The Village News
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN
SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 57 | ISSUE 8

Friends of Moses Hall Needs Funds to Keep Preservation Efforts on Track

By Charlotte Troup Leighton, CJCA Vice President, and CJ resident Susan Shipp

Editor's Note: Due to a production error, some very important information was left out of this story in the August issue. The article is republished here in its entirety.

Friends of Moses Hall, now in its third year of advocacy to protect and preserve the historic Morningstar Moses Cemetery and Hall in Cabin John, is launching a fundraising campaign now that it has 501(c)(3) status, allowing donors to receive a tax-deduction for their gifts.

The funds are needed to move forward with the development of a comprehensive conservation and restoration plan, which will enable the organization to apply for large grants. The phased restoration plan for the site will prioritize mitigation of erosion and safe access.

Since 2020, Friends of Moses Hall (FMH) has secured small grants totaling $5,000 from the James R. Trader Foundation, the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, and the Janet Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Cabin John Citizens Association played a critical role in the group's early efforts in 2020, by sponsoring clean-ups and donating $2,000 to haul away massive amounts of debris.

Additionally, area law firms and the University of Maryland Clinical Law Program generously have provided pro bono legal services to FMH since 2020.

But the vast majority of funds received to date – more than $12,000 – came directly from individuals, descendants, and the founding members of FMH. These monies were used for bamboo remediation, insurance, a new website, clean-ups, and tour events, engineering consultants, and educational materials.

Through its work, FMH has grown from a grassroots community effort focused on drawing attention to a historic African-American cemetery that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) was ignoring in its Beltway expansion plans into a non-profit organization that has brought national attention to the site's history, as well as its importance as a compelling example of racial injustice in highway infrastructure projects — past and present.

FRIENDS OF MOSES HALL

Along the way, FMH forced the SHA to acknowledge that the historic cemetery and Gibson Grove community were disturbed by earlier highway construction and to rethink their Beltway expansion plans. The pending federal lawsuit represents FMH's continued advocacy at the highest level, but the organization is also committed in the long-term to the restoration and preservation of the Morningstar Moses Cemetery and Hall site.

FMH recently retained consulting civil engineers and planners to develop a phased restoration plan for the site. While a significant portion of the engineers' work is being generously offered on a pro bono basis, there are some hard costs and subcontractor deliverables that FMH will need to cover.

FMH needs to raise at least $8,000 to move forward with a detailed topographical survey, which is essential to inform

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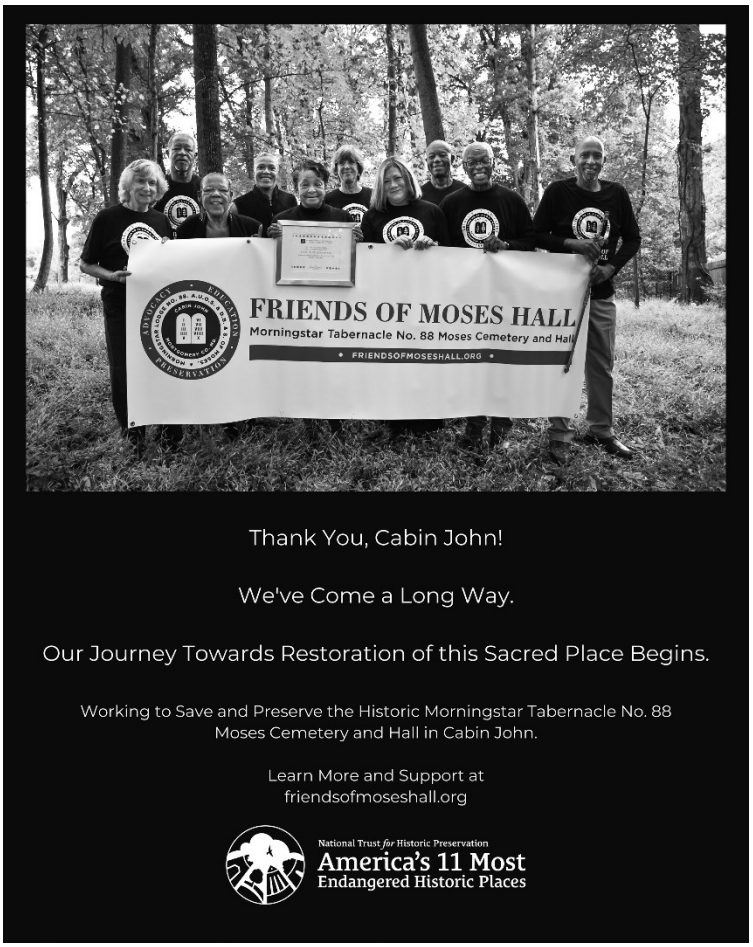
the site restoration plan. State highway officials have agreed to share some data from their 2021 ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the property so that FMH's engineers ideally can pull it into the topographical survey to show the precise location of graves.

FMH's most pressing needs will require professional services, including tree work and erosion control to protect graves.

Cabin Johners have been incredibly generous with their time, talent, and resources in support of FMH in the past. They have been enthusiastic participants in volunteer clean-ups at the Morningstar Moses site over the years, which typically occur in the spring and fall. FMH did not conduct a spring clean-up this year, but we will have work to do at our fall clean-up on **November 12**. Please save the date and have your rakes on standby.

In the meantime, anyone willing to make a donation of any size to help the group move forward with the topographical survey and tree work at the Morningstar Moses site, please visit: **https://www.friendsofmoseshall.org/support**.

If you have any questions about the mission and work of FMH, please email us at **morningstarmosescj@gmail.com**.



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Real Estate Activity in Cabin John

August 2023

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

ACTIVE

6417 81st Street
List Price $1,390,000
4BR, 4FB, 2Gar, 3,286 sq, ft.

PENDING

26 Froude Circle
Price $575,000
2BR, 1FB, 0Gar, 971 sq. ft.

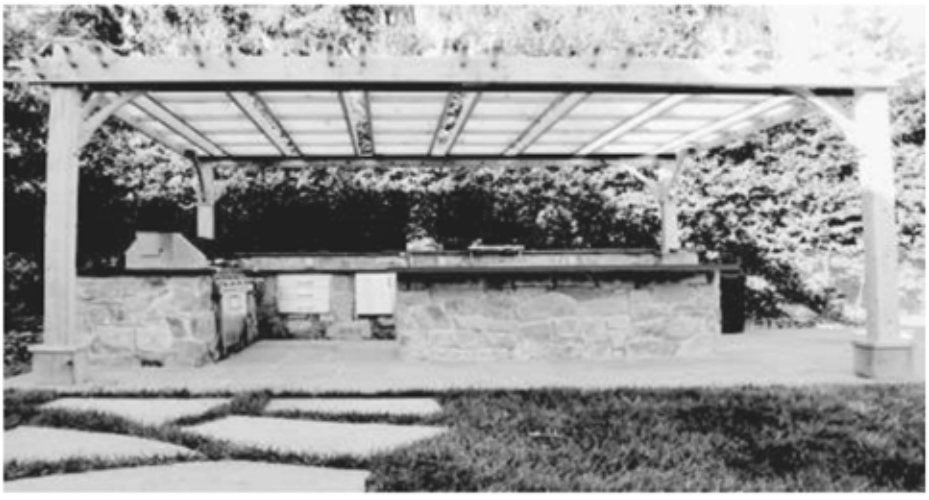
CLOSED

7709 Tomlinson Avenue
Price $835,000
3BR, 2FB, 0Gar, 972 sq. ft.

7805 Archbold Terrace
Price $ 720,000
3BR, 2FB, 0Gar, 1,218 sq. ft.

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Back to School

Join us in wishing our CJ students all the best for a great 2023-2024 school year!

The crew from 75th St.: Sam Betancourt, Defne Karaca, Sahuri and Shaarav Takar, Emily and Ani Navin, with Sadie front and center.



The gang from Cypress Grove Lane is headed off to Bannockburn Elementary. From left: **Alejandro Andrade** (4th grade), **Max Shih** (4th grade), **Mia Shih** (K), **Aras Gulluoglu** (4th grade), and **Marcelo Andrade** (5th grade).





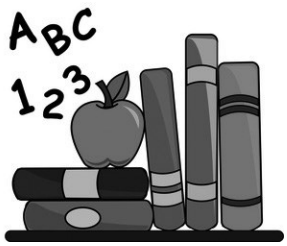
The trio from the Cabin John Gardens East bus stop, **Luke Brafford** (K), **Julia Brafford** (3rd grade) and **Anna McInturff** (K), are ready for their first day at Bannockburn.

Ian Gaull starts his senior year at Walt Whitman High School.



Henry Canestaro, of 81st Street, on his first day of kindergarten at Bannockburn Elementary.





Thank you to our CJ photographers for sharing your back to school photos: Elizabeth Andrade, Jill Brafford, Rebecca Drobis, Laura Gaudio-Hint, Sarah Heidema, Eric Nothman, Patrick Ryan and Maria Liu, Karen Severy, Tamzin Smith, and Bella Zakaryan.

Rosie O'Connor, age 4, of 81st Street, heads off to her pre-k class at Clara Barton Center for Children.

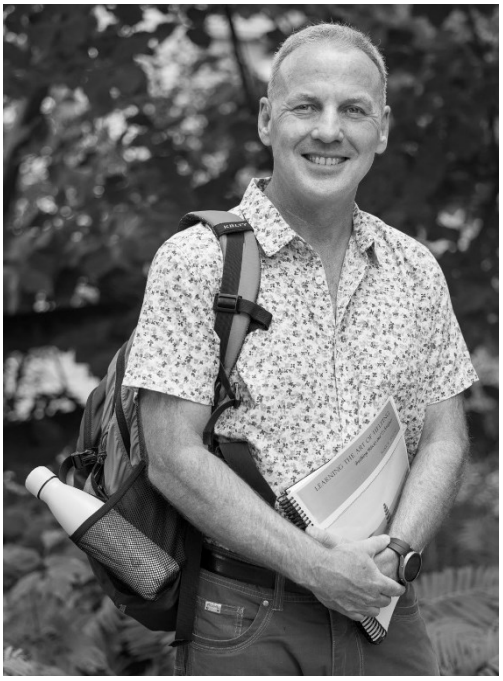


Holly Ryan, of Tomlinson Court, started in the Toucans class at Clara Barton Center for Children.



Noah Nothman sheds some stress at Great Falls Park (Maryland side) after his first day of 12th grade at Walt Whitman High School. Noah is seen mid-chute at right.





After a long career in tech software architecture and management **Mark Smith** returns to school at age 61 to study clinical mental health counseling at Marymount University.

The crowd from Tomlinson gets ready to depart for Bannockburn.





Evergreen's Summer Block Party a Success!

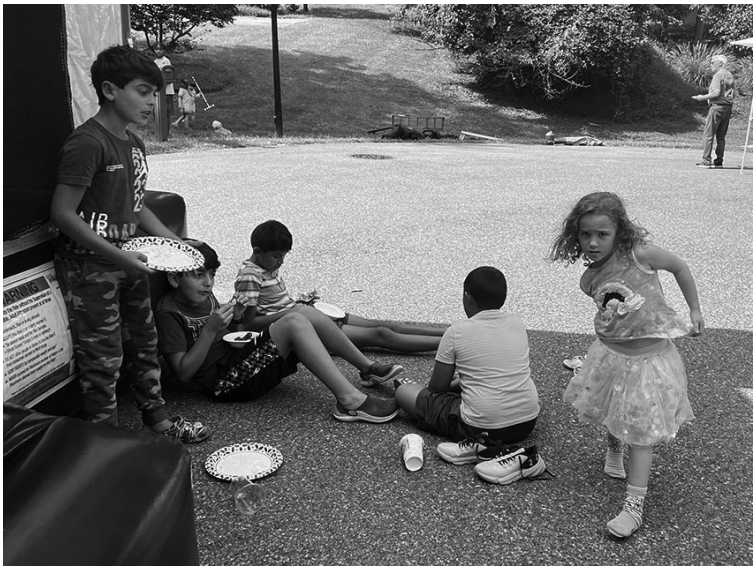
Article and photos by Charlotte Troup Leighton

After a four-year hiatus, the Evergreen community along Cypress Grove Lane was finally able to get together for another great summer-end block party. Evergreen neighbors, old and new, came to meet, catch up, celebrate a neighbor's milestone birthday, and marvel at growing families and fast-growing children.



Kids loved the bounce house and ice cream truck! A delicious potluck included favorite food and drink recipes, garden bounty, and Levantine-Turkish delicacies from Evergreen's new neighbors' restaurant in Dupont Circle, ala. Everyone was thrilled to learn that a second ala will open soon in Bethesda!

As Evergreen can attest, block parties are a great way to meet neighbors and build community.



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Opposite page:
Evergreen residents turned out in good numbers to spend time with friends and neighbors.

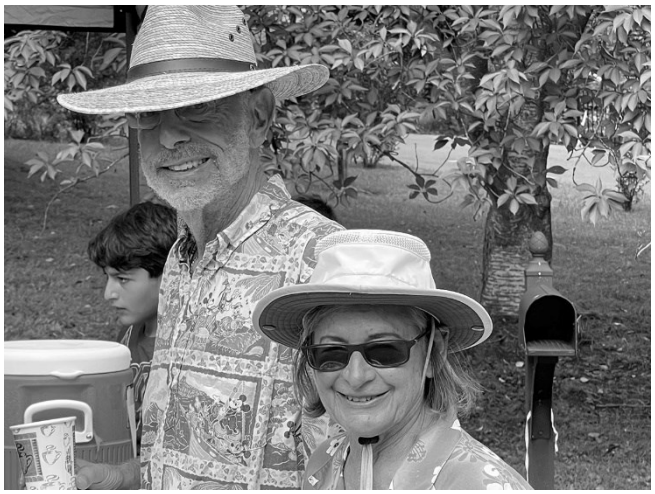
The bounce house was a big hit with **Aras Gulluogluo**, **Altan Fulluogluo**, **Cristiano Andrade**, **Marcelo Andrade**, and **Bella Bosch**.

This page, clockwise, from left: **Isabella Bonetti** grabs a frosty treat.

A quick melt is a summer hazard for **Augusto Bonetti**.

Michael and Gail Marcus enjoy a beautiful day.

Steve Futterman, **Danielle Swinton**, **Diane Swinton White**, and **Ellen Futterman** enjoyed lively discussion.





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Summer Lightning

By Eric Dinerstein

There's one, then another, then a hundred or more. The fireflies flashing their warm green glow as they swarm under the crown of a giant black walnut tree are a sight to behold. A civilization of flying beacons, each emitting tiny tail lights to track their movements, reminding us of nature's spectacle, visible from our own backyards. The flashing glow of these flying insects must trigger many a young imagination: What causes them to light up? What are they saying to each other, or to me? Who eats them? Do they make good pets?

I wasn't so interested in decoding firefly communication or exploring how they turned on the lights; like most young boys, I was simply keen to catch them in my jar, often forgetting to release them before they expired. I didn't realize what a marvelous example of evolution fireflies represented: creatures capable of "bioluminescence"— creating light through chemicals they produce in their own body — the ultimate party trick, better than walking on the ceiling. (Imagine if back in the days of disco, John Travolta could flash in colors while he gyrated — that's what fireflies do). Fireflies contain the aptly named enzyme luciferase that catalyzes a compound, luciferin, that in the presence of oxygen, emits a green light. Common eastern fireflies (*Photinus pyralis*), or what we used to call back in New Jersey lightning bugs, were a revelation to me, a natural sign that the long days of summer were finally upon us.

Those creatures that light up summer evenings-- fireflies, lightning bugs, or, as they are sometimes called, glow worms — are neither flies (order Diptera), nor true bugs (order Homoptera), nor anything like a worm, but beetles. If you look closely at lightning bugs when they land on your arm to rest for a moment, you can see the pair of wing covers folding over the wings when at rest.

These covers, or elytra, are but one feature that make beetles different from true bugs (which lack elytra), or flies (which have tiny feelers, called halteres, that stick out from their bodies like bicycle kickstands). Lightning bugs belong to the beetle family Lampyridae, which holds more than 2,000 species.

They are distinguished by their relatively soft bodies (compare them to the body-armor exoskeleton of a scarab or dung beetle) and, of course, their light-emitting talent. The ability to give off light may have originated as a warning signal to larval predators that this creature was distasteful.

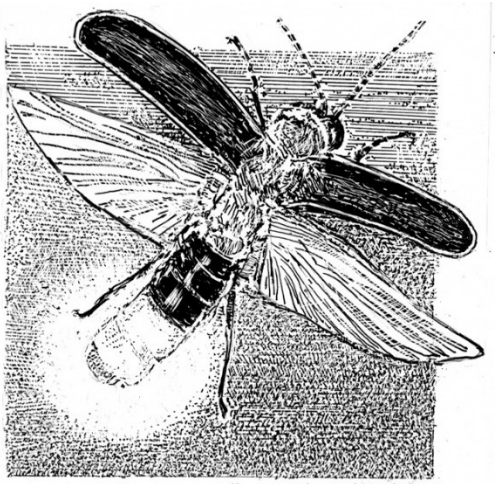


Illustration by Trudy Nicholson

While the origins of bioluminescence in fireflies may have been to ward off creatures that could ingest them, the phenomenon of lighting up one's body shifted to advertise reproductive status. How does this new feature enhance the ability of the organism to leave more offspring that reach reproductive age? Each species seems to have its own distinct lightning bug language able to help individuals detect and find each other in the dark. But the lightning bug story gets darker: the females of some species of fireflies, which can be flightless, emit light so as to attract males. But instead of procreating with their insect suitors, the hungry females lure in the naïve males and eat them. Diabolical — maybe that's why they call it luciferin.

As Lampyrids and their cousins, the Elaterids, or click beetles, are global in distribution, glorious displays of fireflies can be found in many regions. There are even firefly reserves, such as in the mangrove swamps of Bangladesh, called the Sundarbans (which has the highest incidences of tigers taking humans, so be watchful, lightning bug eco-tourist). One of my favorite Elaterids is a tropical species that not only makes an audible click when handled, but also has two bright green "headlights" that make it visible on a dark night in the rainforest. Among biologists in Costa Rica, these charmers became lovingly known as Volkswagen beetles for their green high beams.

As awe-inspiring as they are, the phenomenon of giant aggregations of fireflies may become a thing of the past. Biologists have warned of an insect Armageddon — a massive die-off of insects now underway. Even though people are familiar with the phrase "the sixth great extinction of life on Earth" — an era we are currently living in — they may not realize that the loss of insect species and populations is a major component. If the numbers of insects keep declining, our crop production and our own species may not be far behind, since we depend on healthy plant and animal ecosystems for survival.

What can we do to help lightning bugs and their kind? The first thing I mentioned in last month's column on the Prometheus moth was to turn off lights at night when you can. Bright lights are thought to interfere with the adults when they fly in twilight. Fireflies breed for only a short period of the year. Leave the lights off or put them on motion-sensors, and let fireflies breed in peace. Stop using pesticide and herbicides in your yard. You can't have it both ways — a heavy application of toxic chemicals AND the firefly light show.

Another critical action is to preserve more insect habitat—habitat that is, in essence, wildlife habitat. What's good for lynx and lemur is good for the lightning bug.

In another register, it all goes back to our first brushes with the wonders of the natural world. If the evening glow of fireflies does not reawaken in us our intrinsic connections to nature, if those vital ties to life on Earth are severed, our lives and our presence on Earth are much diminished. A world without fireflies is an impoverished biosphere filled with summer nights of total darkness.

We Want to Hear from you!

The Village News editors are always on the lookout for neighborhood news and photos. Please share the latest from your corner of Cabin John by emailing **vneditorial@gmail.com**. When sharing images with us please remember to identify people and pets in your photos from left to right with first and last names and provide the name of the photographer. Photos are best reproduced at 200-300 dpi.



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3. **Junk and old stuff** – remove piles of anything unattractive
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CJCA News

By Scott Lewis

The CJCA's first meeting of the 2023-2024 year will be held on **Wednesday, October 25**, at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (we will not have a September meeting). Topics include a discussion regarding a Cabin John History Committee, results from our Crab Feast and a review and discussion of the upcoming CJCA Calendar, including proposed meeting topics and other events.

A Proposed Cabin John History Committee

The CJCA recently appointed a Cabin John History Committee to be chaired by **Rachel Donnan**, the VN's history columnist.

The committee has an ambitious agenda that aims to preserve Cabin John's unique history while encouraging the community to engage with its story.

Some of the committee's tasks will include the survey and cataloging of Cabin John historical materials held by residents and others; reprinting "Cabin John: Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place" by Judy Welles, including her additional research since its publication; and further developing educational community events and programs.

The history committee will be presented at the October CJCA meeting to invite community members who may be interested in contributing their time and effort towards preserving Cabin John history.

PUBLIC WORKS CORNER

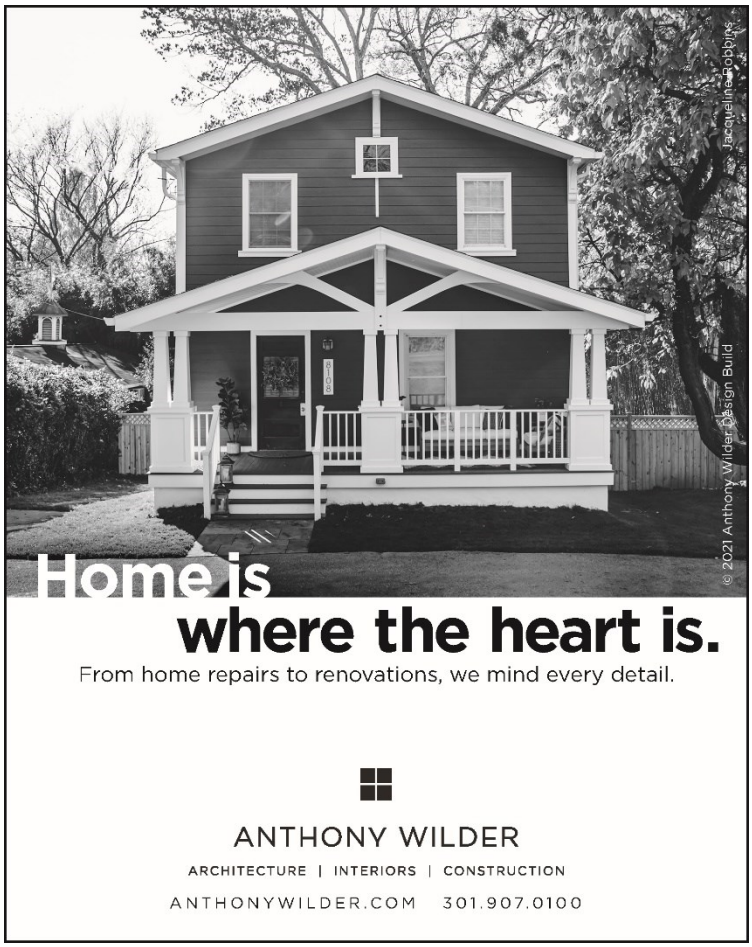
CANAL METERING WORK COMPLETE

By Scott Lewis

After close to a year of work, the WSSC "Metering Work" has been completed on the canal at the Cabin John Creek underpass near the wooden pedestrian bridge over the canal. This is the point where the WSSC line connects with the line managed by DC Water.

Changes in technology have eliminated the need for metering hence the need for this project.

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In addition, and more importantly for our community, heavy rain events have led to the creek overrunning its banks and spilling into the canal so this project included some reinforcement work as well.





Note: Unfortunately publishing constraints don't allow us to show the full extent of the remediation work in these images. Please visit **https://cabinjohn.org/** to view the photos in more detail.



Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

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Games ● Sports ● Prizes ● Special Events
Crafts ● Movies ● DJ/Dancing ● Raffles ● Snacks
Eight Fridays: Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19,
Feb 23, Mar 15, Apr 26, May 17
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Meet Shelly McKenzie

A Community of Volunteers

The Village News is staffed by a community volunteers. Shelly McKenzie took on editor duties over the summer as Loretta Devery Ingalls moved on to other projects. Joan Roskosh, who handles the layout for each issue, will be profiled next month.

When did you move to Cabin John, and what brought you here?

I reluctantly moved to Cabin John as my husband chased a shorter commute to his job in Virginia in 2012. At the time Cabin John felt like the end of the earth to me. I had been here only one other time—after our pregnant rescue dog had puppies and we were told to bring them to Alpine Veterinary Hospital for medical care. It didn't take long, though, to become charmed by the community spirit and small-town vibe of the area—holiday events, the rec center, the parades and flags on patriotic holidays—I really felt like I had gone back in time. Even the Bethesda Co-op—when I was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland the food co-op on campus had been one of my favorite spots—walking in and smelling the soaps—it took me back to my college days.

Tell us a little about your family members (including any pets)

There are four of us plus two cats—my sons Seamus and Nolan and my husband, Jim.

What keeps you and/or your family busy - what are your hobbies/interests/activities?

We love the rich cultural life in Montgomery County—there is so much to do and so many activities to take part in. Music was so important in getting me through the pandemic and we are spending a lot of time at concerts and other music venues these days. You can find us at Strathmore, Imagination Stage or the outdoor concerts at Glen Echo on Thursdays during the summer.

Where did you grow up? Where else have you lived?

I'm a native Marylander—I was born in Cumberland and grew up in St. Mary's County. Montgomery County has been my home since I returned from southeastern France, where I spent most of my 20s. In my last position I worked at CERN, the particle accelerator, in Geneva, Switzerland, and then drove across the border every night to go home to my apartment in France.

Have You Volunteered with CJCA (or Other Organizations) Before?

In high school I spent a lot of time volunteering as a candy striper at the local hospital, trying to decide if I should go into nursing. In the end, languages won out but I came full circle ingraduate school when I started researching the history of the body. I ended up exploring how exercise was legitimated as leisure activity and achieved scientific validation by the medical community in the book I wrote—*Getting Physical: The Rise of Fitness Culture in America.*

Why have you agreed to serve as content/production editor for *The Village News*?

The Village News is one of the things that made me love Cabin John. On a practical level I had experience in this area—I had previously worked in communications at some DC organizations and as the editor of an academic journal. On a philosophical level I wanted to play a role in building community. Voluntary associations of all stripes are in decline around the country. Participating in the production of the *Village News* is my way of working for community cohesion



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The Starlight Orchestra

Big Band Makes Big Impression at Crab Feast



By Scott Lewis

For over ten years, the Starlight Orchestra has entertained our community at the annual crab feast. The orchestra is composed of federal employees, contractors and other DC-area residents. Its musicians range in age from 20 to 70.

So what type of music do they play? Known as big band jazz or swing, the music originated at the beginning of the last century. At that time, social dances were dominated by waltz and polka music, which had traveled from Europe. As jazz migrated from its New Orleans origin to New York and Chicago, the music and dance began to change as the rhythm and harmonies were considered more entertaining. As the new music was played at social dances, the improvisational part of jazz music was deemphasized for written composition with its more predictable patterns.

The traditional big band is composed of ten or more musicians with four sections: saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section.





The most well-known songs include Billy Strayhorn's "Take the A Train," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" sung by the Andrew Sisters, and Glenn Miller's "In The Mood." The last chord of "In the Mood" was meant to sound like a squadron of American bombers flying overhead.

Most would agree the heyday for traditional big band music was during the 1940s when scores of orchestras entertained Americans from coast to coast. The music also played an important role in maintaining morale in the armed forces as the Allies won World War II. Today, this type of music can be heard on streaming services, on WAMU's Hot Jazz Saturday Night and at our crab feast!

Don't miss your chance to hear this great music when the Starlight Orchestra graciously entertains diners on Sept. 16.



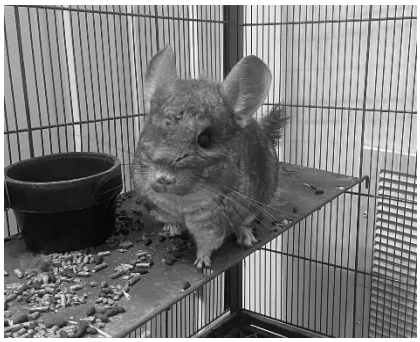


Pets of Cabin John

By Sarah Craven

Meet Kiwi

In January 2012, third-grader Jack McGuire spotted a flyer at the Westbard Giant: "Kiwi the Chinchilla - Free to a good home. "With promises to his parents of providing full-time chinchilla attention, Jack became the proud new caretaker of Kiwi, a sweet and silent female gray chinchilla of unknown age. Little did Jack (or his parents) know that a chinchilla, under "ideal conditions," could live to be more than 20 years old.



This July, Indy, Clara, and Elise Young became the newest generation of loving caregivers to the still shy and silent — but very spry — Kiwi. The Young family knew about Kiwi because their mom and dad, Hannah and Tyler Young, are former residents of Cabin John Gardens. Many of you may know Hannah as the beloved voice teacher for many Cabin John students. Jack, now a rising college junior, gave the Youngs his best tips on how to care for Kiwi, including which treats she finds most delicious and how to give her a volcanic dust bath — a very cute trick.

While Kiwi has moved up I-270 with a brand new cage and a brand new loving family, a piece of her heart remains in Cabin John, where she spent so many happy years. Under these new "ideal conditions," she may well live 20 more years! Viva Kiwi!



Fast forward 11 years: Jack McGuire (at left) with Kiwi's new family: Clara, Indy, and Elise Young.

CLASSIFIED ADS

COMPUTER SERVICES

DC/PC Computer Support offers friendly, personalized computer and electronic services to area residents. Services include maintenance, repairs, upgrades, tune-ups, new PC setups, virus and spyware removal, networking and training. In person, remote and telephone support are available. To schedule an appointment or learn more about our services email support@dc-pc.com or call Jim at 202-841-0873.

LICKS & LEASHES PET CARE
DEPENDABLE, RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY

We provide:
|•Daily walks | •Daycare | •Boarding |
| •In Home Pet Sitting |
We pick up and drop off for both our Daycare and Boarding services.
Check us out: www.licksandleashes.net
Owner: Lauren Nicholas | 808-286-6556

HANDYMAN AVAILABLE

Your Friendly Neighborhood Handyman and CJ Resident, Bruce Lamb. Willing to fix whatever breaks in your home. Free estimates. Power washing g available. Text 240-372-8790.

RENTAL AVAILABLE

Cozy townhouse, recently renovated. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths on quiet cul-de-sac, backs to parkland. Close to Potomac River. Modern kitchen, newer washer/dryer. Access to storage shelving in the basement. $2800 per month. Good credit required. Text 202-280-3344.

Lisan Martin Therapy



Lisan Martin, a psychotherapist with over 30 years of experience, provides counseling to individuals, couples, and families. A Cabin John resident, Lisan sees clients virtually and also at her offices in Cabin John and Tenleytown, DC.
www.lisanmartintherapy.com
202.537.6614

▪ 7707 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, MD 20818
▪ 4000 Albemarle St., NW, Washington, DC 20016



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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
5 pm, September 25, 2023
CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPT 16

52nd Annual Cabin John Chicken & Crab Feast
2:00-6:00 pm
Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

THE FIRST CJCA MEETING OF THE 2023-24 YEAR IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 25.