The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN | FEBRUARY 2024 | VOLUME 58 | ISSUE 02

Keeping In Touch – Opt In To Receive CJCA Emails

By Scott and Heidi Lewis

CJCA maintains a listserv (operated through a Google Group) that we use as our primary communications medium. We send out announcements on upcoming events, matters concerning the community and other items. For those not on the CJCA Listserv, recent messages covered topics such as Trivia Night, blood donations, the CJCA monthly meeting and the holiday party. And we do try to minimize the number of messages sent in a given month.

So how does one enroll? To join this list, send an email to: cjca-official-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com. You'll need to include your name and address in Cabin John so we can maintain the safety and integrity of the list.

The CJCA Listserv is private—and the mailing list is not sold or given to anyone outside the CJCA. Additionally, only current elected officers have the ability to send information.

In addition to the official CJCA Listserv: There are other unofficial listservs that may be of interest, some volunteer, some commercial. Visit the "Get Connected" tab on the Cabin John web page for more details.

Bike Clinic



By Scott Lewis

The CJCA will be holding a bike clinic at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center on **Saturday, April 6 at 10 am**. This will be an opportunity to get bikes ready for spring riding. 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.

Holiday Giving Tree Update

By Lori Rieckelman

A huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the So Others Might Eat (SOME) holiday gift project in December! This was the fourteenth year that Cabin John joined with Brookmont and Glen Echo in this effort. Our three communities donated a total of $15,486 in gift cards in addition to fulfilling wish lists for 30 families who had requested specific items. Our participation is always greatly appreciated by SOME and we look forward to continuing with this project each year.

Here is some of the feedback we received from recipients:

"Words can't express how much your gift means to us. Every time we look at it, we'll be reminded of your thoughtfulness and the spirit of the season.

Thank you so much, I truly appreciate it! The gift cards really came at a time when my family really needed it.

This Christmas, you gave us more than just a gift; you gave us hope. Your generosity showed us that we are not alone, and that there are people who care about the well-being of others. Thank you again!

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful gifts you have given me. Your kind gesture has left me feeling overwhelmed and grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity you have shown me. Your gift has not only brought joy to my heart, but it also speaks volumes about how much you are willing to help those like me and my family in need and I appreciate the efforts you put into that. You made me and my family feel loved and special that day. Once again, thank you for your thoughtfulness and for being such a caring person, especially on the holidays ."

Next year we plan to have an artificial tree inside the community center, so we don't have to worry about the ornaments being blown off the outside tree again! Thanks for your generosity!

CJCA News

By Scott & Heidi Lewis

The CJCA Meeting was held at the CBNRC on Wednesday, January 24. After the approval of minutes, **Sam Ray** from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) joined virtually and provided the following update.

As many are aware, over the last 6 years, the Maryland Department of Transportation was separately advancing an environmental study and a public-private partnership or P3 agreement related to the American Legion Bridge, I-495 and I-270. Accelerate Maryland Partners, which was the party that entered into an agreement with the state and included Transurban as one of the owners, terminated the agreement with the state last March. Hence, the public private partnership is no longer happening.

MDOT is now stepping back from the P3 concept to collect public input on multiple areas so that a comprehensive program of transportation needs of the corridor can be developed. According to MDOT, the following items were considered priorities:

- Strong support for a bicycle and pedestrian connection across the Potomac River to connect to existing networks
- Recognition that we must address the existing American Legion Bridge
- Support for better transit across the river including, at minimum, a solution of fast and convenient bus transit entailing managed travel lanes
- Public funding options were more desirable than a P3

MDOT is now looking at a comprehensive program of multiple projects in the corridor that would prioritize:

- Transit and ridesharing–with options such as improving the MARC Brunswick line, bus rapid transit, and commuter bus using managed lanes in the corridor and expansion of programs to incentivize people not to drive alone but carpool, take transit, shift travel times, or other ways to reduce single drivers on the road
- Transit-oriented development near WMATA transit stations
- Bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout the corridor with a focus on connecting transit, rideshare, rail, and existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Replacement of the American Legion Bridge and a phased approach to managed lanes including deprioritizing work on I-270 in Rockville
- Moving forward with a study on I-270 north of the I-370/ Intercounty Connector

Lastly, MDOT reported that an environmental impact study looked at the replacement of the American Legion Bridge (only) and managed high-occupancy toll lanes from the GWMP in VA to just I-270. That study was completed in August 2022 when the Federal Highway Administration issued a Record of Decision and that Record of Decision still stands. The State Highway Administration is still advancing a design on the portion of that study including the American Legion Bridge and the I-270 West Spur. This remains unfunded.

CJCA will continue to monitor this situation and reiterated our view that alternatives such as improved public transportation and other infrastructure investments are vastly superior to widening the beltway.

Robin Sidel, webmaster for CJCA's **CabinJohn.org** website, attended the meeting to remind the community of the information available on the cabinjohn.org website, solicit feedback on how to make it more useful, and present options for keeping the website in good working order. Ideas shared by attendees included making the calendar of events easily accessible on the home page; making the donations, ticketing, and merchandising process better for both purchasers and the CJCA treasurer; adding an archive of CJCA emailed updates; and possibly including a local services and businesses page as a resource and potential source of income to offset the cost of website maintenance.

The current iteration of the website was designed eight years ago by a local resource who is no longer available, and some functions and templates have reached the end of their lifespan. At the very least, repair work by a technical resource will be necessary, and we will also need professional help to improve donations and purchasing functionality.

The popular *Village News* archive on the website, which contains 50+ years of PDFs of issues beginning in 1967 (with a very few missing issues), is one of the functions that had been inoperable the last few months due to outdated templates; we are happy to report it is the first repair completed and is back online!

The meeting attendees gave Robin a big round of applause for all the work she has done for the past eight years to keep the website going, and we are so thankful she is willing to continue her duties as we work to get the site updated and ready for the next decade of service.

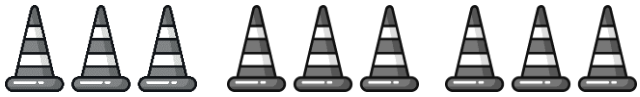
PUBLIC WORKS CORNER

Little Falls Parkway

By Scott Lewis

If you've driven in Bethesda recently, you will have undoubtedly noticed changes with Little Falls Parkway. Since the pandemic, there have been a number of plans proposed to make the relatively short stretch of road more pedestrian friendly. Recently, the Montgomery County Council unanimously chose to move forward with an adjusted plan for the Little Falls Parkway Road Diet Project, which county council members called a "compromise."

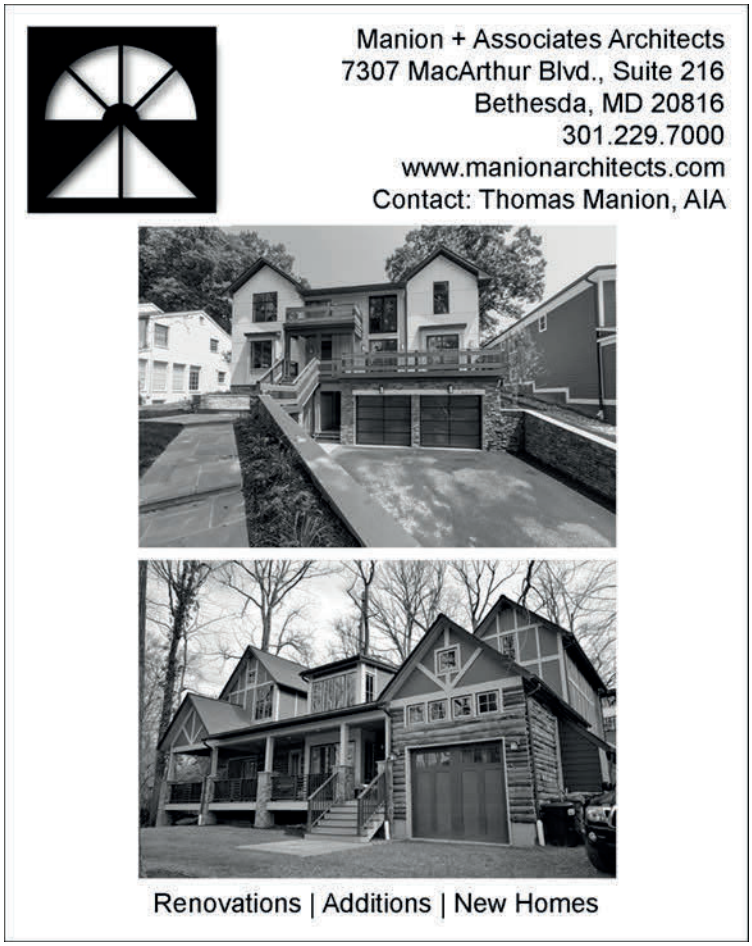
Little Falls Parkway is now a continuously open parkway with the two outside lanes open for recreational use by cyclists and pedestrians and the interior two lanes reserved for vehicular traffic. The road pavement will remain in place.

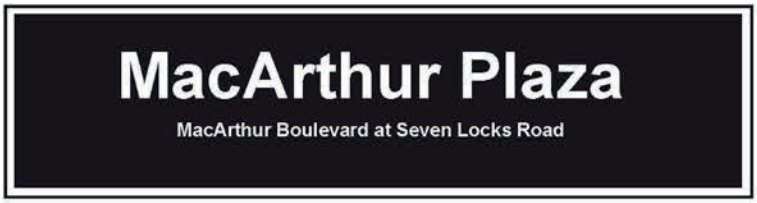


The compromise allows emergency fire and rescue vehicles use of the roadway when responding to emergencies. This plan also allows the county to change its mind later and regain the pavement for traffic lanes if there are issues with the Road Diet. The new plan also eliminates the proposed creation of a linear park, which was not included in any county master plans.

There is significant information on websites such as montgomeryparks.org and others that include the history of the Road Diet, should readers seek additional information.









Trivia Night

By Scott Lewis

What is the only Beatles song where none of the Fab Four played an instrument? This was one of the many questions asked at our annual Trivia Night and hint: it's not "Please, Please Me."

The annual Trivia Night was held on a damp and warmish evening in late January and featured 17 teams, 135 players, several spectators (a new option for attendance this year), and dozens of interesting trivia questions. Plus, plenty of drinks and snacks and a good time with friends and neighbors. New this year was our host **Jay Malarchar** who provided an excellent mix of trivia questions for the event.

Congratulations to this year's winners: The Wine Knots, comprised of **Susan and Jeff Shipp**, **Meredith McGuire and Elliott Schoen**, **Helen Harris**, **Phil and Stacey Corcoran**, and **Mike Ellert-Beck**. Theirs was an impressive win from start to finish.

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped with this event including **Helen Harris**, **Barbara Wilmarth**, **Patrick and Susan Fitzgerald**, **Will Harris**, **Tom Black**, **Riley Lewis**, and **Pete Couste**. They helped set up, manage the event and clean up afterward.

So, what is the only Beatles song where none of the Fab Four played an instrument? "Eleanor Rigby."

Thanks to all those who came out to support the CJCA. See you next year!



Congrats to the Wine Knots! (from left): Phil and Stacey Corcoran, Elliot Schoen, Meredith McGuire, Susan and , Jeff Shipp, Helen Harris, and Mike Ellert-Beck.

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center



BINGO NIGHT!

Friday, March 8, 2024
from 7:00-9:00 pm



Come try your luck! Bingo cards $5.00 each

♦ Buy two and double your chances!

Admission is free ♦ Pizza and drinks at bargain prices

Maryland Delegates Sara Love and Marc Korman will call the numbers and keep the action going.

Proceeds support CBNRC programs and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

SENIORS

Simple Chefs, with Candy Dandy

February 12 at noon

Sign up at the CBNRC desk

YOUTH

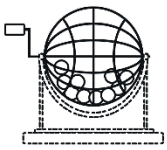
Club Fridays

Movies, dancing, games, sports, snacks

February 23 and March 15, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Grades 3 through 6

(If not registered for the series, join in as a guest for $10.00)



SPRING CLASSES

♦ Zumba *!!New!!* ♦ Tai Chi *!!New!!* ♦ Wisdom Yoga

Get activity numbers and register at the CBNRC desk, or call 240-777-4910

7425 MacArthur Boulevard Cabin John | 240-777-4910

Open Mon–Thurs: 9 am–8 pm | Fri: 9 am-3 pm | Sat-Sun: Rentals Only

Pets of Cabin John

By Evan Passman

Pippi, a 7-year-old miniature red short-haired dachshund, is a central focus of the Egeth-Passman family's life. Named after the red-haired storybook character Pippi Longstocking, the little red doxie you have seen being walked around the neighborhood is NOT in fact a puppy, as many assume–she is fully grown but has the joie de vivre of a young dog.



Brought home as a very small puppy in 2017 by Jill Egeth, Sam Passman, and Evan Passman, Pippi provides joy, love, and affection, not just to her family, but to everyone she meets. One of her most well-known skills is her amazing ability to burrow; a favorite pastime is burrowing under and wrapping herself up in blankets without any help, which isn't much of a surprise when you learn that dachshunds were bred for their burrowing and hunting skills. Nothing is better than finding Pippi wrapped up in her blanket, with just her adorable face poking out!

Two years ago, Pippi suffered a herniated disc in her back, which painfully pressed on her spine and caused her hind legs to stop working well. Dachshunds are prone to this type of injury due to a genetic predisposition for intervertebral disc disease. She had emergency back surgery which successfully removed the bad disc and alleviated the pressure from her spine, but medical imaging showed that ALL the discs in her back were in bad shape and would likely cause additional spinal damage in the future.

To make sure that Pippi wouldn't have another disc rupture, Pippi's family looked into a special type of preventive procedure called "Laser Disc Ablation," a non-invasive preventive procedure where lasers are used to vaporize diseased discs, greatly reducing the chance of future ruptures. This procedure is only available in three places in the country, but luckily for Pippi, one location is right outside of Philadelphia. Her family spent two nights in Philadelphia and after several weeks of much-hated crate rest, Pippi was back to her normal self, with a greatly reduced likelihood of future back injuries.

Pippi is 100% back in action and when the weather is nice, you can find her taking three-mile walks along the C&O Canal, barking at every squirrel she sees. She's one of the only miniature red dachshunds in the area and is very easy to spot. You're always welcome to stop and say hi — she loves attention from humans.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are several qualification differences between jumbo (non-conforming mortgages over $765,500) and conforming mortgages:

- Excellent (not just good) credit score is required
- Need reserves to safeguard lenders from defaults
- Usually requires a minimum down payment of 20%
- Debt to income ratio (DTI) of no more than 43%
- Loan to value (LTV) ratio of 80% or lower

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

Rachelle Cherol

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Uh-uh, or Something to Crow About

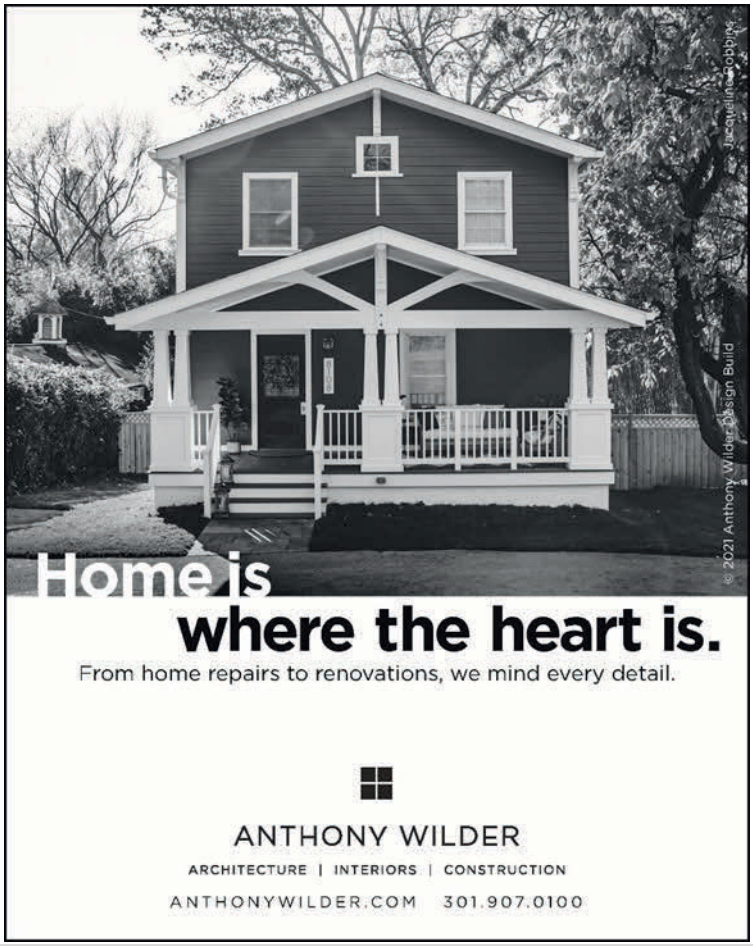
By Eric Dinerstein

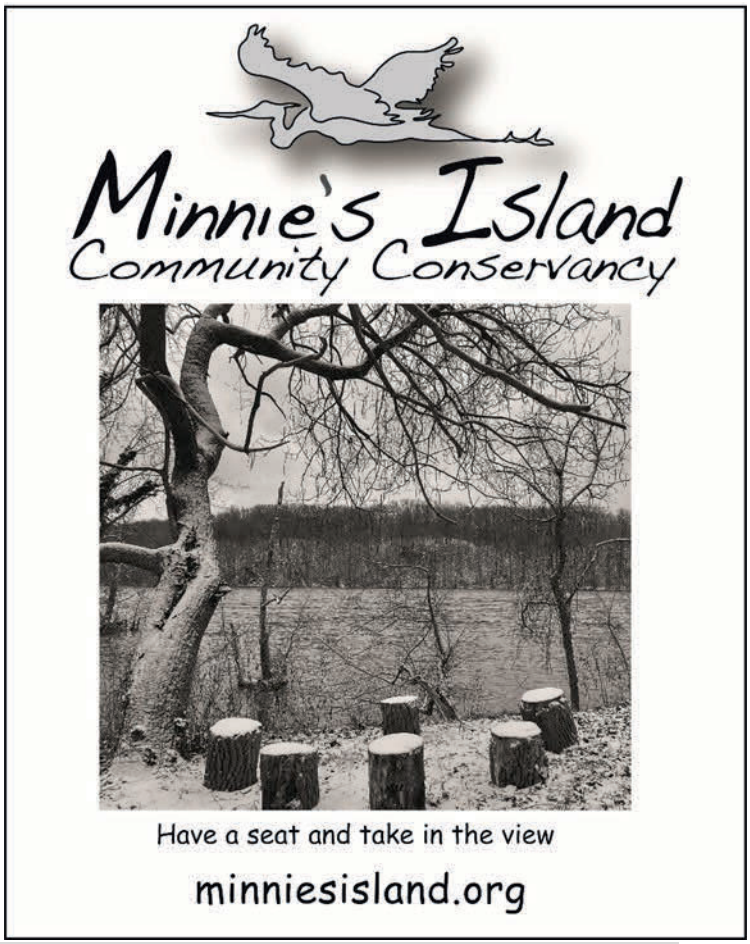
While writing this column, I decided to open the window and let an unusually warm January breeze roll in. My thoughts about an early end to winter were met by a chorus of birds rejecting my proposition. "Uh-uh," they called. "Uh-uh." Perfect timing, I thought, and inspiration, because I was writing about my doubting feathered neighbors, the Fish Crow, a smart cousin of the Common Crow and Northern Raven, but with a unique song, an utterance that fills one with hesitation.

Wherever there is water along the East Coast and Mississippi River Valley, or carrion to scavenge in between, you will hear this Doubting Tom of a bird singing away in a cluster of its kin, sometimes with Common Crows in the mix. The Common Crow is—dare we say it–more common, and its familiar guttural, "Caaaw! Caugh!!" is a sound even non-birders can pick out. To the naked eye, there is nothing that readily distinguishes a Common Crow from a Fish Crow, but its call is clearly different. The nasal-sounding song of the



Illustration: Trudy Nicholson





Fish Crow is so distinctive that once you learn it, you will never mistake it for anything else. Only an expert can identify subtle physical differences between the two species, so minor that I will avoid mentioning them here (ok—among other tweaks to the basic crow body plan, the Fish Crow is slightly smaller with a less robust beak). Even if you do learn to recognize these differences in the pages of a field guide or comparing images on the internet, you will be hard pressed to transfer what you have learned to what you are seeing silhouetted against the sky in the top of the bare trees of winter. Better to cup your hand to your ear and listen for the distinct nasal serenade.

The name Fish Crow assumes too much, as if this species is what scientists might term an obligate piscivore, a dedicated fish-eater. Like its congener the Common Crow, the Fish Crow will eat just about anything—insects, fruit, seeds, trash, dead fish, other carrion. Being omnivorous is often a path to success for spreading your kind far and wide, scientists find. Think of other omnivores in our midst like raccoons and opossums and how widespread they are. And think about the arrival or eventual residency of a classic omnivore: the North American black bear, followed by another, the coyote. They will be joining us in Cabin John soon.

The tendency for a few Common Crows to mix in with a flock of the more social Fish Crow illustrates a point made in last month's column: what new marvels are revealed if we only stop – look – and listen. When I started birding around Cabin John many years ago, I didn't know about the presence of Fish Crows nearby: I had never heard them until a birding colleague pointed them out. Then my life changed for the better.

You can hear them all over Cabin John, even fairly far from the Potomac, although they tend to be more common by the river. The Fish Crow is another example of a phenomenon in some groups of birds where two species look almost identical but can easily be told apart by the songs once they vocalize. More importantly, they don't interbreed. Maybe they recognize features that we don't, so they instantly know who is who in the crow community without opening their beaks. We will undoubtedly find more definitive answers with future behavioral studies as to what keeps them separated. Until then, we can only wonder about other species hiding in plain sight that will emerge if we follow the simple instructions for being a naturalist (or surviving life as a pedestrian along MacArthur Boulevard): stop, look, and listen.



Attention Journalists, Wordsmiths, Poets!

The Village News needs you!

We are looking for individuals who can contribute stories to the *VN*. We have many story ideas and subjects of interest but need your time and talent to bring them to life. We are especially seeking someone who can serve as the regular correspondent to gather "Neighborly News," and someone who would be willing to interview the interesting people living among us. We can even take recorded interviews and write and edit them for inclusion in the *VN*. Or maybe you'd like to pitch a regular column on a topic of interest to Cabin Johners? Please contact Shelly McKenzie, editor of the *Village News* at vneditorial@gmail.com to discuss writing possibilities for upcoming issues.

Can Your Workplace Host An Intern?

Walt Whitman High School's internship program gives juniors and seniors the opportunity to work with experienced professionals in the community and earn elective high school credit. Work experiences can be in-person, remote or hybrid, and student interns can be paid or unpaid. We are looking for opportunities in all potential career fields.

- Business: finance, marketing, accounting, public relations, law, small business management
- STEM: science, medicine/healthcare, veterinary medicine, engineering, computer science, physical therapy, athletic training
- Media, journalism, film, audiovisual production, graphic design
- Nonprofit and charitable organizations
- Government and politics
- Law enforcement, fire and rescue
- Culinary arts

If your workplace might be interested in hosting an intern during the 2024-2025 school year, please contact **Kathleen Bartels** to discuss possibilities at Kathleen_e_bartels@mcpsmd.org or 202-378-7451 for more information. Thank you!

Please share with us at **vneditorial@gmail.com** your news of milestones, gatherings, births, deaths, new neighbors, and anything else related to Cabin Johners.

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



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www.lisanmartintherapy.com
202.537.6614

▪ 7707 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, MD 20818



Real Estate Activity in Cabin John

January 30, 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

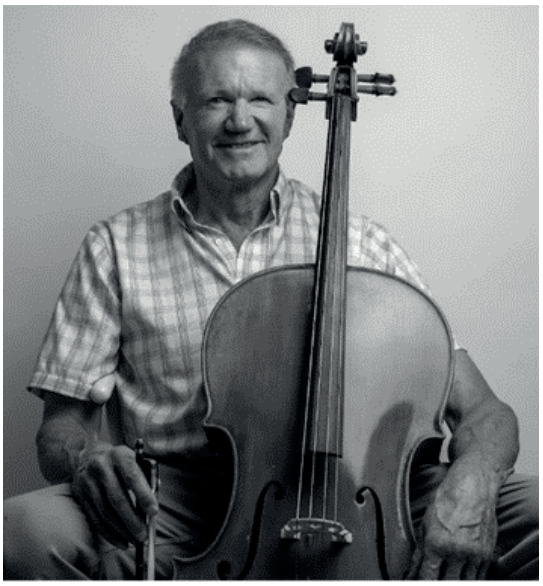
8010 Riverside Drive
List Price $ 2,000,000
5 BR, 3 BA, 0 Gar, 3,125 sq. ft.

Note: Last month's report incorrectly stated five baths in the Riverside home — there are three.

Neighborly News

By Neil, Keith, Marian Clark; Heidi Lewis

Steven Edward Clark
October 24, 1953-October 19, 2023



Steve Clark, died suddenly of cardiac arrest in his home in Gaithersburg, MD, just 4 days shy of his 70th birthday. He was the son of **Barbara Beck (Clark) Martin** and stepson of **Reed Martin**. Barbara, who passed away in 2016 was a leading citizen of Cabin John who contributed in countless ways to the community. Reed now lives in memory care at Brookdale Senior Living near Cabin John Village Mall.

Steve had been in Cabin John frequently in recent years as he helped renovate his mother's home, catalog and prepare Reed's remarkable collection for auction, and care for Reed as he moved to Brookdale. Steve donated a set of Bobinger Hotel (Cabin John Hotel) dishes from Reed's collection to the people of Cabin John.

Steve's children wrote in their obituary of their father: "He found joy in every moment of life, and it's fitting that his heart simply wore out, for he lived it to the fullest. Steve was a man of many talents and interests. He began his journey as a bricklayer, eventually starting his own company. In his late 20s, a chiropractor's help inspired him to return to college and pursue a career in chiropractic care, where he built a successful practice. Although he sold his practice to semi-retire, he worked as a doctor until his last days. He loved music and taught himself to play cello in later years, even after producing 2 CDs of original and traditional/classical music that he shared with friends and family."

"Steve is survived by his beloved children Neil, Keith, and Marian, as well as his brothers, Mathew and Andy, along with their spouses and children… Additionally, Steve was a devoted caregiver and pillar of support for his stepfather, Reed Martin, the beloved husband of his late mother, Barbara Martin."



Potomac River in January

By Ritch Kepler

Ritch Kepler, a 30-year resident of Cabin John, offers readers a meditation on winter near the Potomac this month.

> Just as the holy person who drops
> all worldly belongings to the ground
> the Potomac River's summer canopy of leaves
> has been thrown to us, the poor,
>
> bequeathing once again
> ancient stick people
> holding in their arms the sky
> as wind filled with wrought
> rips through ribs lonely for Spring.
>
> A great Sycamore is a perch
> for the red-tailed hawk
> presiding over a river
> that flows in grief and joy,
>
> and I alone in my own time
> walk and pray if only we
> could open our hearts
> as well as the Potomac does in January.





Honoring
Black History Month
through our dedicated efforts to preserve
Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88
Moses Cemetery and Hall
in Cabin John

Join us in protecting the sacred grounds
of our shared historical legacy.

Learn More and Support at
friendsofmoseshall.org

National Trust for Historic Preservation
America's 11 Most
Endangered Historic Places

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We pick up and drop off for both our Daycare and Boarding services.

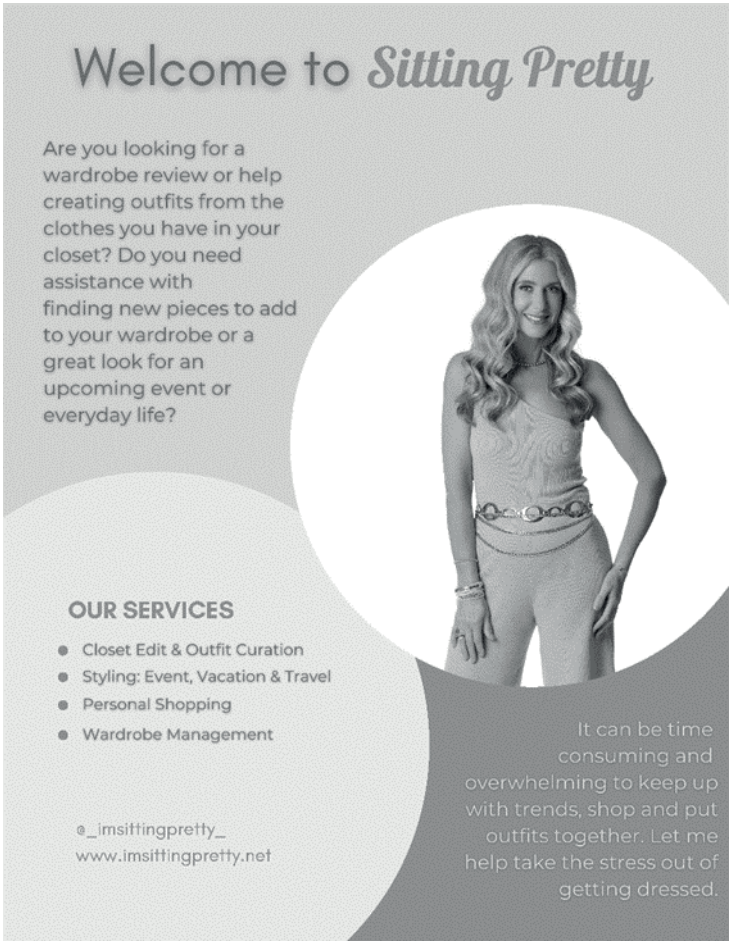
Check us out: **www.licksandleashes.net**

Owner: Lauren Nicholas | **808-286-6556**

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









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.

Volunteers who make *The Village News* possible: **Shelly McKenzie**, editor; **Joan Roskosh**, layout; **Marcy Harrison**, business manager.

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, February 25, 2024
CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Feb. 21
CJCA Meeting, **7:30 pm**

Mar. 8
Bingo Night, **7:00 pm**

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**