The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

August 2026 | VOLUME 60| ISSUE 7



CABIN JOHN CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH PATRIOTIC PARADE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

by Leslie Meyers

More than 100 local residents turned out to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday at Cabin John's Fourth of July celebration, despite record-breaking triple-digit temperatures. The sweltering heat forced the cancellation of holiday activities across the East Coast, including the national parade in Washington, DC. Families, friends, and neighbors gathered along 79th Place, then marched along the bike path in a sea of red, white, and blue to Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center.

See PARADE on pg. 3

SAVE THE DATE! CJ CHICKEN & CRAB FEAST SEPT. 19 TICKET SALES & VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

by Pete Cousté

Mark your calendars! The 56th Annual Cabin John Chicken and Crab Feast is set for Saturday, September 19 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. It is our largest community event of the year. Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (CBNRC) will once again transform into a pop-up restaurant and serve some 500 families, friends, and neighbors. Come out to enjoy great food, lively music, and the community spirit that makes Cabin John such a special place to live.

See CHICKEN & CRAB on pg. 4

POTOMAC RIVER REOPENS FOR USE AFTER HISTORIC SEWAGE SPILL

by Carrie Stokes

The Potomac River was cleared for recreational use on July 31. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement lifting the public health advisory on shoreline areas affected by the Potomac Interceptor collapse and sewage leak from January. This includes the area in Cabin John between Lock 11 and the downstream shoreline surrounding Minnie's Island.

"Minnie's Island is reopened to public access," announced Joe Saliunas of Minnie's Island Community Conservancy. He said that after six months of closure, the conservancy is looking forward to sharing the island with the community again. In light of the county decision, Saliunas encourages people to check their website for information on how to visit the island: www.minniesisland.org.

DC Water plans to stop daily water quality monitoring in favor of weekly testing this month. DC Water is the authority responsible for sewage containment, interceptor pipe repairs, environmental testing, and environmental remediation for the Potomac Interceptor sewage spill and overflow that contaminated the river.

See RIVER on pg. 15

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Neighborly News

Send your news -- births, events, milestones, trips, new neighbors, etc. to vneditorial @gmail.com

Joan Kornblinth has moved onto Ericsson Road from Kensington. She has family and friends in this area and was ready to downsize. Joan grew up in nearby Tulip Hill.

Mary Tello has moved into CJ on 79th Street. She is an occupational therapist for DC Public Schools. Her husband, Brady, is a Forward Deployed Engineering Manager at Databricks. They lived in the Palisades neighborhood in DC for eight years before moving for more space and for the public schools. Norah is entering 9th grade and is excited to try out Whitman Crew and Austin will be a 6th grader. Their toddler, Harper, is excited to explore and try new playgrounds nearby. They don't have any pets but have been thinking about a golden retriever puppy for years!

The C&O Canal Trust is holding their annual fundraiser, **Park After Dark**, in support of the C&O Canal National Historic Park on Saturday, September 19 from 6:00-9:00 pm, at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. This year's focus is the history of the tavern itself. The event includes cocktails, a catered dinner, silent auction, ranger-guided night hike, campfire with s'mores, and fireside ranger history talk. For more information visit http://parkafterdark.org.

The annual end-of-summer **Friends of Cabin John Creek Picnic and Ducky Race** is scheduled for Sunday, August 30 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Cabin John Local Park. Kids and adults get to pick their rubber duckies and cheer for them as the brave duckies navigate a difficult and challenging section of the Cabin John Creek. Prizes are awarded for the top three finishers. Our elected representatives are usually willing to play key roles in the event. May the best web-footed friend win!

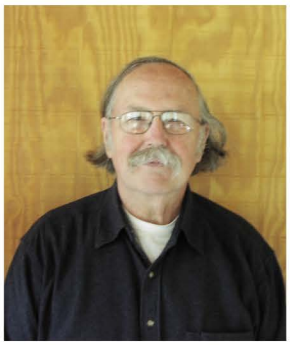
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FORREST MINOR: AN APPRECIATION FOR A NEIGHBOR

by Brandon McDonald

They say you can't pick your family and the same can be said of your neighbors.

On 81st Street, we are blessed with a cast of amazing neighbors. Forrest, and his wife Lorraine have been our next door neighbors for nearly 30 years. "Hey neighbor!" was a frequent volley we shared, and yard work was often punctuated by a chat. "Well, I'll let you get back to work," Forrest would say with a wink. On April 12, 2026, Forrest Louden Minor passed away at the age of 87. For those of you who never had the pleasure of meeting him, I will do my best to introduce you.

Forrest was one of a kind–a rare gem. He was a tall, solid figure, with a distinctive mustache and slightly long, wavy hair to match. He looked you straight in the eye. Everyone who met Forrest was struck by his kindness. Forrest liked people. He enjoyed conversation and exchanging ideas. He naturally cultivated friendship and community. Most of all he had a curiosity for learning, as illustrated by one of his favorite quotes by Edwin Hubble: "We do not know why we are born into the world, but we can try to find out what sort of world it is."

Forrest was born in Danville, Kentucky on February 3, 1939, the son of Forrest Tuttle Minor and Gertrude Buck. His family lived in Kentucky and moved to Missouri, Virginia and Florida, on the way to settling in Washington Grove, Maryland.

He graduated from Richard Montgomery High School and continued his education at the University of Kentucky and the Virginia Military Institute.

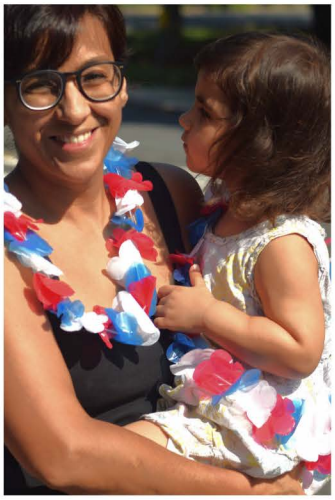
Forrest spent most of his working life as a computer specialist at the David Taylor Model Basin, but he was so much more.

Forrest was a Renaissance man. He was a computer buff and a car mechanic; he rebuilt computers and car engines. He enjoyed astronomy, geology, plumbing, electrical wiring, carpentry, and gardening. He played softball and was a member of the Sports Car Club of America for 50 years.

See FORREST on pg. 14

















Photos by Leslie Meyers, Susan Shipp and Rick Hatch

PARADE *Continued from pg. 1*

Children's bicycles were decorated with patriotic streamers, pinwheels, and flags, while adorned strollers added to the colorful procession. Elected officials State Senator Sara Love, Delegates Marc Korman, Sarah Wolek, Teresa Woorman, and County Council member Andrew Friedson led the parade up MacArthur Boulevard on the bike path and remained at the community center to visit with constituents and celebrate alongside residents.

At the center, volunteers welcomed participants with popsicles, watermelon, lemonade, and donuts. Children and adults alike flocked to the popular sprinkler station to take advantage of the cooling spray. It was much-needed relief from the intense heat. Neighbors also gathered beneath shade trees to enjoy one of Cabin John's most cherished traditions: a public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Carrie Stokes and Mary Tyskiewicz delivered this year's reading.

The annual celebration was made possible by the CJCA and the volunteer efforts of Mary Tyskiewicz, Rita Gerharz, Diana Carter, Bruce Meyers and CJCA officers Carrie Stokes and Leslie Meyers. Even under extraordinary heat, Cabin John's Fourth of July celebration once again demonstrated a strong sense of community, civic pride, and neighborly spirit.

CHICKEN & CRAB *Continued from pg. 1*

You can expect our classic, crowd-pleasing menu that includes freshly steamed crabs, grilled chicken with our signature rub, and a spread of fresh vegetable sides ranging from local corn, collard greens, and cole slaw (including vegetarian options) to the ever-popular lemonade and homemade baked goods. Soda, beer, and wine will also be available. Buy your tickets in advance to save money and help us prepare the right amount of food.

Meal Option	Advance	At the Door
Veggies– 5 sides	$19	$22
Chicken & 3 sides	$21	$25
3 Crabs & 3 sides	$22	$26
6 Crabs – 1 side	$30	$35

Scan to see menu and purchase tickets

Tickets are available online at cabinjohn.org.

Enjoy live music from the Starlight Orchestra and activities for children run by the staff of Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center. It's an afternoon designed for residents of all ages to gather, mingle, eat outdoors, and celebrate. It's a great place to meet your neighbors and make new friends.
This event began in 1970 and remains a vital fundraiser for Cabin John, with proceeds supporting this newsletter and the community events held throughout the year.

Sign up to volunteer today. The event is staffed entirely by dedicated neighbors, and it takes more than 100 residents stepping forward to keep this all-volunteer tradition alive. We need your help with everything from kitchen prep on Friday to cooking, grilling, staffing the ticket table, and cleanup on Saturday. SSL hours are available for student volunteers.

Also, if you love to cook and enjoying cooking with others, let us know. We could use a few extra skilled hands to help prepare our scrumptious vegetable sides. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, we invite you to join in. To volunteer, please visit cabinjohn.org.

Email us directly at CJCrabfeast@gmail.com.

Scan to volunteer

Come by. Say hello. Eat. Bring the family. You'll be glad you did. See you there!

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

FALL PROGRAMMING

SET UP YOUR FAMILY'S FALL ACTIVITIES NOW

YOUTH

Club Friday: (grades 3-6), Activity # R03002_101. Oct 2026 - May 2027, 7-9 pm
TKA Youth Karate-All Levels: (ages 6-12), Activity # R05066-111. Wed., Sept 16-Dec 9, 6:30-7:30 pm
Drop In Tiny Tot Playtime: Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am. Recfit Membership required

55+ CLASSES

Low Impact: R03053-104. Mondays, Sept 14-Nov 16, 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Zumba: R03050-101. Wednesdays, Sept 16-Nov 18, 3-4 pm
Yoga: R03049-101. Thursdays, Sept 10-Nov 12, 12:30-1:30 pm
Tai Chi: R03046-102. Mondays, Sept 14-Nov 16, 9:30-10:30 am

18+ CLASSES

Definition Body Sculpting: 9:15-10 am
R05016-101. Tuesday/Thursday, Sept 15-Dec 10
R05016-102. Tuesday only, Sept 15-Dec 8
R05016-103. Thursday only, Sept 17-Dec 10

SIGN UP begins August 11

Weight Room: Free with RecFit Membership. Guests who are not County Residents pay a non-resident fee.

Open
M-Th: 9am-8pm
F: 9am-3pm
Sa-Su: Rentals Only

Please note that CBNRC will be closed Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day

7425 MacArthur Blvd.
Cabin John, MD 20818

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Ad funded by Friends of Clara Barton Community Center, www.FriendsCBCC.org

View From Minnie's Island

by Joe Saliunas

GOOD GRASS

Our area was under a drought watch for most of the Spring, and one impact of this on Minnie's Island was the delay of the typical spring growth spurt for herbaceous plants, such as goldenrods and sunflowers, until after Memorial Day. This has resulted in a banner year for grasses, which are more drought tolerant, which benefited from the extra sunlight for most of the spring. In this article, we'll take a look at the most common grasses found at Minnie's Island and along the river. All of these native grasses can be used in our home gardens and can be found at local nurseries.



Grasses on Minnie's Island have enjoyed a banner spring due to dry conditions. Big bluestem, bottlebrush rye and northern sea oats can all be found on the island and are suitable for use in home gardens. Illustrations courtesy of Jack Mandel.

Northern sea oats (***Chasmanthium latifolium***) is known for its attractive oat-shaped seed heads. It is a cool season grass that grows through the winter and spring, turns brown during the summer, and provides visual interest with the seeds remaining through the winter. I have a stand of this forming a low screen around our patio. It also looks great as a dried arrangement. It can be aggressive in home gardens, however.

It is easy to identify bottlebrush grass (***Elymus hystrix***) when it is in bloom, as the bristly seed heads resemble a bottle brush. It is another cool season grass that starts growing in late winter, blooms in June, and then retains brown leaves and seeds through early winter. I have a small stand of this attractive grass in the front yard.

Big bluestem (***Andropogon gerardi***) is the iconic species of midwestern tall grass prairies. In the Potomac Gorge, including Minnie's Island, it is found on rock outcrops along the river. It is a warm season grass that doesn't start actively growing until late spring. The seed heads of this grass are stunning while in bloom, with bright purples and yellows. Many cultivars of this grass are available at local nurseries. I have several of these growing in large containers.

Deertongue grass (***Dichanthelium clandestinum***) is a warm season grass named for its broad, deer tongue-shaped leaves. It is common on Minnie's Island, forming large clumps that can get up to four feet tall. Of the grasses listed, it is probably the least commonly used in home gardens, although it is hardy and attractive.

Broomsedge bluestem (***Andropogon virginicus***) is a warm season grass (not a sedge) that is spreading in the portion of Minnie's Island that we manage as a meadow. It retains a golden-orange color through the winter, and is a common landscaping plant. The name comes from its use in the construction of simple brooms in the past.

Other grasses found on Minnie's include switchgrass (***Panicum viratum***), purpletop tridens (***Tridens flavus***), Virginia wildrye (***Elymus virginicus***), plus several others that I have not been able to identify. There are also many attractive sedges on the island, but those are also difficult to identify.

At the time of writing, Minnie's Island is still closed to the public due to contaminated sediment from DC Water's sewage spill in January. We hope to re-open after sediment testing results return to baseline and Montgomery County Department of Health lifts their advisory to avoid the sediment and shoreline from Lock 11 down to Minnie's Island.

Joe Saliunas is certified as a Maryland Master Naturalist and is Board Chair of Minnie's Island Community Conservancy.

Minnie's Island
Community Conservancy



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GETTING TO KNOW... NEW CJCA PRESIDENT PETE COUSTÉ



Joanne, Chris, Michelle & Pete

The CJCA recently elected new officers. Former CJCA vice-president Pete Cousté tells us about background, his life in Cabin John and his motivation to serve.

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

My wife Joanne Carl drew me to Cabin John. We went to the same college and worked together in TV news in New Orleans where I was born. She moved back for work, and I soon followed. We were married in 1990. Joanne discovered Cabin John and was captivated. We first lived in a condo behind Captain's Market, then in a townhouse on Archbold Terrace, where our children were born. In 1999, we moved to 77th Street.

Tell us a little about your family members.

Our kids, Michelle and Chris, spent their entire childhoods in Cabin John enjoying classes at Clara Barton Children's Center, canoe trips on the Potomac, tennis camps and the swim team at Palisades, CJ holiday parties, and Chicken and Crab Feasts. They are grown now, and on their own: Michelle in Arlington and Chris in Boston. Still, they manage to make it back often to CJ to help cook crabs at the Chicken and Crab Feast.

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

Both Joanne and I recently retired from careers in TV, video and digital media, and teaching communications. Now we volunteer and travel a lot. At home, we enjoy our life and neighbors in CJ. Joanne loves to garden while I try to keep the lawn and home maintenance at bay. I also play music. Additionally, we each spend time at the community center, along the canal or bike path, at the pool, and at CJ's restaurant row with friends

Imagine you have old friends in town and want to show them one great day in Cabin John–what's on the itinerary?

A CJ day for me with a friend would involve a morning walk/bike to show off the river–first upstream to and over the Union Arch Bridge to the tow path, downstream to Riverside Drive and up 79th. Or instead, we'd walk to the Union Arch, then through the park down to the CJ Creek trail and take it all the way to Seven Locks at the Palisades Pool and adjacent park. We'd hit the pool if it's that time of year. Then a quick coffee or lunch at our restaurant row. If it's not pool weather, we'd hike the Billy Goat Trail or bike or drive to Great Falls. Then we'd stop at Old Anglers Inn's beer garden. If it's evening, we'd hit Sal's for happy hour or Wild Tomato for dinner–or both.

Have you volunteered with CJCA (or other organizations) before?

Yes, almost from the beginning. Burr Gray played a big role in how–and why–I started volunteering here. Our daughters first became friends at Clara Barton Children's Center, and so did their parents. Over the years, Burr urged me several times to join the CJCA board, and I promised I would someday. That day has come. Over the years, I've volunteered for stream cleanups; helped with many holiday parties both leading CJ kids in carols and serving as Santa's helper; participated in several Fourth of July parades and trivia nights; and served as an election judge at our CJ precinct. I've also steamed the crabs at the Chicken and Crab Feast for almost 25 years. One year, I had offered to help Ralph Osborn, founder of the Market on the Boulevard. He asked me to take over when he retired to the beach. I learned from the best.

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CJ History Past & Present

by Marcy Harrison

This Fourth of July marked our county's 250th birthday. Cabin John's celebration was a fine tribute and fun for all. But that was just the beginning of our efforts to mark the semiquincentennial--which means we're halfway to our 500th anniversary.

Unless you are one of CJ's "longtimers," you might not know how grandly our town celebrated the USA's bicentennial with firsthand accounts of life in Cabin John through 1976. Now, the CJCA History Committee plans to pick up where that left off. And they need your help.

In 1976, CJ hosted "Chautauqua '76: The Bicentennial in Cabin John." As background, the Chautauqua movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries provided popular education combined with entertainment in the form of lectures, concerts, and plays. The CJ Chautauqua consisted of many such events on June 5, 1976.

Another aspect of the bicentennial celebration was Elizabeth Kytle's work conducting oral histories from 17 longtime neighbors, published in the booklet "Time Was." Now, our history committee is launching the sequel: "Time Was--Again." It will continue that tradition and conduct oral histories of Cabin John residents of 50 years or more, as well as gather recollections from residents who grew up here in the 1970s and 1980s.

The result of the project will cover history where author Judy Welles' book ***Cabin John Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place*** leaves off. The overarching aim is to publish some of these stories here in ***The Village News***, potentially generate other publications.

Here is where you come in. Longtimer or not, if you would like to be involved in this project, please get in touch at 301-908-8906 or marcyharrison@earthlink.net. If you have more general interest in getting involved with CJ history please see Judy Welles' article in this issue!

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2026 - 2027 Cabin John (CJ) Community Events

All events are held at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (CBNRC), 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, unless otherwise listed. Sponsored by Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA), www.cabinjohn.org, and Friends of Clara Barton Community Center, www.friendscbcc.org.

SEPTEMBER 2026
19 – 56th Annual CJ Chicken and Crab Feast, Sat., 2-6 pm
23 –CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm

OCTOBER
04 – CJ Blood Drive, Sun., 10 am-3 pm
21 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm
25 – Annual Haunted House, Sun., 4-6 pm

NOVEMBER
18 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30pm
26 – CJ Turkey Trot, CJ Park ballfield, Thu., 10 am

DECEMBER
06 – Annual Craft Show, Sun., 1-5 pm
13– CJ Holiday Party with Santa, Sun., 5-7 pm

JANUARY 2027
20 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm
30– CJ Winter Trivia Night, Sat., 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY
07– CJ Blood Drive, Sun., 10 am-3 pm
17 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm
TBD– Family Bingo Night

MARCH
21 – Spring Egg Hunt, CJ Park playground, Sun., 4 pm
24 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm

APRIL
TBD – Friends of CJ Creek Cleanup, Meet @CJ Park
28 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm

MAY
TBD – CBCC Grateful Shred, 9 am-12 pm
19 – CJCA Open Meeting, Wed., 7:30 pm

JUNE
06 – CJ Blood Drive, Sun., 10 am-3 pm

JULY
04 –July 4th Parade, Meet @Mac Blvd & 79th, Sun., 9:30 am

Clip and save this Calendar of Events!



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Local History

By Judy Welles

CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS

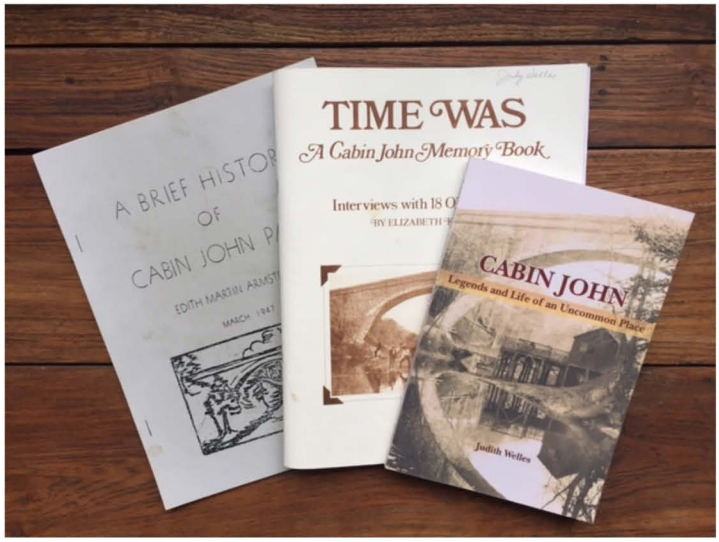
Cabin John has always had a neighbor who liked to write about the history of this exceptional place. Since 2017, Rachel Donnan has written history articles for *The Village News*, which can be found on the history tab at cabinjohn.org. She has continued a long tradition of investigating and documenting the intriguing history of our area. After all, who doesn't love a good tale? Rachel stepped up to the task when I stepped back. And now both of us are looking for residents who want to explore Cabin John's past.

Today, Cabin John history is documented primarily through articles in *The Village News,* which began publication in 1967. Twenty years before, in 1947, Edith Armstrong, whose husband helped form the Cabin John Citizens Association, wrote a "Brief History of Cabin John Park" on a mimeographed sheet. She also wrote the book *Days in Cabin John* about life in Cabin John in 1920 when she and her husband lived here.

Years later, in 1974, former resident and journalist Morris Fradin, wrote a book *Hey-Ey-Ey, Lock! Adventure on The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal*, and, in 1976, he and resident Janet Dence wrote about Cabin John history in a booklet "Chautauqua '76 The Bicentennial in Cabin John." For that occasion, former resident Elizabeth Kytle conducted oral histories of longtime Cabin John neighbors and chronicled the memories of 17 "oldtimers" in the booklet "Time Was." One of them even remembered, as a child, the Cabin John Hotel. Kytle later wrote the classic *Home on the Canal* with the oral histories of several lock tenders and boatmen.

In 1996, Andy Rice, former editor of *The Village News*, began writing a monthly "Looking Back in Cabin John" column to explore Cabin John history. In 2006, Andy wrote that if anyone wanted to organize columns he had written over 10 years and look at the writings of others, such as Armstrong, that could be "a solid basis for a comprehensive history." He wrote "any volunteers would be welcomed."

I volunteered in response to Andy's column and, as they say, the rest is history. I wrote the book, *Cabin John Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place* based on his materials, other sources, and oral histories.



Now, twenty years later, we are welcoming volunteers to look at existing and new sources.

Interested? Please contact judywelles@verizon.net and we'll arrange a convenient time to see Cabin John's history resources, including our digitized vintage photographs, and talk about exploring more tales of Cabin John.

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PLANNING BOARD APPROVES OPAL DEVELOPMENT AT 77TH & MACARTHUR

by the Cabin John Citizens Association Land Use Committee

On June 25, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved preliminary plans for Cabin John Park, Section One, clearing the way for OPaL Design Build to redevelop the former Level Fitness property at the corner of 77th Street and MacArthur Boulevard. The approved plan replaces the longtime commercial building and its surface parking lot with five detached buildings–four "live/work" units and one single-family home–on the roughly half-acre site.

The decision followed an unusually large outpouring of community comment. Ahead of the hearing, the Planning Board received dozens of letters, including a detailed comment letter from the Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) and submissions from the MacArthur Park Homeowners Association and MacArthur Park Condominiums, along with individual residents writing both in opposition and in support.

Community Concerns Raised

Stormwater was the most frequently and forcefully cited concern. The site sits at the bottom of a hill and drains to a gully along MacArthur Boulevard. Residents say the gully floods to street level and can remain full for days after heavy rain. Downhill neighbors in MacArthur Park, Cabin John Gardens and MacArthur Park Condominiums, several of whom have spent tens of thousands of dollars of their own money on drains, grading, and erosion control, warned that five new basements and added hard surfaces could worsen the runoff that flows toward their homes. They urged the county to require a downstream impact analysis, an enforceable long-term maintenance mechanism for the project's green roofs and planter boxes (the lots are fee-simple, with no HOA to ensure upkeep), and explicit coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which owns MacArthur Boulevard, and the Washington Aqueduct beneath it.

The CJCA pointed out that classifying four of the buildings as "live/work" allows the project to draw on the larger commercial floor-area allowance to achieve a density that five ordinary houses could not and questioned whether the 2014 county-wide rezoning to CRT–which applies to other CJ businesses–was ever intended to convert scarce neighborhood retail into high-end homes. Others raised the scale of five 35-foot buildings on a compact corner, on-street parking pressure on narrow 77th Street, limited tree canopy and green space, consistency with the 1990 Bethesda–Chevy Chase Master Plan, and the roughly $2.5 million price point in a community that, many wrote, needs more attainable housing rather than additional luxury homes. The CJCA also pointed to a January survey of 107 residents in which sentiment leaned toward concern.

Residents also mourned the loss of the Level Fitness and, more broadly, of one of Cabin John's few commercial parcels–a site that has hosted neighborhood-serving businesses for close to a century. This loss was compounded by the subsequent closing of the Bethesda Co-op in May.

Supporters of the construction project–many of them longtime residents–countered that the developers are trusted neighbors who have worked to be responsive to the community, that the homes are roughly half the density the zoning permits and shorter than many nearby houses, and that the project reduces traffic and impervious surface compared with commercial use.

Planning Board Findings and Decision

Planning staff recommended approval with conditions, and the board agreed. Staff found that the plan substantially conforms to the 1990 Master Plan and meets the dimensional and density standards of the CRT and R-90 zones, with all buildings confined to the CRT portion of the lot. The project qualified for a forest conservation exemption paired with a Tree Save Plan. The Department of Permitting Services approved the stormwater concept on June 9, and the developer will pay $21,892.42 in lieu of building improvements along federally owned MacArthur Boulevard.

Specifically, the preliminary plan, which is valid for three years, allows for five lots for up to 2,700 square feet of gross floor area (GFA) and 900 square feet of cellar space that is not part of the GFA. In addition, OPaL has indicated that each home will include a loft that is not counted toward the GFA.

The approval carries conditions addressing noise attenuation and buyer disclosure for the home nearest MacArthur, specimen-tree mitigation plantings, stormwater management, transportation improvements, and a series of certified-plan revisions.

The CJCA thanks the many neighbors who took the time to weigh in on this issue and will continue to follow the project as it moves toward final engineering and permitting.

Join CJCA or Renew Now!

Just $20

All Cabin John residents are asked to help fund *The Village News*, our activities and events--what a bargain!
Click this QR code to become a member and donate now.

Friends of Cabin John Creek

SUNDAY
AUG 30th
2pm to 4pm

PICNIC & DUCKY RACE

CABIN JOHN LOCAL PARK







Free food & fun for entire family!
Hot dogs / Hamburgers / Veggie / Drinks
Learn about your creek and how to protect it!

- 2PM - Picnic at Playground
- Rainscapes & Native Plants!
- 3PM - Ducky Race - Prizes!
- Discover Creek Critters!

info@cabinjohncreek.org

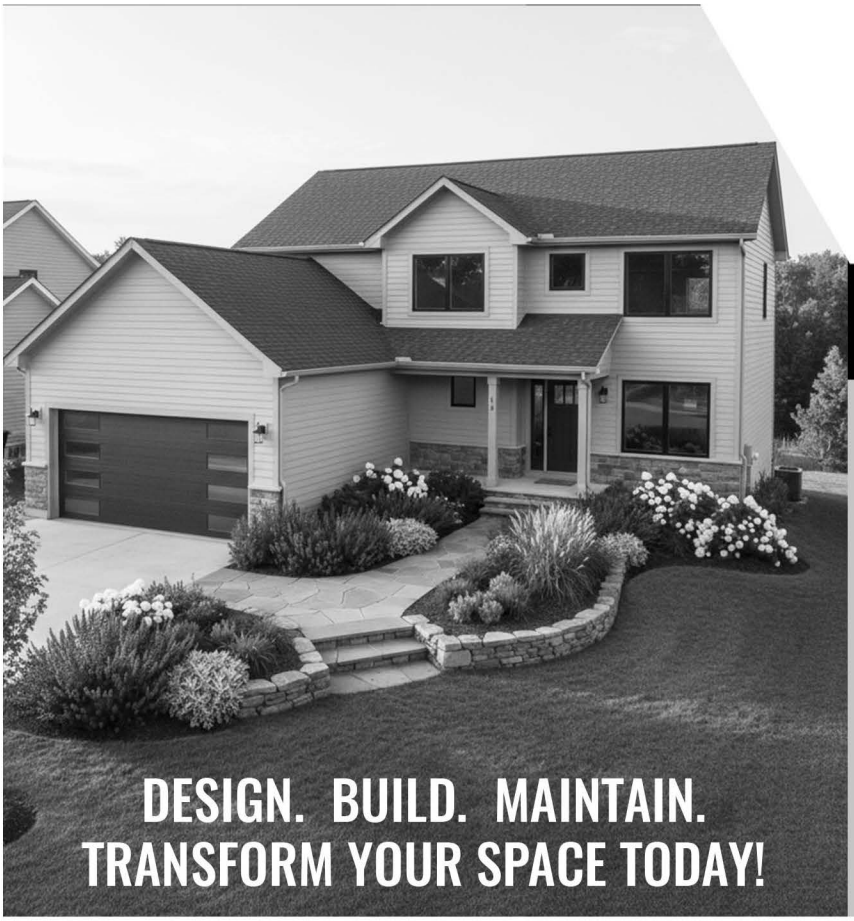
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Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

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8,273 sq. ft.

6517 77th Street
List Price $2,495,000
4 BD, 3/1BA, 1 Gar
3,900 sq. ft.

6629 81st Street
List Price $1,895,000
6 BA, 6 BA, 2 GAR
4,394 sq. ft.

8025 Riverside Drive
List Price $1,950,000
4 BD, 4/1 BA, 1 GAR
3,579 sq. ft.

PENDING

6500 78th Street
List Price $3,195,000
5 BD/ 4/1 BA, 2 GAR
4900 sq. ft.

6614 81st Street
List Price
$2,200,000
5 BD, 4 BA, 2 GAR
3,412 sq. ft.

7630 Tomlinson Avenue, #35
List Price $395,000
2 BD, 1 BA, 0 GAR
796 sq. ft.

CLOSED

6514 76th Street
Close Price
$3,025,000
6 BD, 5/1 BA, 2 GAR
4,471 sq. ft.

8026 Cypress Grove Lane
Close Price
$1,366,000
5 BD, 2/1 BA, 2 GAR
3,042 sq. ft.

26 Froude Circle
Close Price
$750,000
2 BD, 1 BA, 0 GAR
971 sq. ft.

EXCITING NEWS!



Clean-Up Volunteers Jeff Shipp, Susan Shipp, Scott Hoffman, and Chris Waynes (Descendant)

Our spring clean-up at Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 Moses Cemetery was remarkable—not only because the site looks great, but because our dedicated volunteers made an extraordinary discovery. A small but mighty group worked especially hard clearing overgrown vegetation in one area of the site and uncovered a rare marked grave: the resting place of Milton Steward, who died on April 20, 1925.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED:
FRIENDSOFMOSESHALL.ORG

FRIENDS OF MOSES HALL

FORREST *Continued from pg. 2*

He loved to hike and travel. He appreciated a wide range of music. I enjoyed hearing stories of his and his brother's experience at Woodstock in 1969.

Forrest shared a love of genealogy with Lorraine, his wife of 53 years. Road trips to Kentucky, visits to libraries and historical societies filled up a family history and revealed mysteries to ponder. I recall him admitting a conservative streak he attributed to Scotch ancestors, but his demeanor was tempered by an open mind. Forrest was a family man; he was a steadfast husband and endearing father. Camaraderie and friendship underscored all his activities. This was especially evident at his memorial service, where a collection of many of the individuals he touched over a lifetime gathered to celebrate his life at the pavilion at Carderock Recreation Area.

He enjoyed solving problems, but he especially liked helping others, which brings us back to an appreciation of neighbors. As our family grew so did our friendship with Forrest and Lorraine. We enjoyed dinners together, hearing about their travels to Europe and their genealogy adventures to discover long-lost parts of their families. I have a special memory of one dark, icy winter afternoon when Forrest helped me change the carburetor in a gas-powered generator, patiently guiding me through the steps and shining the flashlight with shivering encouragement.

My wife, Tracey, especially relished her shared bond with Forrest over fixing things around the house. He likely got a kick out of her coming over to borrow tools. It was many a time that Forrest would join Tracey in a car repair project; he could not pass up a car with an open hood!

You could always count on him. Forrest was a reliable friend and neighbor. He was keen to keep up relationships over time and distances. He cared. It's a shock to the soul to lose a close friend, a mentor, a family member, and a neighbor. I think of all the accumulated wisdom and knowledge he possessed and shared. I'm reassured that what he shared is carried forward in us and in our memories.

Poems For Passersby

Presented by Meredith Griggs

As imperceptibly as Grief

As imperceptibly as Grief
The Summer lapsed away –
Too imperceptible at last
To seem like Perfidy –

A Quietness distilled
As Twilight long begun,
Or Nature spending with herself
Sequestered Afternoon –

The Dusk drew earlier in –
The Morning foreign shone –
A courteous, yet harrowing Grace,
As Guest, that would be gone –

And thus, without a Wing
Or service of a Keel
Our Summer made her light escape
Into the Beautiful.

Emily Dickinson



On an early morning walk as they recover from jet lag after visiting Vietnam, Ha, Elena, and Carol Nguyen of Archbold Terrace stop by Poems for Passersby on upper 78th Street.

56th Annual CJ Chicken & Crab Feast
September 19, 2026

VOLUNTEER - It's fun!
(see article pg. 4)



RIVER *Continued from pg. 1*

Katie Blackman of the Potomac Conservancy said she is encouraged by the improved water quality test results for harmful bacteria. She helps coordinate the Coalition for Long-term Environmental Accountability & Restoration of the Potomac, known as CLEAR Potomac. This alliance of 10-plus environmental, public health, and recreation organizations advocates for transparency and stronger cleanup plans.

Blackman said, "We trust the guidance of public health officials, but we are still seeing spikes outside of historic baselines. Because of this and to be responsible to the scores of people that use the river, CLEAR Potomac has a pending request that regular monitoring continue through at least the end of the recreation season." The alliance submitted a letter in July to DC Water asking for daily testing to continue through September 30.

CLEAR Potomac is also pushing for an updated environmental restoration plan that DC Water and Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) expected to publish in mid-July but which has yet to be released. The alliance submitted feedback on an earlier plan published in April and is eager to see the forthcoming revised version to "ensure a robust ecological recovery."

The emergency repair work on the ruptured pipe along the C&O Canal has triggered work on other vulnerable spots in the aging Potomac Interceptor. DC Water has identified four additional emergency repair locations for the 54-mile sewage pipe: Dulles Airport (completed), Broad Run in Loudoun County (preparation work started), Pennyfield Lock in Potomac (underway), and the Clara Barton Parkway at the MD-DC line (temporary bypass pumping system under construction).



The Potomac River from the Billy Goat Trail

Hugh Hilliard of the Canoe Cruisers Association called the health department decision "welcome news for folks who paddle canoes, kayaks and other watercraft." He noted that the Lock 10 area is a popular spot to take boats out of the river after paddling down from Mather Gorge or Old Angler's Inn.

Longer term work at the Cabin John site is expected to continue through February 2027. Crews are building a temporary bypass pumping system to move wastewater safely around the repair area. In the fall, they will begin installing new pipe inside the old line, called slip lining, to create a stronger pipe that resists corrosion. Once the repairs are finished, DC Water must follow National Park Service standards to restore the C&O canal's clay lining and lock structures; replant native plants, shrubs, and trees; and restore the natural hydrology of impacted wetlands.

Meanwhile, the construction zone will continue to affect inbound traffic on Clara Barton Parkway prior to the I-495 ramp and up to Lock 10 of the C&O Canal with one lane closure and reduced speeds of 30 mph.

For more about the Potomac Interceptor, visit the websites for DC Water and the Potomac Conservancy at **www.dcwater.com/potomacinterceptor** and www.potomac.org.

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Volunteers who make *The Village News* possible:
Shelly McKenzie, editor; **Joanne Carl**, layout designer; and **Marcy Harrison**, business manager.

Regular contributors: Pete Cousté, Leslie Meyers, Carrie Stokes, Sarah Craven, Rachel Donnan, Annemarie Economou Gormley, Burr Gray, Meredith Griggs, Charlotte Troup Leighton, Joe Saliunas, and Susan Shipp. Illustrations by Trudy Nicholson.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
5pm, August 25, 2026
CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

To receive updates throughout the month, **subscribe to the official CJCA listserv**: email "*subscribe*" to cjca-official-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com

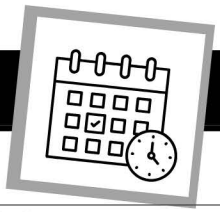
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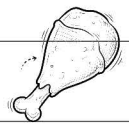
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Community Calendar



AUG	*All events at Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center unless otherwise noted*
30	**Friends of CJ Creek Picnic & Ducky Race 2-4 pm**
SEPT	
19	**56th Annual Chicken and Crab Feast! 2-6 pm**
23	**CJCA Meeting Pedestrian Bike Safety**
OCT	
4	**Blood Drive 10 am-3 pm**





August means it's time to prep for the Annual Chicken & Crab Feast.

The Village News will next appear in September. Many thanks to Heidi Lewis and Scott Lewis for their years of contributions to. *The Village News* as writers, layout editors and quasi-publishers.

– Pete Cousté

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