The Village News
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN
JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 57 | ISSUE 6

CJCA News

By Heidi Lewis
Co-President, Cabin John Citizens Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The May 24 CJCA meeting (the last before summer break) featured a visit from our Maryland Legislative District 16 Delegate **Marc Korman**. Marc is the Maryland House of Delegates Majority Leader; he sits on the Appropriations Committee, the Capital Budget Subcommittee, and is Chair of the Transportation and Environment Subcommittee. Marc provided CJCA meeting attendees with copies of his recent letter to District 16 residents, which is also posted on the CJCA website at **https://cabinjohn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Marc-Korman-Letter.pdf**

Marc shared that the General Assembly made progress on several bills to improve transportation funding, including passing a bill that allows Maryland to issue transportation bonds based on future federal highway aid, which is up right now thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Although former Governor Hogan's plans to widen I-495 and I-270 are not legislative undertakings, meeting attendees were keen to tap Marc's line of sight into current developments and hear his thoughts on what Governor Moore's administration may be doing.

Marc stated that the Moore administration, which includes Secretary of Transportation Paul Wiedefeld, who most recently ran WMATA, is expected to make an announcement in June to provide information on their approach to the I-495 and I-270 corridors and how the process will work for the public to participate. He expects the administration to pursue a different type of contracting process than the public-private for-profit model of the previous administration. He also expects a multi-modal plan that includes buses and other transit options.

Meeting attendees, including CJCA VP **Charlotte Troup Leighton**, and Friends of Cabin John Creek board member (and former CJCA president) **Burr Gray**, shared with Delegate Korman concerns regarding any new interchange at River Road. As can be seen on the Virginia side of the American Legion bridge, a very large footprint is necessary to accommodate the complicated interchanges that feed traffic from connecting roads onto both regular and express toll lanes of highways. Marc shared that one idea that has been floated is not to have new access points onto the toll lanes at River Road. There could be a mid-road access point to allow drivers to enter the toll lanes from the regular lanes once they are on the highway.

There was discussion on:

- The state of the **American Legion Bridge**—old though still very safe, probably will be replaced by a new bridge with the toll lanes project, but that is not the only way to extend the useful life of the bridge.
- **The Purple Line**—construction has restarted but still has probably four to four-and-a-half years before completion.
- **The Capital Crescent Trail**—will be accessible along the Purple Line route, but there probably will not be a tunnel under Wisconsin Ave. So, disappointingly, users may have to cross Wisconsin Ave. at street level, though a bridge over Connecticut Ave. has been built.

NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIRECTORS

Courtney Krutoy and **Kathleen Leverenz** were introduced as the new Community Outreach Directors, responsible for recruiting and managing block captains, welcoming newcomers, gathering neighborly news, and promoting awareness of CJCA resources and events. Courtney described the team's plans and shared a little about what drew her family to Cabin John more than a decade ago. Everyone is encouraged to contact Courtney and Kathleen at **CJCAcommunityoutreach@gmail.com** to tell them of new neighbors so Courtney and Kathleen can arrange to deliver a welcome bag. *VN*





CJCA Officer Elections

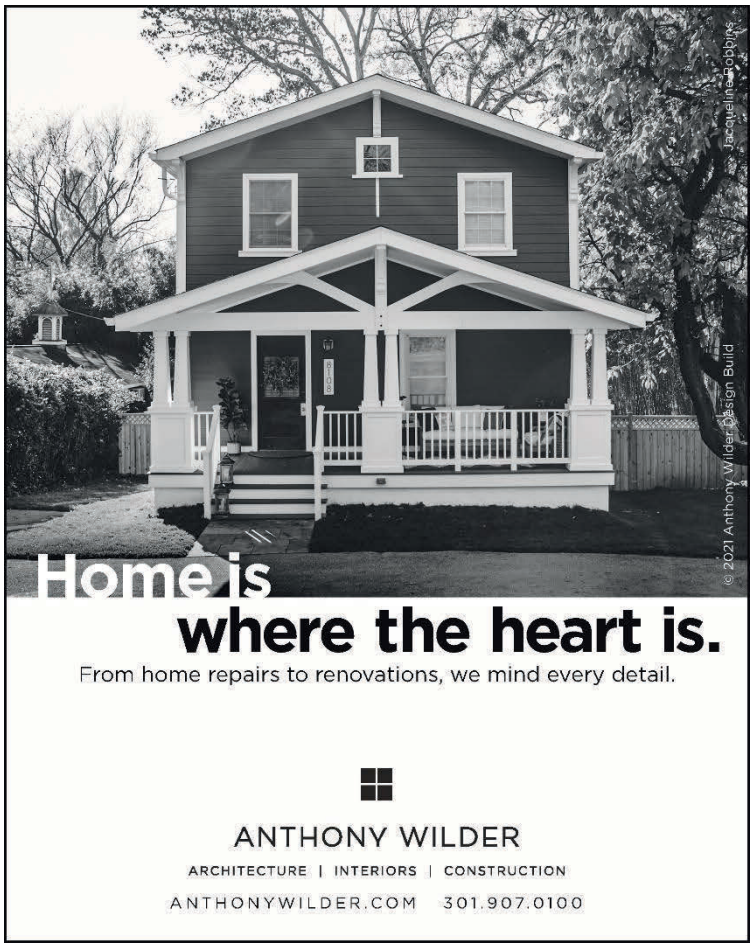
Attendees at the May meeting voted unanimously to elect the following officers to another one-year term:

CO-PRESIDENTS – **Scott** and **Heidi Lewis**
CO-VICE PRESIDENTS – **Charlotte Troup Leighton** and **Marcy Harrison**
SECRETARY – **Kelly Banuls**
TREASURER – **Robert Walsh**

CJCA Volunteer Recognition

The following volunteers were recognized for their amazing, enthusiastic, tireless, year-round service to all Cabin Johners:

- **Karen Melchar**, **Justin Webster** – Blood Drives
- **Loretta Devery Ingalls**, **Joan Roskosh**, and **Marcy Harrison** – *The Village News*
- **Robin Sidel** – CabinJohn.org website
- **Allison** and **Patrick DeGravelles**, and **Carl McCabe** – Crab Feast
- **Susan Roberts** – MacArthur Beautification
- **Judith Bell** – Neighbor 2 Neighbor
- **Judith Welles**, **Rachel Donnan** – History
- **Burr Gray**, **Susan Shipp** – Past Presidents and volunteers for everything







Cabin John's First Historian, Edith Martin Armstrong

by Rachel Donnan

A young woman in a striped coat gazes out from the photo, a plumed hat perched on her head. In other snapshots, she sits grinning from a canoe with paddle in hand, smiles with her two boys along the banks of the river, and poses in her garden.



These black and white images perfectly capture **Edith Martin Armstrong**, affectionately known as "Bin," an early pioneer of Cabin John. Bin was a loving mother and wife, a keen canoeist, an avid gardener, a dedicated volunteer, and a creative seamstress. And she was Cabin John's first historian.

In 1947, Armstrong wrote the well-researched and very thorough *A Brief History of Cabin John Park*. She also penned a folksy tale of life along the C&O Canal called *Days at Cabin John*. Though the characters are fictional, the stories of the neighborhood are steeped in truth.

Edith Martin was born in Nashville, Tennessee on April 9, 1892 and was the oldest of four children. In 1906, Edith's mother passed away when she was just 14, and the family relocated to Washington, DC for her father's government job. Edith's education was effectively ended, as she was tasked with raising her three younger siblings. Fast forward several years, and Edith's brother Lex, who worked for the Navy Department, invited his co-worker **Walter Armstrong** to the Washington Canoe Club. Edith tagged along, and she and Walter met at the club and married soon after. They had two sons, **Richard** and **David**.

With fond memories of childhood trolley trips out to Cabin John, Edith soon convinced Walter that it was an ideal place to raise their young boys. In 1919, Cabin John was quite rural with a small population of several hundred people. It lacked many amenities, including electricity and plumbing, and had just one small shop.

But for Edith, it was magical: "The creek was like a chapel walled in by blackhaw and roofed by sycamores leaning from the banks. In its quietness, I had a feeling of spiritual uplift. The murmuring of the water changed to soft organ-like tones and a wood thrush lifted his song like chanting from a choir loft," she wrote in her novel.

Edith and Walter bought a tenant house on Riverside Avenue, about a mile from the Union Arch Bridge and trolley at Glen Echo. Their yard held a "cluster of three dogwoods coming into bloom and a redbud spread shade for the porch. Oaks, a sycamore, a persimmon, a hickory, and a huge locust scenting the air left an opening for a lawn. Wild flowers went on through the tumbling fence to the wood across the lane." Though in need of work, her son Richard remembered the home sat about 100 yards back from the C&O Canal on two lots and boasted chickens, large gardens, "apple trees, grapes and strawberries...The entire area provided more than one childhood adventure to tell."



Edith's sons play ball with their father, Walter, in front of their Cabin John home.

The young couple threw themselves into their new home and community. They worked not only on renovating and expanding their house but bringing improvements to Cabin John. Edith's husband Walter was one of the "Four Horsemen," a group of civic-minded residents who led the Cabin John Citizens Association and used their political connections to petition for a new school. The Glen Echo-Cabin John School (now the Clara Barton Center) was built in 1928 thanks in part to their efforts.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

Edith helped form the Homemaker's Club and Lay Health Club. She was involved with the Hermon Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Social Welfare League. As a volunteer for the American Red Cross, she received recognition for 10,000 hours of service.

It seems it was the verdant abundance of Cabin John that really took hold of Edith. She created a rainwater-fed pond in her yard and loved walking along the canal and tending to her garden. Her love of wildflowers, nature, and gardening shines through nearly every page of her book *Days at Cabin John.* Published in 1958, in some ways it feels like a meditation on nature along the Potomac River interspersed with local anecdotes. Her descriptions of flowers, trees, and wildlife fill nearly every page.

The novel tells the story of a young mother called Binny Laceson, who moves with her family to a small tenant house in Cabin John. Though the characters are fictional, they tell the true stories of real life "old timers" who lived along the C&O Canal during the 1920s.

Written in "authentic Maryland backland dialect," the reader gets a sense of the rustic kind of people who lived in Cabin John during that time. "Dog my cats, I 'most forgot what I come for. I'm glad I 'membered, 'cause there wouldn't be no peace at our house with John Hebbs a-goin' on 'bout his wants always bein' forgot," exclaimed Binny's neighbor, Mrs. Hebbs, whose gossip drives the narrative. In another passage, she explains why she doesn't want to boat the canal: "My worry over younguns a-drownin' was the main reason…I've saw 'em more'n once a-danglin' by a rope over the side of a boat and a-squealin' like a pig, but you had to tie little uns if you wanted 'em to grow up."

The history of Cabin John is woven throughout the chapters—from the legend of John of the Cabin and buried treasure to the lock tenders and the arrival of electricity—as are stories from Bin's own life, including a visit to the Cabin John Hotel where she was gifted several pieces of the hotel's china. (Edith was in fact gifted a teapot, pitcher, and saucer by Mary Bobinger, the daughter-in-law of founders Joseph and Rosa Bobinger. In 1973, Bin donated her hotel china to the Clara Barton House, believing Clara herself must have been a hotel patron during its heyday).

Before her book, Edith wrote *A Brief History of Cabin John Park*, a 12-page typed pamphlet that was sold to benefit the Brookmont Garden Club. According to Edith's grandson, **Rick Armstrong**, Walter was a stickler for facts and advised Bin to be sure to get authoritative sources. Her history remains one of our community's primary sources of historical information.

Bin's fascination with local history was far reaching. She provided material to the National Park Service and gave lectures on the canal for various clubs. She was elected vice president of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

The Armstrongs moved to the Wood Acres neighborhood in the early 1940s, in part due to gas rationing according to Rick. After Walter retired, they moved to the Chesapeake Bay. When Walter passed away, Bin was motivated to write her book about their "country mice" days in Cabin John and a disappearing way of life.

By all accounts, Edith was very energetic and "busy all the time. When she did sit down, her hands continued to be busy sewing, repairing clothes, crocheting, or doing some other necessary work," her son Richard remembered.

Bin settled in Naples, Florida and continued volunteering, traveling, painting, and sewing. At age 80, she made hundreds of Christmas socks, pillows, and stuffed animals to donate. "My husband always complained he got tired just watching me," she recalled in a local newspaper story at that time.

Edith's granddaughter **Jill Armstrong Shultz** warmly remembers a "short, wrinkled and energetic" Bin visiting them in Potomac when she took trips overseas. "40 countries and 17 of the islands!" she'd laugh. Jill recalls Bin telling stories of Cabin John and some of the families, especially during the Depression when she and Walter supported some of them, including a neighbor who would "come and do the dishes after dinner" so that Bin could offer her money in a more dignified way. "I made too much food tonight; would you be able to take some home with you?" was a common refrain.

Jill believes "that my father and mother's deep appreciation of community, and how to nourish it, was one of their greatest gifts to us." Clearly, this was something Jill's father, Richard, got from his own mother Bin. Edith Martin Armstrong passed away on February 5, 1983. The dedication of *Days at Cabin John* reads "To my grandchildren: may they enjoy the memories I cherish." How fortunate we are to have a record of her memories that paint a glimpse of those earliest days at Cabin John.

*** Calling All Do-Gooders! ***

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Retro Reporter

By Heidi Lewis

The Volume 1, Number 3 edition of this newsletter is the first we have in the CJCA archive* that carries the name *The Village News*. Published in June 1967, the paper includes a notice about a postal rate change for overseas mail: surface mail was now 13¢ per ounce, air mail to Central and South America 15¢, and air mail to Europe 20¢.

Mrs. Francis Whittaker won $2.00 for her entry in that month's contest (for stories/submissions to the paper?), a short piece titled "Cabin John, Past":

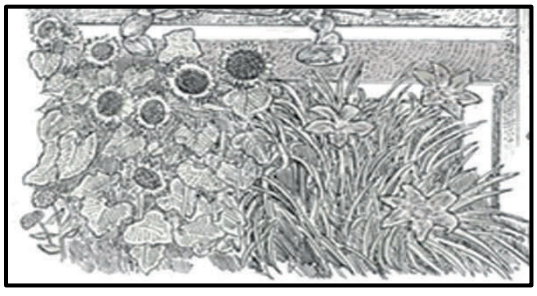
"Cabin John, to me, has always been a place of enchantment. Long ago, we built a little cottage here for our summer pleasure. The hotel was standing then, deserted by its owner, so with my little boy and girl, we wandered through the gardens overgrown with vines and many beautiful trees and shrubs.

While browsing about, watching the children play among the ruins, I would let my imagination have its way and see again the gay crowds and hear the music of long ago.

Leaving our loved spot and going back to the city was just an unpleasant duty. The children were not too happy there, so when it was decided to make Cabin John our permanent home, a peaceful, contented feeling settled upon us and has remained through the years."

There is a small, rather astounding notice that on June 3, 1967, "**James Brown and the Fabulous Flames** were at Walt Whitman High School. Proceeds from two shows are going to be used to help pay for band uniforms and partable leachers [*sic* - perhaps "portable bleachers"?]." Could the soul legend James Brown have really performed at Whitman? If so, it would have been among the last shows with Brown fronting the Fabulous Flames; by 1968 Brown and the Flames had gone separate ways as Brown's solo career took off.

**If anyone has early editions of the VN stored away, we are missing Vol.1 No. 2 and several others from the first decades. Contact vneditorial@gmail.com if you find any.* VN



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Renovations | Additions | New Homes



Real Estate Activity in Cabin John June 2023

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

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2BR, 1FB, 0Gar, 877 sq. ft.

7630 Tomlinson Avenue #25
Price $339,000
2BR, 1FB, 0Gar, 796 sq. ft.

CLOSED

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List Price $875,000
3BR, 2FB, 0Gar, 1,653 sq, ft.

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are several reasons why now might be the right time to sell:

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2. Home Equity is at all-time highs
3. The supply of homes is at rock-bottom lows
4. More Buyers are looking as the weather warms up
5. Nobody knows what mortgage rates will do next
6. It's the right time for you, personally

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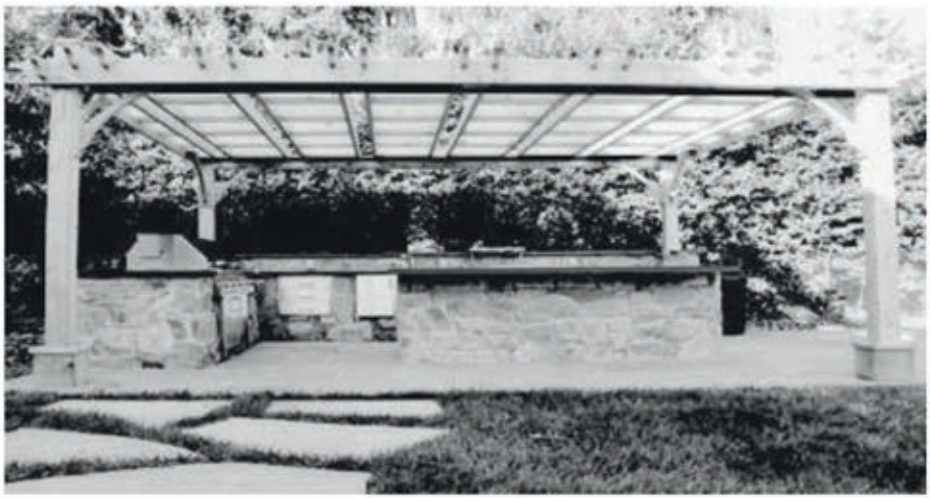
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Local Nature

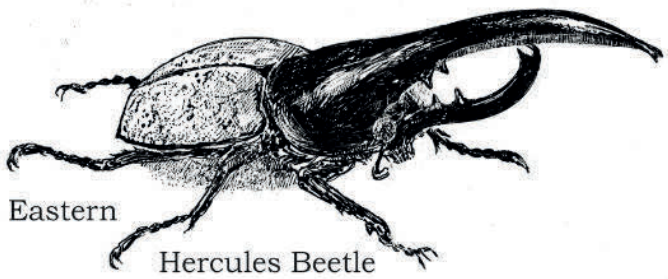
Of God and Beetles

By Eric Dinerstein
Illustration by Trudy Nicholson

One of the most famous conversations about nature and evolution is a reported exchange between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the great evolutionary geneticist J.B.S. Haldane. The Archbishop asked, "What could one conclude as to the nature of the Creator from a study of his creation?" Haldane is said to have answered, "an inordinate fondness for beetles." The quip is often followed by the explanation: "Because he made so many of them." The anecdote may be apocryphal, but the number of beetle species is one of those off-the-chart statistics in nature. Currently, entomologists recognize upwards of 350,000 species. To put this in perspective, about one in every four identified species of animal life forms on Earth is a kind of beetle.

That's a staggering thought. It also prompts several questions: what, for example, would our world be like if there had been 350,000 species of Hominids to appear instead of the 12 or so that have walked the Earth? Would Homo sapiens still be the dominant species?

We can only speculate why there haven't been more species of Hominids and why beetles would be seen as God's chosen creatures. One explanation is that over the course of evolution, beetles as a group (the Insect order Coleoptera) seem to have experienced very low rates of extinctions; beetle species that appear in the fossil record of the Cretaceous about 65 million years ago (when the dinosaurs disappeared), for example, are recognizable as more or less the same as some modern species. Another explanation is that about that time, a great evolutionary flourish of flowering plants occurred, and beetles took advantage of this proliferation of plants as a source of so many plant parts upon which to feed, from nectar, flowers, seeds, leaves, stems, tree sap, bark, and roots. In addition, many beetle species feed on rotting plant and animal tissues.


Eastern Hercules Beetle

One such beetle that specializes on the rot of the world is the massive Eastern Hercules beetle. The largest beetle in the eastern United States, it is also called the rhinoceros beetle, because of its prodigious size and horns. The Hercules beetle can grow up to 2.5 inches in length, including the horn. The larvae of this beetle prefer rotting heartwood. In this beetle's adult form, rotting fruit and tree sap are the preferred diet.

As a biologist of mammalian rhinos, I find some parallels between them and the Rhinoceros (Hercules) beetle quite striking. Both mammalian rhinos and rhino beetles are among the largest of their kind and both eat plant matter and like fruit. In the mammalian version, both males and females possess horns, but horns are lacking in female beetles. However, in both the pachyderms and the beetles, the males fight with their horns (at least the two African species of rhinos do so) in competition for females.

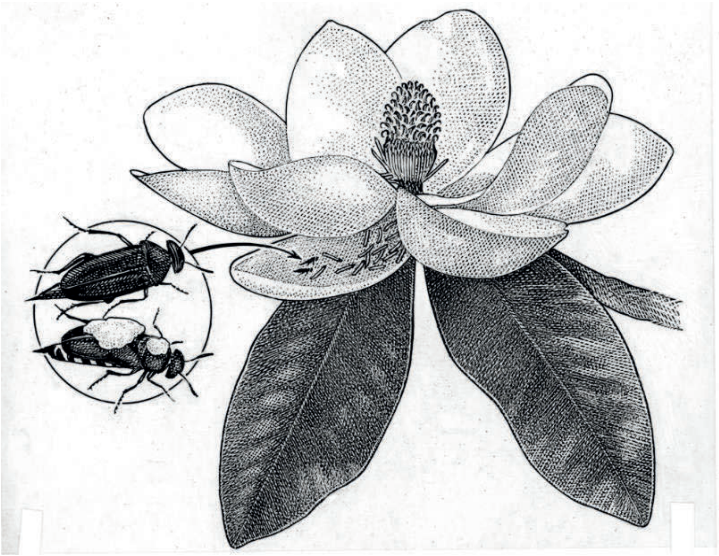
These large beetles form one of the most charismatic species, and we can see some representatives here in Maryland. But if we head to the tropics, that is where beetles truly are a sight to behold. There are beetles that live in the cloud forests of Central America that appear to have been dipped in 24-karat gold or in silver. There are others, like our tiger beetles in the U.S., with flashy metallic paint jobs.

Let's be honest: most of us would not list beetles as our favorite kind of animal. That's understandable, especially if you look at those that eat flesh and hair, such as Dermestids, the scariest beetles for museum curators because they can wipe out a collection of bird and mammal skins and specimens, or if you find dung beetles that roll away the dung of elephants or donkeys to be unpleasant or a reminder of the futility of existence.

But consider this fact: of the 250,000 or so flowering plants—near 90% of all things green—the vast majority are pollinated by beetles. So, without the pollination heroics of the Hercules beetle and its vast number of relatives, our Earth would be a stark place indeed.

Let me be more direct: Do you love magnolias? If you are like me, you prefer them to ornamental cherries, and even more so when you realize that some of the magnolia species local gardeners plant are native to our area or a bit further to the southeast. When magnolias, among the oldest of flowering plants, first evolved, there were no butterflies or birds about, so magnolias devised ways to attract a most reliable pollinator—the beetle. The first task was to bring in the beetles, and the magnolias did this by exuding an irresistible fragrance that attracted the ungraceful beetles. But once arrived on the sturdy platforms created by the open flowers, the beetles don't bother to eat pollen; they

have mouth parts suited for munching on plant tissue. Now you know why magnolias have evolved such thick leathery blossoms, extra padding if you will, to attract beetles that



bump into the male parts of the flowers and become inadvertently dusted in pollen to transport to the next open blossom and achieve fertilization.

Ingenious is what the non-scientist might call it, or what evolutionary biologists name as co-evolution: where an odd couple like the showy magnolia and a non-descript beetle, totally unrelated, can become best friends who rely on each other to survive and where adaptations of one partner trigger responding adaptations in its evolutionary dance partner.

So, not only should we applaud evolution by natural selection, we should shout a hurrah for co-evolution every time we smell the incredible aroma emanating from the giant flower of a southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). Despite our sometime dismissal of or occasional distaste for this beetle or that, there is very good reason to be inordinately fond of them.

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.
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10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

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CJ Graduates!

CAMERON CORCORAN received her BA with a double major in strategic communications and political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She grew up on MacArthur Boulevard.

IAN BROWN of Arden Road, graduated *summa cum laude* in May from Virginia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering. He has a summer internship with CACI, and will return for his master's in electrical engineering in the fall at Virginia Tech.



JULIA CURRAN, a lifelong Cabin John resident and Whitman alum, graduated with honors from Haverford College, with a major in computer science and a minor in economics. She cannot overlook the invaluable role the women's lacrosse team had throughout her college journey. Julia is headed to Los Angeles, where she will work as a software developer for Capital Group.

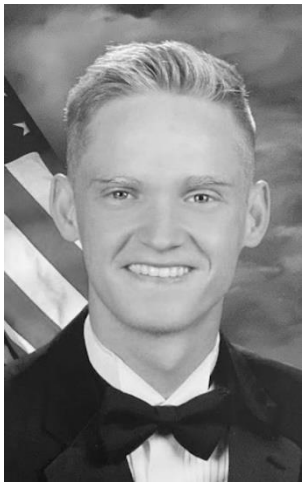
AIDAN DONNAN of 81st Street graduated from Walt Whitman High School. He's headed to Dickinson College this fall, where he'll be playing on the squash team.





LUCILLE M. FILYAW of Cypress Grove Lane graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a BA in criminology and a minor in crime, law, and psychology.

CAMERYNN HAWKE of Caraway Street graduated in May 2023 from Washington University in St. Louis with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.



JAKE HAWKS of lower 78th Street graduated from Walt Whitman High School and will be enrolled in Georgia Tech's electrical engineering program in the fall. Jake's high school career was a rewarding adventure—he participated in the school math team, county rocket club, completed the Whitman engineering track, and tutored other students. Jake's fondest memory of Cabin John is paddling on the Potomac. His family (including Dunkin the Corgi) is very proud of Jake and excited for his continued success.

ALLAIRE KOTZ of 79th Street graduated from Denison University with a BA in communications and as the leading scorer of the women's D3 lacrosse team.

On May 12, **EMILY LANE** of Tomlinson Terrace and a 2019 Whitman grad, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts with degrees in acting and musical theater. Emily appeared in a number of USC musical theater productions and was a member of the hip hop dance team. This summer, she will trade in the palm trees of Los Angeles for the bright lights of New York City. Her mom, dad, and sister Claire are so proud of her.



JARED LAPIDUS graduated *summa cum laude* from Vanderbilt University with a BA in economics and medicine, health, and society and a business minor. Jared was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity, the investment club, and the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. He has accepted an offer to join Roark Capital, a private equity firm, in Atlanta.



DAISY LEWIS of MacArthur Boulevard graduated *cum laude* from Washington University in St. Louis with a double major in biology (ecology/evolution track) and international affairs with a minor in Spanish. Daisy is returning to Washington to work at a science communication and advocacy firm before pursuing a graduate degree.





NICK MEYERS, a lifelong resident of 79th Place, graduated from Denison University with a major in data analytics and a minor in vocal performance.

ALLY MEYERS, also of 79th Place, graduated from Vanderbilt University with a double major in child studies and political science.





NORAH ROTHMAN of Arden Road graduated from Walt Whitman High School. She'll be attending Tulane University in the fall. Norah was a captain for Whitman's swim team and will be coaching the Palisades Porpoises this summer.

JACKIE SHIPP of Tomlinson Avenue graduated from the University of Vermont's Grossman School of Business, earning a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration of finance and sustainability. While at Vermont, Jackie was a goalie on the women's lacrosse team, that won the 2022 America East Conference Championship. She will start as a fellow with Venture for America in July.





BEN STERN of 80th Street graduated from Harvard University with a BA in applied math. He will be moving to Miami in September to join Citadel Securities as an analyst.

THOMAS WILMARTH, a lifelong resident of 75th Place, graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in justice studies. He graduated in December 2022, completing his degree in 3.5 years. He will be attending law school and has been accepted into Vermont Law and Graduate School, though he is currently awaiting responses from other schools.





Free Swim For CJ Residents at Palisades Pool, Begins June 20

As part of a long-standing agreement, Cabin John residents are admitted free of charge at the popular Palisades Swim & Tennis Club on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, starting June 20 through Labor Day**.

The Cabin John Free Swim originated as a part of a 1967 agreement between the Cabin John community and the founders of the Palisades Pool for neighborhood support and approval of the zoning variance needed to construct the pool.

Cabin Johners must sign in at the pool's front check-in desk and provide proof of residency (your listing in the CJ Neighborhood directory, an ID with an address, or a utility bill mailed to your Cabin John address).

Children aged 7 and under must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Children aged 8-14 without an adult are asked to satisfy a swim test by swimming one length of the pool and treading water for one minute.

For more info. call or email the club at 301-229-2598 / info@palisadespool.com. VN



Photo courtesy of Palisades Swim & Tennis Club

Congrats Grads!

Bethesda Coop

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Freya's Friends: Tales from Cabin John's Neighbors

By Meredith McGuire

It's said that if you want to get to know your neighbors, get a dog. Like many humans, dogs are naturally social. And certainly, in my experience, less concerned about formalities, graces, and protocols. Further, people seem far more likely to greet a friendly, non-judgmental dog rather than someone of their own species.

However, I have found this aphorism to be a bit of hyperbole. Fifteen years ago, my family inherited a dog when my sister and family relocated overseas and couldn't take their nine-year-old rescue. Fortunately, Maui was a fantastic and seamless addition. He arrived at Dulles during a lull in a sweltering summer. Once my husband released the latch, Maui bounded from his airline-approved crate and hopped into the backseat of the Civic.

His transition was similarly uneventful. Maui adopted everything his new Cabin John family already enjoyed. He loved to hike, adored the water, and was a willing dress-up mannequin for our two daughters. But when it came to other dogs, Maui was indifferent. With few exceptions, he tolerated or ignored them. As a result, daily strolls rarely provided us with the opportunity to get to know our neighbors better than without a dog. To be fair, my impression may be somewhat skewed; I was not Maui's primary walking companion. That responsibility generally fell to my mother during the day and my husband early in the morning and late at night.

Maui lived with us for seven years. He ushered my daughters from the end of middle school, through high school and into college. He was my mother's steadfast and sure-footed companion as she transitioned from spritely senior to home care and, eventually, to assisted living. He was my husband's trail partner, always leading the way, two or three steps ahead. Eventually, with age, Maui's routines became limited to smaller and smaller circuits. When he died, we didn't consider a replacement. What dog could replace Maui? So we moved on—without a dog.

Of course, that isn't to say we were anti-dog. We kept the bowls and blankets. We dog-sat for neighbors and friends. We had a ready supply of treats for canine visitors. But it wasn't until eight years had passed that we decided we finally needed another dog. Aided and abetted by my younger daughter, I applied to several rescue agencies and set my heart on a few, only to be disappointed. And then, we met Freya—a four-month-old, ridiculously friendly, scruffy husky mix with outsized ears and mismatched eyes: one brown and one-half brown, half blue.



Freya and Meredith McGuire.

I've always considered myself to be somewhat reserved; Freya is the yin to my yang. On our daily strolls through the neighborhood, she's eager and anxious to meet everyone—friends I've known for years, neighbors I should have known for years, adults, children, birds, squirrels, cats, and of course, other dogs. Most of these encounters are friendly. And this time, since I am the primary walking companion, I am her circumspect sidekick as she enthusiastically greets everyone.

Not long ago, I was asked to revive a profile column for Cabin John's *Village News*. My immediate reaction was, "Why me?" I don't know that many people, even after some 20-odd years. However, during the four months that I've walked the streets of Cabin John with a mostly well-behaved Freya trotting at my side, an idea began to percolate. Lately, I've met and reconnected with dozens of neighbors. I've heard stories about a home renovation gone awry, service in the Navy during the Vietnam War, and memories from the final year of the Clara Barton Elementary School. With your permission, I'd like to share a few of these stories. With Freya's help, I think I can.

So, whether you have a dog or not, if you have a story to share, or if you just want to meet Freya, let me know. And look for future tales from Cabin John's neighbors or "Freya's Friends."

Contact **Meredith** at **merrywrites2@gmail.com**.

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

CBNRC Closed:
June 19
July 4
August 14-August 20



Pickleball News:
From June 26 to August 4, Pickleball moves to **Wednesdays** from 4:00-6:00 pm.
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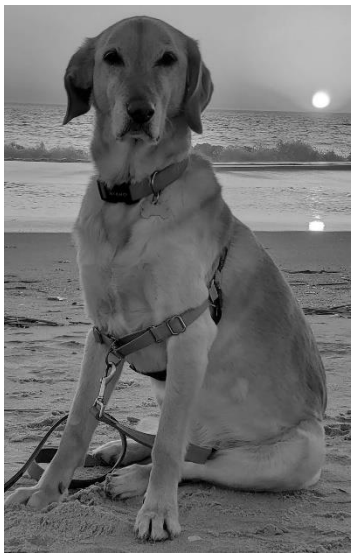
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Pets of Cabin John

By Sarah Craven



Meet Phoebe. Phoebe joined the Cahill family on 81st Street as a two-year-old lab mix rescue, fearful of everything. Although dogs on leashes continue to be her nemesis, she is a mostly mellowed ten-year-old who is a faithful running companion and the beloved yoga assistant for her human Sarah's classes. She is happiest at the river and creek and has the absolute softest ears around. Give her a treat, and she will be your friend forever. VN



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LOST CAT

Our beloved pet cat, Harley, got out Friday, May 12, 2023, from his home on 78th Street. He is a male, longhair, orange tabby, white-tipped tailed cat. He is an only indoor cat who is skittish, so please do not chase. If seen, please call 202-277-0698. Thanks so much.



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Illustrations: Trudy Nicholson

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 20 – LABOR DAY	**CJ Residents Swim for *FREE* at the Palisades Swim & Tennis Club** For more info. call or email the club at 301-229-2598 / info@palisadespool.com
JULY 4 –	**July Fourth Parade** (from the MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center to CBNRC.) **WE ARE SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO HELP US ORGANIZE THIS EVENT!**
AUGUST –	***The Village News*** does not publish in July. Expect to see the next issue in August.
SEPTEMBER –	We look forward to seeing you at the next **CJCA Meeting** in September!

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