

FUN! Day at Spy Pond Park

Elaine Crowder

On Saturday September 22, 2018 (10 am to 1 pm), Spy Pond Park will host its annual day of FUN! (Rain date next day 1 to 4 pm). Come celebrate all that Spy Pond and its public park have to offer. No matter your age, there's something for everyone. Enjoy music from the lawn as you ferry to Elizabeth Island (leaving from the boat ramp throughout the afternoon).

FUN! Day Performance Schedule:

- 10:00 Lokensgard Blechbaser Ensemble Brass Band
- 10:45 Martial Arts Demonstration (Charles DeVigilio's students)
- 11-12:00 Aunt Mimi -- an up-tempo guitar duo (Steven Malatesta and Dermot Whittaker) playing many genre spanning the decades
- 12-1:00 The Harmonators – Joe Burns, Dianne (De) Iannitelli, and Glen Woodworth perform



The Harmonators – Comprised of Joe Burns, Dianne (De) Iannitelli, and Glen Woodworth, this trio offers great harmonies, fine guitar work and hand percussion instruments.

Fun Day participants will be treated to tours of Elizabeth Island, led by Arlington Land Trust guides. This charming island, encircled by Spy Pond waters, offers surprisingly varied terrain. Explore the marsh, the high meadow, and tread paths beneath the tree canopy.

Back on the mainland, wander down the park path where art and nature adventures abound. With the natural beauty of the park for inspiration, stop at the many tables offering crafts and games for all ages. Toddlers will enjoy a table reserved just for them, chock full of age-appropriate activities, while older children can complete paper puzzles.



Aunt Mimi, an up-tempo guitar duo (Steven Malatesta and Dermot Whittaker) will regale FUN Day-goers with great vocal harmonies and an enormous repertoire covering rock, pop, and folk classics from the 50's through the present.

Nature lovers, look through a microscope to see the tiny creatures that swim in the pond water. Make a leaf print using leaves from the park and ArtBeat materials.

What preschooler doesn't love dirt? Puddlestompers will host a dirt box this year that fulfills every preschooler's dreams. New also this year is a set of large disks for building all manner of structures. Go to the middle of the park on the bike path side of the path if building is your thing.



And then there's face painting. Kids of all ages line up every year to transform themselves into Spiderman, or suns, rain clouds or bunnies, sharks, stars or lightening. Just look for face painting at the chairs under a tree.

Face painting is always a highlight of the Spy Pond Park Fun Day. --Photo by Fred Moses.

Finally, FUN!-goers can participate in the time-honored craft of boat making, using natural materials that won't pollute the pond if winds blow wrong or boats capsize. Select the perfect piece of bark for the boat, a leaf for a sail, connect with mud-daubed sticks, decorate with feathers, leaves and berries, and you are ready to launch at North Beach, accessible via wheelchair-friendly ramp. Keeping all boats afloat is a tricky proposition, but it's a fun problem to solve.

For more information: www.friendsofspypondpark.org .

A coalition of sponsors has made this day possible:

-Friends of Spy Pond Park -Arlington Land Trust (Sponsors) -Kickstand Cafe Open Mic (Music)

-Arlington/Belmont Crew Team -Mystic River Watershed Assoc. (MyRWA)

-Art Beat -Puddlestompers -The Book Rack

Special thanks to event organizers Betsy Leondar-Wright (coordinator of volunteers & children's activities), Karen Grossman (Friends of Spy Pond Park), Mark Sandman and Joe Burns (Kickstand Cafe/Open Mic), for coordinating the musicians and sound, Elaine Crowder (Publicity) and all participating volunteers.