as many as last year!

How Bannockburn Can Get Involved

The Washington Folk Festival is almost entirely volunteer run, from the performers to the stage crews, and it depends on community support to stay free for everyone. Bannockburn neighbors are warmly invited to attend and bring friends and family, to volunteer for a shift on festival day (much needed!), and to donate if the festival is one you look forward to each summer. Students get SSL hours for volunteering. Every bit of support helps make this event happen!

RSVP and sign up to volunteer now at fsgw.org/washington-folk-festival.

Kishore is the current Vice President of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. He lives in the Town of Glen Echo.