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FUN! Day at **Spy Pond Park**

Elaine Crowder

On Saturday September 21, 2019 (10am-1pm), the Friends of Spy Pond Park (FSPP) 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).

Start your FUN! Day by hopping in a boat for a tour 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.



FUN! Day Music

Saturday Sept. 21, 2019 – 10-1:00pm – Spy Pond Park



- Starting 10:00 am
Lokensgard Blechbaser Ensemble Brass Band – a bright sound to match a brassy shine!
- **Aunt Mimi** -- an up-tempo guitar duo (Steven Malatesta and Dermot Whittaker) playing classics spanning the decades
- **The Harmonators** – Joe Burns, Dianne (De) Iannitelli, and Glen Woodworth offer great harmonies, fine guitar work & lively hand percussion
- **Martial Arts Demonstration** by Zhen Ren Chuan (Charles DeVirgilio's students)

↑ *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. Photo courtesy of Aunt Mimi.



↑ *Zhen Ren Chuan Martial Arts*
—Photo by Elaine Crowder



↑ *The Harmonators*, comprised of Joe Burns, Dianne (De) Iannitelli, and Glen Woodworth, offers great harmonies, fine guitar work and hand percussion instruments. Photo courtesy of Harmonators.

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 from Tinkergarten and more. Toddlers will enjoy a table reserved just for them, chock full of age-appropriate activities, while older children can complete scavenger hunts and paper puzzles (containing tips for caring for the park) to earn nature-themed prizes, such as binoculars.



A family engrossed in printing leaves. Photo by Elaine Crowder, 2018.

Making an encore appearance this year is a set of large disks for building all manner of structures. If building is your thing, keep a look out for a set of white disks on the lawn (courtesy of Arlington's Public Art Curator, Cecily Miller)

Nature lovers—catch bugs with Audubon Habitat to examine in all their tiny glory. Select the perfect leaf for leaf print masterpieces, using supplies from ArtBeat. Get in the environmental spirit by up-cycling plastic into artistic vases and planters.



Everyone gets involved with Build-It disks, provided by Cecily Miller, Arlington Commission for the Arts and Culture. Photo by Elaine Crowder, 2018.

And then there's face painting...

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



Two girls smile behind painted faces at the 2018 Spy Pond Park Fun Day. Photo by Elaine Crowder, 2018

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. Keeping all boats afloat is a tricky proposition, but it's a fun problem to solve.

For more information: www.friendsofspypondpark.org .

An array of contributors has made this day possible:

-- *Friends of Spy Pond Park & Arlington Land Trust (Sponsors)* -- *Jam'n Java Open Mic/ Kickstand Cafe (Music)* -- *Arlington/Belmont Crew Team* -- *Mystic River Watershed Assoc. (MyRWA)* – *Mass Audubon Habitat* -- *Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture*
-- *The Book Rack* – *ArtBeat* – *Tinkergarten*

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