The Village News

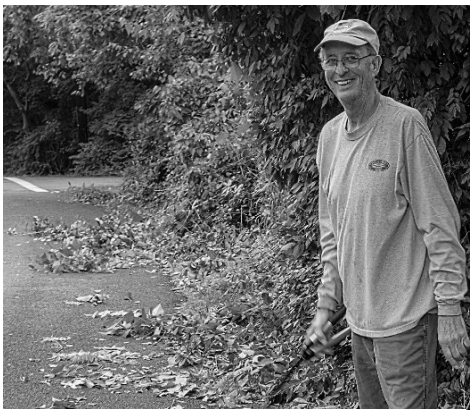
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN | March 2024 | VOLUME 58 | ISSUE 03

Cabin John's Woodland Heritage At Risk

By Sarah Craven



Bob Peterson recently shared this photo of a brick from his former home at the corner of 81st Street at Macarthur Boulevard, juxtaposed with his new apartment home in Northern Virginia. Bob and his late wife Michelle lived in their Cabin John home for 20 years where they raised a family.



Bob's exceptional work helped better our community. Thank you for all your hard work!

Bob was beloved on 81st Street for his quiet kindness and warm sense of humor. He took daily walks and was often seen bringing in neighbors' trash cans or trimming and tending to the wild vines and grass along Macarthur Boulevard.

Continued pg. 10.

Spring Egg Hunt



Sunday, March 17, 2023, at 10:00 am, at Cabin John Local Park (aka field behind the CBNRC).

All CJ kids elementary school age and younger (accompanied by parents or responsible adults) are invited to the Cabin John Spring Egg Hunt. Bring a basket and don't be late because all the eggs are usually found within 15 minutes!

Thank you to **Kelly Banuls** and **Kathleen Leverenz** for organizing and running the egg hunt. Email **cjcapresidents@gmail.com** if you have any questions.

Cabin John Hotel

By Rachel Donnan

Nestled between announcements of lost keys and a handkerchief sale at the Rockville Millinery Shop, the *Montgomery Sentinel* newspaper ran a short but shocking headline: "Woman Killed at Cabin John Hotel." While dining at the Cabin John Hotel on the evening of January 5, 1921, Mr. Edward V. Killeen and members of his party "struck up an acquaintance during the evening" with Mrs. Deborah A. Harris and her friends, including Mr. Burnett W. Tanner, and "there was considerable drinking." As both parties left the hotel to return to the city, it was alleged that Mr. Killeen and Mr. Tanner "became involved in a controversy and that vile language was used." Killeen pulled out a revolver. Mrs. Harris threw herself between the men in a desperate attempt to stop the squabble. A shot was fired, piercing Mrs. Harris through her hand and heart. She was instantly killed.

Several months later, Mr. Killeen was tried for murder by a jury in Rockville. Two ballots were taken; on the first, three voted for manslaughter and on the second Mr. Killeen was acquitted, to the huge relief of his family and friends in the courtroom. One of his witnesses, Evelyn La Rue, was so overcome by nervousness after testifying that she told others she must take something to calm her nerves when returning to her hotel.

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CJCA News

By Scott Lewis

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRESENTATION

Attendees at our February CJCA meeting were treated to an excellent presentation on the National Park Service (NPS) projects underway along our beloved canal. Joe Reed, Professional Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager, used a presentation (**https://cabinjohn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024**) to provide this detailed update to our community. Here are the highlights:

- **The Log Wall** - This has been a frequent topic for our community as there is much interest, particularly as it impacts the water level in the canal. The dry-laid stone wall was originally built in 1828 and suffered a flood in 1889, was disrupted in the 1960s with the construction of the Potomac Interceptor and suffered sinkholes formation in the past decade. The NPS has an active project to remediate these issues and prevent the failure of the 1,015 foot long wall, maintain the continuity of the 184.5 mile towpath, restore hydraulic connectivity ("fill it up with water") and stabilize the nearby tributaries. Completion of the project is expected this summer if the weather cooperates.

- **Georgetown Locks and Walls** - A large-scale construction project to rehabilitate multiple historic structures including Locks 1, 2, and 5; Inlet Lock 1; Guard Lock 1; Level 4 North and South Walls upstream of Wisconsin Avenue; and Level 4 Wall at 34th Street. All of these sites are located along the lower five miles of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The project will begin in early Spring 2024 and construction will last approximately two years, weather dependent.

- **Fletchers Cove Access Road** - This is to repair damage caused by a flash flood on July 8, 2019. During the high-intensity rainfall event, the existing stormwater drainage system was overcome, causing damage to NPS infrastructure. This project will repair stormwater drainage features (swales, pipes, drainage channels, and underdrain systems), stabilize bridges and roadways supporting traffic along the access road to the lower Fletchers Cove Parking Lot, and repave damaged road surfaces.

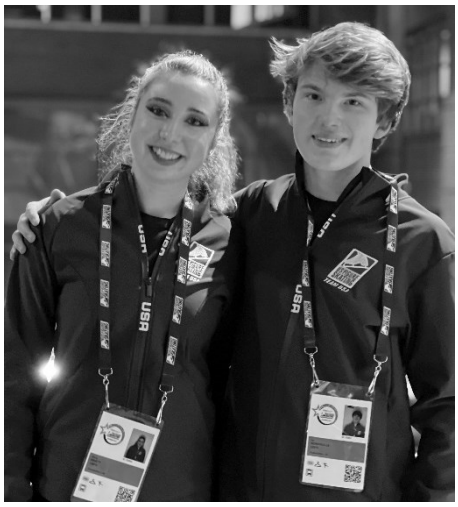
- **Rehabilitation of Levels 20, 21, and 22** - There are plans to rehabilitate portions of the canal in a 7.8-mile section of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. The project is located between Milepost 14.3 (Lock 20) and Milepost 22.1 (Lock 23 and Inlet Lock 2). This reach is the most upstream portion of the watered section of the canal near Great Falls and is a very popular recreation area with over one million visitors per year. The primary objective of the sediment and debris removal is to improve the hydraulic connectivity of the canal along this reach, referred to as Levels 20, 21, and 22. Over time, sediment and debris have accumulated within the project area to the point where it has disrupted canal water flow and impacted many of the park's critical mission components. Due to funding constraints, it's anticipated that not all accumulated sediment within this reach of the canal will be addressed. Currently, only sediment removal from the canal prism extending from Lock 20 and moving upstream to just past the Great Falls Tavern Parking Area are included in the awarded construction project.

A big thank you to Joe Reed and the National Park Service!

Continued pg. 4.

Neighborly News

Cabin John resident **Ian Somerville** and his skating partner Emily Bratti won the bronze medal in the ice dance competition in the US Figure Skating Championships in Columbus, Ohio in February! They have been chosen for the world team and will compete at the World Figure Skating Championships in Montreal beginning March 18.
Go Ian and Emily!



Deniz and Jelal Gulluoglu and their two sons moved to Cypress Grove Lane, Cabin John in June 2023 from Tenleytown, DC. Their family is originally from Istanbul, Turkey, and they have brought their native cuisine along with them to share. They own the restaurant, **ala**, in downtown DC and a second ala location opened in Bethesda March 1, on Fairmont Avenue (in the former home of Positano's).

Continued next page.

The Gulluoglus provide an exceptional Levantine dining experience, offering both classic and unique Mediterranean dishes. They graciously catered the Cypress Grove Lane block party in August, and we (CGLers) can tell you the food is delicious! If you want to try it out in March, diners will receive a 30% discount on their restaurant check and a discount on parking as well.

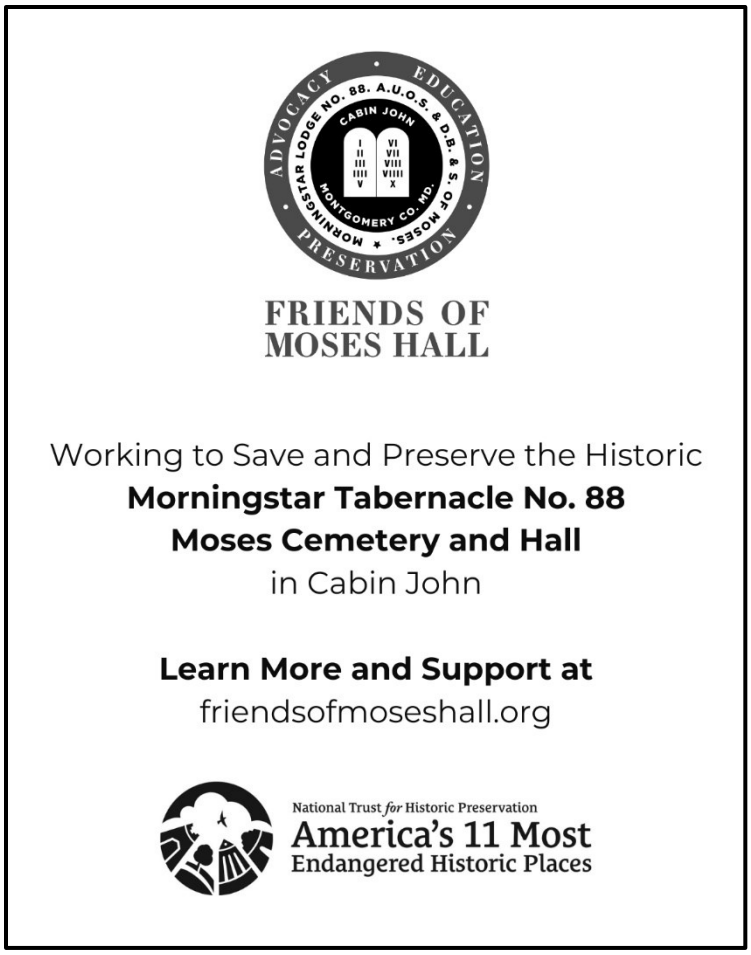


The Gullouglu family at home in Cabin John.

Level Fitness Club, a longtime Cabin John business, is pleased to announce a new service focused on longevity for members and the wider Cabin John community. Chiropractor Marco Ferrucci will be seeing clients biweekly onsite to offer SoftWave therapy, a tissue regeneration technology that is effective in treating tendinopathies, improving circulation, and accelerating recovery from injuries. Level is located at 7687 Macarthur Boulevard.







CJCA News continued

Bike Clinic – Saturday, April 6

The CJCA will be holding a bike clinic at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center on Saturday, April 6 at 10am. We expect to have instructions on how to fix a flat tire, traffic safety information, helmet fitting and other simple bike maintenance. Additionally, we plan to have bike technicians on hand who can fix those flat tires, lubricate chains, adjust brakes and gear shifts, tighten wheel hubs, and adjust seats. Watch for more information and sign-up details in March. Information on how to register will be provided on the CJCA GoogleGroup ListServ. If you are not receiving emails, please visit the "Get Connected" tab on **cabinjohn.org** for more details. How do you know if you are on the CJCA GoogleGroup ListServ? If you receive emails with a subject line starting with [CJCA] then you do indeed receive them.

CJCA Meeting – March 20

The March meeting is a week earlier than usual to avoid MCPS spring break. In addition to the usual updates on CJCA, we will also have an update on Minnie's Island and a discussion on the *Village News*.

CJCA Meeting – April 24

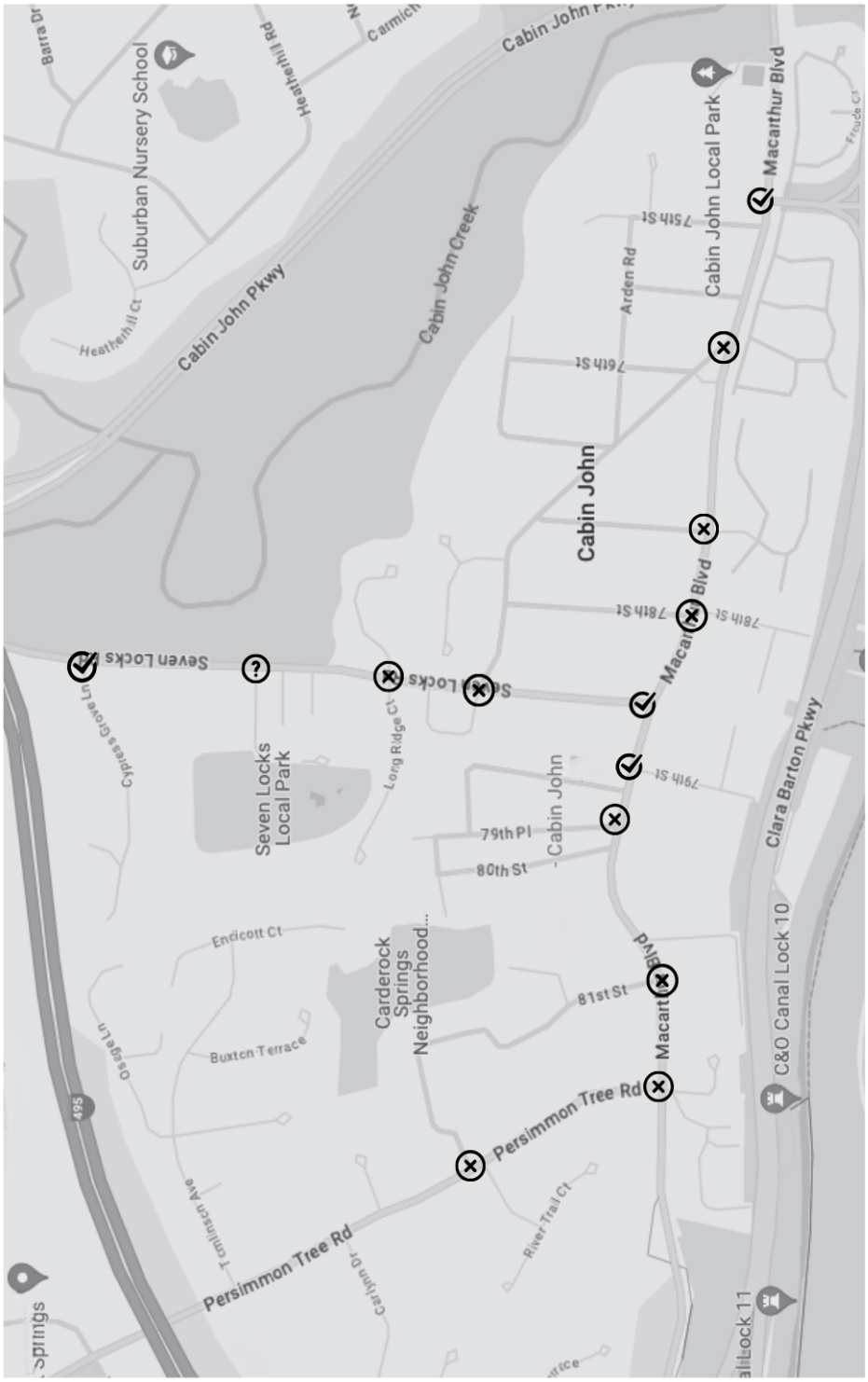
Panel Discussion: Preservation of Two Historic African American Churches on Seven Locks Road

Please mark your calendars to attend an informative and inspiring panel discussion at our April 24 CJCA community meeting (7:30 pm at Clara Barton NRC with a virtual option).

We look forward to welcoming **Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins of Scotland AME Zion Church**; **Rev. Edgar S. Bankhead of First Agape AME Zion Church at Gibson Grove**; **and Rebeccah Ballo, the Historic Preservation Supervisor for Montgomery County Planning**. Our special guests will share plans and progress for restoration of these cherished historic resources, both of which are part of Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.







Existing and Proposed Crosswalks of Cabin John

By Charlotte Troup Leighton and Heidi Lewis

The November 2023 *Village News* and CJCA meeting both featured discussion of the need for more crosswalks on our main neighborhood streets that also serve as major regional thoroughfares. Go to cabinjohn.org to find the articles and meeting notes. As with all advocacy, it takes a lot of people calling and emailing to get attention and perhaps, finally, action.

This map shows the location of crosswalks for which CJCA officers, CJ citizens, and other interested parties have advocated (circled Xs). If you would like to help in this effort the list of people to contact is below. If there are locations other than those marked where you have been advocating for a crosswalk, please let us know by emailing cjcapresidents@gmail.com.

Legend

- **Existing crosswalk**
- **Crosswalk promised by MCDOT but not yet built**
- **Proposed crosswalk with active advocacy by CJCA and others**

PEOPLE YOU CAN CONTACT ABOUT OUR NEED FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:

Cindy Gibson, Councilmember Friedson's Chief of Staff: cindy.gibson@montgomerycountymd.gov with a copy to Andrew Friedson at councilmember.friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov

Stephen Aldrich, Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for MCDOT/MNCPPC: stephen.aldrich@montgomeryplanning.org

Christopher Conklin, Director, MCDOT: christopher.conklin@montgomerycountymd.gov

General requests: MCDOT Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations: mcdot.trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov (240-777-2190)

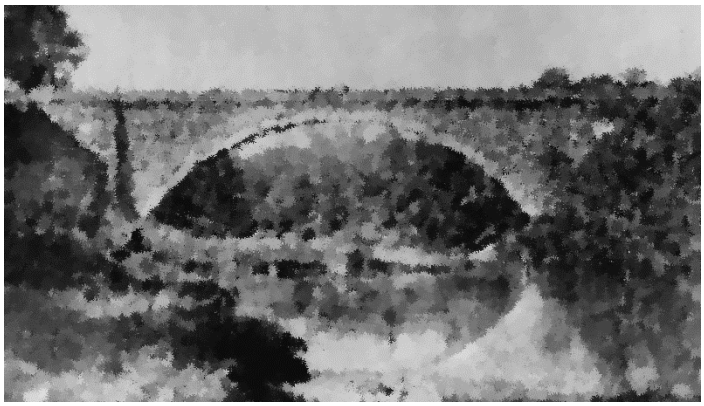
CCJCA Membership – Contribute Your Dues By May 1

By Scott and Heidi Lewis

We're hard-pressed to imagine a better value for the money than the $20 annual dues that we ask each household to contribute to the Cabin John Citizens Association.

Your contribution makes possible community events such as the Turkey Trot, Holiday Party, Spring Egg Hunt, History Walk, Bike Clinic and 4th of July Parade; neighborhood communication and information via *The Village News* and cabinjohn.org; and ongoing advocacy for safe streets, quiet skies, unspoiled parks and streams, and preserved and interpreted history.

Cabin John is the vibrant, congenial, connected place it is because so many people here have decided that investing their time, talents, and resources in our community is worth it.



Please watch for a separate letter to be emailed to all households in Cabin John. And thank you to all those who donate their time, money, and resources to our community!

Key Dates for the Maryland Primary Election – Volunteers Needed!

The Cabin John precinct needs extra volunteers for the 2024 primary (May 14) and general (November 5) elections. Interested Cabin Johners can request to work at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center, **precinct #07-03**. **Bruce Wilmarth** and **Pete Cousté** are past co-chief election judges at CBNRC and plan to serve again for both elections. Interested parties are free to contact Pete Cousté for more information at **petecouste@gmail.com**.

April 23: Voter Registration Deadline

May 2: Early Voting Begins
May 9: Early Voting Ends

May 13: Election Day Precinct Set-up Meetings, 6:30pm-8:30pm
May 14: Presidential Primary Election Day

Apply to volunteer as an election judge in Montgomery County: **https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/ElectionJudge/ejconnection.html** .



Real Estate Activity in Cabin John

March 2024

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

ACTIVE

6628 81st Street
List Price $3,699,000
5 BR, 5.5+ BA, 2 GAR, 7,465 sq. ft.

PENDING

5 Ericsson Road
List Price $689,900
2 BR, 1 BA, 0 GAR, 832 sq. ft.

6512 Seven Locks Road
List Price $2,649,000
5 BR, 5.5 BA, 2 GAR, 4,751 sq. ft.

6519 76th Street
List Price $1,275,000
4 BR, 3 BA, 2 GAR, 2,626 sq. ft.

CLOSED

8010 Riverside Drive
List Price $ 2, 050,000
5 BR, 3 BA, 0 GAR, 3,125 sq. ft.

DID YOU KNOW?

Here are a few housing-related tax tips to consider:

Home Interest Deductions - Married and single filers can deduct mortgage interest on a combined debt limit of $1 million if the mortgage closed before Dec. 16, 2017. For mortgages that closed after this date, married and single filers can deduct mortgage interest on a combined debt limit of $750,000.

Property Tax Deductions - Taxpayers who itemize can deduct up to $10,000 as a married couple filing jointly or $5,000 for those who are single or married filing separately.

Capital Gains Tax Exclusions - Married filers can exclude up to $500,000 and single filers can exclude up to $250,000 when selling their primary home, provided they have lived there two of the past five years.

Residential Energy Credits - Certain home improvements, such as energy-efficient windows, doors, solar panels, and HVAC systems may be eligible for tax credits.

"Living in Cabin John for over 30 years, I am invested in the success of selling homes here."

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Minnie's Island Community Conservancy

Our staff and volunteers have made enormous progress this past year making the island and cabin more safe, comfortable and accessible than ever before.
We will continue meeting our goal of sharing this treasure with as many folks as possible.

Just a few of 2024 Season agenda items:

- -Gold Award and Eagle Scout projects
- -University conservation research
- -Painting and Yoga seminars
- -Musical concerts at Lockehouse 8
- -Tours of the island to all takers
- -Bird monitoring
- -SSL student volunteer hours fulfillment

Please visit our website and join our mailing list to get updates

minniesisland.org

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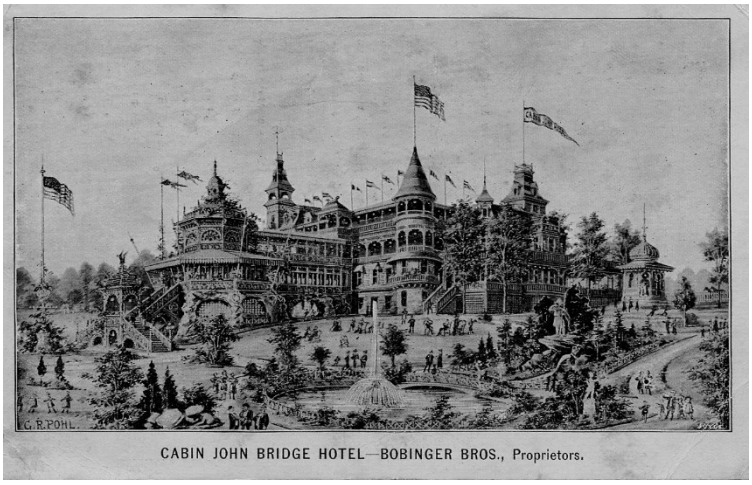
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Sophistication and Scandal at the Cabin John Hotel (Continued from pg. 1)

The paper reported that she was found in her room seriously ill and died that evening after taking an unknown "dose by mistake."

Local lore paints a picture of the Cabin John Hotel as an elegant oasis that evolved from a modest snack stand set up by Rosa Bobinger to an opulent resort frequented by congressmen, senators, diplomats and even a few presidents. Society "reveled in the hotel's charm and setting," savored its rich European furniture, farm to table food, and gardens. But a number of short news items from the early decades of the 1900s suggest a slightly sordid side of the Cabin John Hotel, including illegal alcohol sales, gambling charges and yes, even murder.



CABIN JOHN BRIDGE HOTEL—BOBINGER BROS., Proprietors.

The hotel was founded by Rosa and Joseph Bobinger, originally from Germany. Rosa's husband Joseph worked as a stone mason on the Union Arch Bridge, while she sold drinks, food and her famous chicken dish to the workers at a stand. Demand for Rosa's cooking, and perhaps her business acumen, led the couple to purchase 100 acres of land on the west side of the bridge in 1870 to build a hotel and restaurant. Their business grew from a small German-influenced tavern to an elaborate Victorian folly with over forty rooms filled with the finest furnishings, cavernous banquet halls, intimate dining rooms, an orchestrion, and formal gardens. Across the road, on land acquired several years later, outbuildings included a stable, ice house, gas house and one of the largest asparagus beds in the country. The brick gas house, next to the tennis courts, is all that remains of the hotel today.

Meals of Potomac bass, oyster cocktails and potted grouse in a champagne sauerkraut, followed by camembert and fancy cake, were served on the hotel's Bavarian china in elegant dining rooms. The most "popular airs of the day were rendered daily by the orchestrion," a large music box or organ, and "you could hear it for miles; the music would go all over the park and the whole area."

Guests meandered among winding pathways bordered by magnolias, wildflowers and flowering shrubs that stretched from Conduit Road (now MacArthur Boulevard) to the Potomac River. Day trippers enjoyed dining at the hotel or cold drinks in the garden's rustic gazebos, boating in the creek, and live music. John Philip Sousa and his 21 instrumentalists played in the two-story cedar summerhouse bandstand. A "Lovers Lane Bridge" was constructed across the canal and one thousand lights were strung up to illuminate the entire gardens from the hotel to the river.

The summer of 1903 offered a new program from Haley's concert band and the screening of motion pictures in the magnificent Palm Garden, Cabin John's own riverside theater. Built in 1899, the conservatory-like structure could seat up to 1,200 people. After Rosa passed away in 1893 (Joseph died in 1881), her sons William and George Bobinger took over the Cabin John Hotel and focused on dining and daily visitors to the grounds and no longer offered overnight stays. Local newspapers advertised the resort, a "favorite diversion of all Washingtonians" and regularly wrote about the goings on at the hotel. In the summers of the early 1900s, during its heyday, the hotel and its surroundings entertained thousands of urban "pleasure seekers." An amusement park was opened on the hotel's rolling grounds in 1920. But some newspaper stories about the hotel in the early 1900s (not to mention Mrs. Harris's murder) seem slightly incongruous with the hotel's lavish, first class reputation. Though the upstairs offered fine dining and European elegance, the basement rathskeller and its slot machines attracted a more raucous crowd.

Several times in 1902 (and later), William was charged with violating local alcohol laws—Montgomery County had been a dry county since 1880—and gambling laws, a pattern of violations that continued with some regularity. "Conduit Road Resort Men Again in Court: Mr. Bobinger Charged with Keeping Gambling House," screamed one headline.



In 1903, legal proceedings were instituted against the brothers by a small group who claimed that the Bobingers agreed to sell the property for $125,000 and had accepted a down payment of $1,000. The agreement of sale was recorded in Rockville. The brothers allegedly refused to complete the deal and claimed they were "not in the proper mental and physical condition at the time the contract was made" and had already leased the property to a Mr. Noonan. A brief 1905 article stated that William and George Bobinger would not be conducting the hotel that season and had sold much of the hotel contents at auction. The hotel would be leased and run as a temperance resort, and no amusements would be operated on Sundays.

In 1908 (the year that George Bobinger died) the *Sentinel* reported that the Cabin John Hotel and grounds had been sold to a syndicate that included one of Washington's most prominent businessmen and the resort would be shut to pave way for a "handsome suburban center" and the continuation of the railway line to Great Falls. In 1909, the popular Palm Garden Theatre, which had been constructed ten years earlier for $10,000 burned to the ground. William and his wife continued to run the hotel until 1914, when they leased it out. Despite the addition of the amusement park, the hotel's popularity slowly waned, in part due to competition from Glen Echo, rowdy fights and prohibition. After William died in 1926, his wife closed the doors to the hotel for good, its history locked inside. Four years later, in 1931, a suspicious fire destroyed the hotel.

Once one of the Washington area's most popular resorts, the Cabin John Hotel had "entertained both prince and peasant." Standing in the park by the one lane bridge today, it's hard to imagine this bustling grand resort of sophistication and scandal that once stood in our neighborhood.

(Historic images are courtesy of the Richard Cook Collection)

Do you have old Cabin John photos, maps, postcards, or hotel china? We'd love to add images to our history photo archive of any Cabin John memorabilia that residents may have collected over the years. Please contact history columnist Rachel Donnan at **rachdonnan@gmail.com**.

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C J's Woodland Heritage At Risk

(Continued from pg. 1)

Bob rented his home from Evan Mater, a longtime Cabin John resident and owner of several properties. Evan was well known to the community for his love of Cabin John and in particular his efforts to conserve the trees, woodlands and the creek adjacent to his land. He was also known for pitching in to help his neighbors–whether it was clearing 81st Street with his front-end loader during a historic blizzard or helping an elderly neighbor with conservation of a beloved tree.

In 2022, Evan died suddenly, leaving his estate to family members who have been selling off Evan's former home and properties, including the home that Bob and Michelle Peterson enjoyed for so many happy years. A builder, ironically named "Heritage Homes," has recently poured a foundation for a new house to take the place of the former Peterson residence. Heritage reportedly also has plans to build additional houses on a 2.4-acre wooded lot adjacent to Bob's former home–one of the last undeveloped pieces of properties in Cabin John. Next to parkland and a creek, this large lot is home to a significant cluster of mature trees—several of which are over 100 feet tall—and the wildlife that depends on them.

In recent years, 81st Street has been awash with developers bulldozing the former modest homes that lined our street and replacing them with towering houses that are built within inches of county setbacks. "Development is inevitable" is the explanation. But with all of this new construction, we are at risk of losing our Cabin John "heritage," including the wildlife and woodlands that drew so many of us to this special community. In the past few years, we have seen dozens of magnificent trees on our street, including a historic dawn redwood tree and several centenarian oaks felled for the sake of the "clear-cut" look currently in favor with the builders and buyers of these new homes. For most projects, not a single tree is left standing on the lot, dramatically altering the appearance and character of our neighborhood.

In his departure email to 81st Street, the ever-kind Bob said he hoped that a nice family would move into the new home and have much happiness and joy. That is indeed the heritage that we all hope for in Cabin John.

However, we now are at significant risk of losing one of the last large wooded plots in our iconic town to what inevitably will be a treeless manifestation of luxury living in the 21st century. There are opportunities to push back on this outcome. As a community, we should use all of our resources to preserve our Cabin John heritage.



Digging the foundation for a Bob Peterson's new home in Cabin John.



"Neighborhoods along the canal are my specialty - I live there and love it!"



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Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center



Time to register for SPRING CLASSES!

Wisdom Yoga

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 am, April 9 to June 4

$88.00 for the series Register for #R05128_316

Zumba with Everest Wellness

Mondays 9:15-10:15 am, April 8 to June 3

$110 for the series Register for #R05132_314





Tai Chi with AC Health & Fitness

Wednesdays 9:15-10:00 am, April 10 to June 12

$90.00 for the series Register for #R05112_303

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Renovations | Additions | New Homes

Invaders of the Potomac

By Eric Dinerstein

The title of this column may seem like a cheap way to grab your attention, but the ecological health of our beloved river requires some sirens to sound the alarm. Beneath the roiling waters of the Potomac, an invasion that could determine the future of life in the river is in full swing. And the problem is us–specifically, fishermen who love the river and their pastime but whose practices threaten the extinction of what makes the Potomac and the rivers and streams of the Southeast so globally important for nature conservation.

So who is the invader? Crayfish, crawdaddies, mudbugs–whatever you want to call them. Widely used as bait by local fisherman to catch smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, perch, catfish, or other fish–actually, just about any fish in the Potomac would eat a crayfish. But when the fishermen are done for the day, rather than carry the buckets of bait back to their car–or leave the crayfish in the forest for the birds, foxes, and raccoons–they dump the crayfish in the river. The three most commonly used crayfish for bait in our region are the virile crawfish, the rusty crayfish, and the red swamp crayfish. While the first two species are native to the waters of the upper Midwest and the red swamp crayfish is found in Louisiana, all are alien invaders in our area. If they were simply gobbled up by native fish, turtles, and aquatic birds soon after the fishermen dumped their bait, that would at least give our local crayfish a chance. But these three species escape, flourish, and outcompete the nine species of native crayfish we have in Maryland. Some natives, like the acuminate crayfish, are on the watchlist as species of concern for extinction.

As a group, crayfish are stunningly diverse in the United States. When the amateur naturalist is asked to name the likely center of diversity for most any group of organisms a common response is, "Oh, it must be the Amazon." But in fact, the center of the universe, as far as crayfish (and freshwater mussels) are concerned, is the streams and rivers of the southeastern U.S. (and to a lesser extent the streams of eastern and southern Australia and Tasmania). Crayfish are considered by some ecologists as keystone species in freshwater streams. By keystone, we mean that their removal would have a destabilizing effect on many species in the ecosystem. Conversely, their recolonization can have the opposite effect. For example, think of the recovery of the North American beaver whose triumphant return from near-extinction created new habitats for many freshwater species.

Many species feed on crayfish who in turn feed on leaf material fallen into streams and recycle these nutrients. Removing crayfish from the ecosystem upsets the balance.

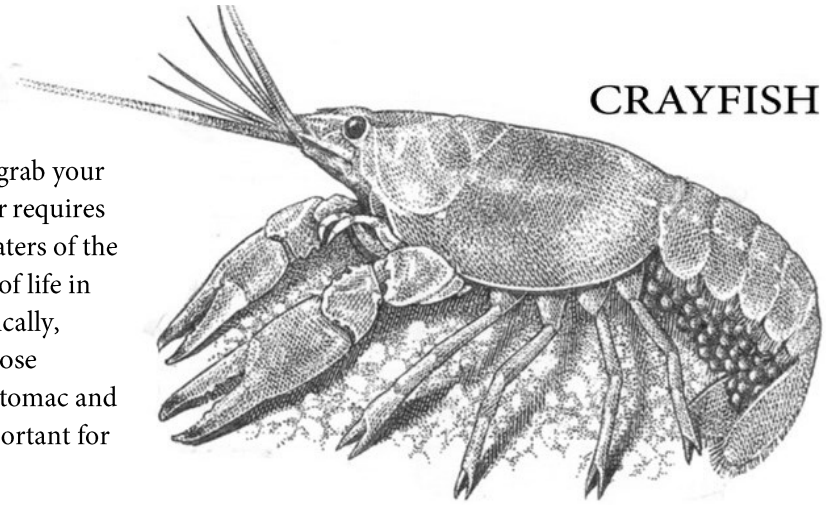


Illustration: Trudy Nicholson

So, what is the problem here? If the acuminate crayfish are replaced by the rusty or virile crayfish, won't the newcomers play the same ecological role? In a word, no; they are not ecological equivalents. First, some of the non-natives are aggressive to the native species and eat them. Second, these non-natives can reach densities 7-10 times higher than the native species of crayfish. Such high density of invasives has knock-on effects by reducing the leaf matter and detritus that freshwater mussels, snails, freshwater invertebrates, and other species feed on; they reduce the numbers of amphibians by eating their eggs and ultimately, by depleting the supply of all of the above, they diminish the feed of the very fish that anglers want to catch. Simply put, non-native crayfish screw up the system.

How can we stop the spread? About 20% of Maryland anglers use crayfish as bait. About 70% of these anglers release the bait alive in the water when they are done for the day. Proper education of fishermen not to dump their bait in the water would be a good start. Prevention is the ticket as it is very hard to control these invasive crayfish once they have entered a stream in large numbers. Another approach would be to allow fishermen to use only dead, not live crayfish as bait. That would help solve part of the problem. But the best solution of all is to keep non-native crayfish far away from the Potomac and its feeder streams. Once they have become established, there is little chance of removal. One hope for the far-off future: gene editing could allow scientists to create versions of the three invasives where the females don't reproduce and the males are infertile. Then their populations would crash naturally. Until then, if you see someone fishing with crawdaddies, you might gently suggest they dump the leftover live ones where the raccoons and other animals can have their own crawdaddy feast–far from the shore.

Pets of Cabin John: Max and Charlotte Roddy

By Brenda Pawlak

Many readers may be familiar with Max, 81st Street's resident dedicated barker who has been known to turn into a spinning acrobat when he runs into another dog while he is attached to his leash. (He's not a fan of being on a leash.) You might be surprised to learn that he is very sweet if you meet him in a different setting! You might also be surprised to learn how he came to live here.

Max, a blond border collie mix, came to Cabin John from Qatar in November 2020 - he even has an international canine passport. He had been living on the streets of Doha and was saved from execution, which unfortunately was the fate of many stray animals in many countries during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, by an international canine rescue network.

But we didn't know any of that when we went to meet a dog listed as a "golden retriever mix" at a rescue in Southern Maryland one mild fall night. Max had just arrived in the U.S. the day before - he was greasy and bedraggled and his hair was all matted. We loved him. He had met several people that day and the rescue still had a long list of applicants to get through so we expected to go home and wait to hear back, preparing ourselves to be disappointed. Turns out Max had a different idea. He jumped into our car when we were getting ready to leave and wouldn't come out, making it clear that he was going with us one way or another. We didn't have ANYTHING to take care of him at home. We found a pet store that was closing and ran through the aisles grabbing random things in a frenzy, and Max has been a part of our family ever since.

For weeks he barked at every single falling leaf – every one, nonstop - and for months he was afraid to touch grass. He also made it very clear early on that he had no interest in dog food or dog treats. More than anything, though, he loved to run. Many of you helped us those early weeks as Max went on joyful sprinting escapades through your backyards.

As Max settled in with Brenda, Dan, Wyatt and Emery Roddy, he learned that living in Maryland is pretty cool. And we learned that he loved Costco hotdogs perhaps more than anything on earth, that when we played catch, he wanted every human to have a turn, that he had limitless energy, and that he desperately wanted to play with other dogs but really didn't know how….he was lonely.

So in 2021, we adopted Charlotte, also a part border collie rescue. She is amazing! She's super friendly–if a little over-enthusiastic at times with her air jumps as she attempts to give every person she meets a kiss hello (she means well). She loves to play with everyone, two- or four-legged. She loves exploring the woods, playing in the creek, learning new words, and doing puzzle games. She also likes to "walk" Max – sometimes you'll see her on walks with his leash in her mouth. Max and Charlotte are true brother and sister – they are each other's best friend and experts at annoying one another.

They both love to go camping with us and to run through the mountains of West Virginia. True to their border collie roots, they also both like to have jobs. Charlotte loves to help bring in the groceries and open the door when your hands are full. Max makes sure that everyone is on time and on schedule in the mornings and that those audacious squirrels who live in Cabin John stay in their trees and off his yard.



Max mugs for the camera.



Charlotte, as a puppy, sleeps as Max keeps watch.

WEED WARRIOR WORKDAY, EARTH DAY

HELP REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS!

Help protect our neighborhood park and one of Montgomery County's gems — the Cabin John Local Park. We will be removing invasive garlic mustard plants that are outcompeting natives and causing problems for the native wildlife. Meet at the Cabin John Creek trail head near the playground. You'll learn about the local ecology and help the native plants and animals that make this park their home. If you want to help on other days in April too, please let Mark Frey know **runcator@gmail.com**

WHEN: Saturday, April 20 from 10 am-12:00

WHERE: Cabin John Local Park, 7401 MacArthur Blvd. Meet at the trailhead near the playground.

WHAT TO BRING:

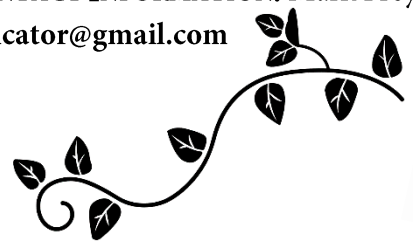
- Clothes that can get dirty, rain gear as necessary.
- Sturdy closed-toe shoes (required)
- Water to drink
- Bug spray (optional)
- A pair of work gloves
- A few sturdy trash bags

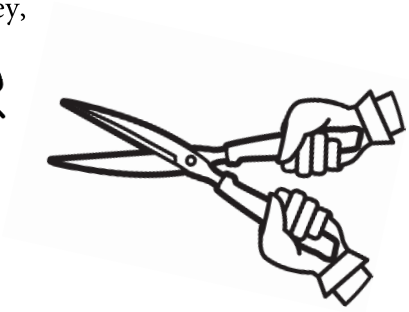
WHO: Everyone!
Volunteers 16 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

WEATHER: This program is rain or shine -- but will be cancelled in case of high winds or lightning.

COMMUNITY SERVICE / SSL HOURS: This program fulfills community service requirements. We will have SSL forms available.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Mark Frey, **runcator@gmail.com**





POEMS FOR PASSERSBY – PRESENTED BY MEREDITH GRIGGS

English professor, David Ferry, who died last November at 99, published 10 books after retiring, including translations from Latin and Greek, although he had published only two in his 40 years of teaching at Wellesley College. In 2012, he won the National Book Award for *Bewilderment*, from which this poem is taken.

Your Personal God

From Horace, *Epistles* II.2 (lines 180-89)
Translated by David Ferry

Jewels, marble, ivory, paintings, beautiful Tuscan
Pottery, silver, Gaetulian robes dyed purple---
Many there are who'd love to have all of these things.
There are some who don't care about them in the least.
Why one twin brother lives for nothing but pleasure,
And loves to fool around even more than Herod
Loves his abundant gardens of date-trees, while
The other twin brother works from morning to night
Improving his farm, ploughing and clearing the lands,
Pruning and planting, working his ass off, only
The genius knows, the personal god who knows
And controls the birth star of every person
There is in the world. Your personal god is the god
Who dies in a sense when your own breath gives out,
And yet lives on, after you die, to be
The personal god of somebody other than you;
Your personal god, whose countenance changes as
He looks at you, smiling sometimes, sometimes not.



Longtime Cabin John resident Beverly Sullivan of MacArthur Boulevard stops by upper 78th street to read this week's poem for passersby.

CLASSIFIED ADS

COMPUTER SERVICES

DC/PC Computer Support offers friendly, personalized computer and electronic services to area residents. 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**.

HANDYMAN AVAILABLE

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Thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet you and your furry family. We look forward to working with you!

Classified Ads are 30¢/word, please email ***vnbusinessmanager@gmail.com***





The Village News is a monthly newsletter published by the Cabin John Citizens Association. Ten issues are published a year and mailed free to every household in Cabin John. Others may subscribe for $12 per year. Send news, articles, and letters to: VNeditorial@gmail.com. Send advertising inquiries and subscription requests to: VNbusinessmanager@gmail.com. You can contact *The Village News* by mail at Village News, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818.

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Regular contributors: Sarah Cahill, Sarah Craven, Eric Dinerstein, Burr Gray, Charlotte Troup-Leighton, Heidi Lewis, Scott Lewis, and Susan Shipp.

Illustrations: Trudy Nicholson

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
5 pm, March 25, 2024
CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at
CLARA BARTON NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER

Mar. 17
Spring Egg Hunt, **10:00 am**
Cabin John Park (Clara Barton Field)

Mar. 20
CJCA Meeting, **7:30 pm**

April 6
Bike Clinic, **10:00 am**

April 20
Weed Warrior Workday
10:00 am to Noon
(Clara Barton Field) 7401 MacArthur Blvd.

April 24
CJCA Meeting, **7:30 pm**

