The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

June 2026 | VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 6

CO-OP CLOSES AFTER 43 YEARS SERVING CABIN JOHN

by Susan Shipp

The Bethesda Co-op, an independent organic grocer since 1975, sold the last of its goods on May 31, closing after 43 years in Cabin John. Changing business dynamics, high rent and a lack of capital investment forced the closure.

The co-op came to Cabin John in 1983 after eight years in Bethesda. It was first located next to the Cabin John Post Office, which also moved into its space from the Clara Barton School that same November. In the spring of 1992, the co-op moved to the newly constructed second building at MacArthur Plaza, where it served the community for the next 34 years.

On May 17, the co-op fittingly threw itself a potluck farewell party, bringing together its founders, former and current employees, board members, local politicians and the community, to express their appreciation for the decades of service to our town.



[L to R] Current and former staff Mary Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Pauline Anson-Drosf, Sam Avayou, Karen De Haven, General Manager Helen Atkocious, Alice Richardson, Russell Belcher (a founding member) and co-op president Gregg Baroni.

See more photos on pg. 2

Congratulations GRADS!



See pages 8-9 for a feature on many of Cabin John's 2026 graduates.

FINAL LOOK AT THE 2026 CJ COMMUNITY SURVEY

by Heidi Lewis

We wrap-up our three-month series on the 2026 Cabin John Community Survey with a look at how often residents are on our natural byways, how long they've lived here, how long they think they'll stay in CJ, and a few other demographic questions.

Responses to the question "How long do you expect to live in Cabin John?" included answers like these: "Many, many years;" "Rest of my life, hopefully;" "As long as I can. Why would I leave?;" "Forever;" "eons!" "Till I pass on!". Responses to "how long have you lived in Cabin John?" ranged from less than a year to 54 years!

See SURVEY on pg. 15

SEEKING NEW FLAG HANGERS



For the last 11 years **Annie and John Allen** of 81st Street have stored, maintained, and hung the American flags that you see along MacArthur Boulevard for the summer holidays. After this long stint, they are ready to pass the responsibility to new flag keepers. Are you able to help decorate Cabin John?

This task is supported and funded by CJCA, which has purchased new flags and other materials as needed. John is happy to remain as a back-up for the next keepers in case of travel.

Interested CJers can contact John for further information and, ideally, learn the ropes this July 4th. Please email **john@allenbuiltinc.com**.

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Neighborly News

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

Grateful Shred Generates $676 to Support CBNRC

On the morning of May 16, as local residents pondered big decisions about which documents to purge, Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center personnel Barry Jones and Lolita Powell-Jones opened up for business. The center is not normally open on weekends–it is the county's support that makes this event a success.

Friends of Clara Barton Community Center board members began to place wayfinding signs and cones to guide incoming cars chock full of surplus documents. High school and middle school student helpers Lucy Donnan, Paige Rosenthal, Eliana Friedlander, Nima Shirzad, and Claire Thomas arrived and were briefed. After the rental of the Chesapeake Paper truck ($945), plus certain other expenses, the Grateful Shred netted $676 to fund the needs of the center.

Importantly, the event gives Cabin Johners a very convenient way to securely destroy potentially sensitive information. (One driver learned in organizing the papers of a dead parent that they had a half-sibling. Yowza!) No student helpers were harmed during the event, no board members were run over, no cars backed into the basketball pole. Another successful shred is in the books! - ***Burr Gray***

Archbold Terrace May 17, 2026 Block Party

The day was warm and the sun was hot, but in the shade of the trees overhanging "Visitor Parking," residents of Archbold Terrace mingled, discussed the issues of the day, and dined on fine burgers, hot dogs, and pizza, along with specialties from the home countries of our many international residents. The community is quite cosmopolitan in nature, with citizens of France, Germany, Korea, Peru, Turkey, Great Britain, Vietnam and the US. The event ran for two hours, ending with the traditional water balloon toss that provided all kids and some adventurous adults with a fun activity.



Coop Celebration, May 17, 2026



[L to R] Sam Avayou, Marc Korman, Gregg Baroni, Sarah Wolek, Helen Atkocious, Teresa Woorman, with a citation from MD General Assembly.



Montgomery County Chief Executive Marc Elrich presents a citation from his office to the co-op for its years of service.







~vn

Minnie's Island
Community Conservancy

Minnie's Newborns:
Five Wood Ducks,
Seven Mallards
three Geese, two Bluebirds,
three Tree Swallows,
and one Black Vulture

minniesisland.org

CJCA News

by Scott Lewis

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 CJCA Officers--thank you for stepping up to serve and best of luck for the upcoming term.

- President: Pete Cousté
- Vice-Presidents: Marcy Harrison, Carrie Stokes
- Treasurer: Gil Schwartz (see pg. 6 for more about Gil)
- Secretary: Leslie Myers

Heidi and I are grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve our community as co-presidents over the last 4 years. We ❤️ Cabin John! ~*vn*

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



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DID YOU KNOW?

Cabin John meets all of the major considerations when buyers are not just looking for a house, but a neighborhood as well.

1. People are looking for more than a place to live; they want **Walkability**–where they can walk to restaurants, shops, parks.
2. Buyers today want a sense of **Community**–where they can get involved and feel connected.
3. Buyers are also looking for homes with **Commuter Convenience** – easy highway access or several routes to work.
4. **Good school districts** attract more than families. Buyers know that homes in these areas usually have higher resale and property values.
5. **Green Space**. Buyers are looking for easy access to nature, such as nearby trails for hiking and biking.

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

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Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

SUMMER is fast approaching at CBNRC!

June 19: **Closed** for Juneteenth

June 29-August 7: The entire center devoted to SUMMER FUN CAMP

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL

July 31: CBNRC fall programs will be viewable online:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/montgomery-county-recreation

August 11: Fall program registration for county residents begins:
–At 6:30 am
–At 9:00 am for 55+ programs

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

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

View From Minnie's Island

by Joe Saliunas

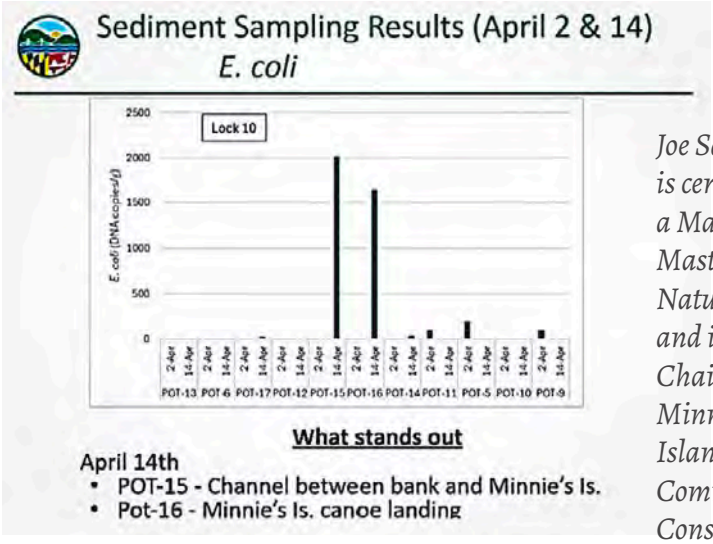
STILL STUCK IN THE MUD

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, Minnie's Island will be re-opened to the public, given the high water we are experiencing over the Memorial Day weekend, but as of now, it is still closed, due to concerns over the sediment along the shorelines and at the canoe landings.

About a month after the start of DC Water's sewage spill, Minnie's Island Community Conservancy (MICC), along with the Sycamore Island Club and Canoe Cruisers Association, asked DC Water to test the sediment in areas that are frequently used for recreation. DC Water never responded to our requests. Even after water quality testing for *E. coli* had returned to normal levels, we knew something was off with the canoe landings used to access Minnie's Island. The landing on the island is essentially an upstream-facing cove that has standing water during low river flows, such as we had back in January. Through early April, we could still smell sewage at the landings, and the quantities of muck/mud at the landings were greater than any of us could remember. Since our requests for sediment testing were ignored by DC Water, we shifted our focus to working with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and in early April, MDE collected sediment at Minnie's Island canoe landings for testing.

We've learned a lot about sediment testing since then. The Environmental Protection Agency has clear standards for testing of *E. coli* in water along with thresholds for safe recreational use (410 MPN/100ml). However, there are no established standards for collection, testing, or assessing safe levels for *E. coli* in sediment. MDE took their first sediment samples at Minnie's in mid-April, but results using their initial testing methodology were inconclusive. MDE then worked with a different laboratory using a more sensitive testing approach, and results were finally available in mid-May. MDE and their testing partner at the University of Maryland emphasized that they were pushing the bounds of science with this work.

Testing results are shown in the accompanying figure. The two high bars are the results from *E. coli* testing at Minnie's from April 14. What stands out here is the results for the two Minnie's Island sites were significantly (maybe 100 times?) higher than the results for other sites. Again, there are no health-impact standards for *E. coli* in sediment; however, the results were sufficient for Montgomery County Health Officer Dr. Kisha Davis to amend the health advisory for shore line areas affected by the spill. This latest advisory, dated May 18, urges the public to avoid contact with the shoreline and river sediment between Lock 11 and the shoreline surrounding Minnie's Island. The advisory notes that it is important to keep children and pets away from these specific areas.



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

Based on this information, the MICC Board is keeping the island closed to visitors. What is it going to take for us to open? Likely two events–the first being Montgomery County lifting the advisory, and the second being at least one high water event (hopefully rainy Memorial Day weather) that can dilute and flush much of the remaining sediment from the nooks and crannies around the island.

In the meantime, nature continues at the island, unconcerned with EPA standards. All of the fifteen oak trees we planted last year are doing very well, and the forty trees and shrubs we planted earlier this year are hanging in there, despite the drought. We're pleased that black vultures appear to be nesting again on the rock outcrops, and I observed a mink for the first time on the shoreline. Board members do occasionally go to the island to water our new plantings and perform maintenance on the cabin and the land at least seems back to normal. We're looking forward to when we can invite everyone back out! ~JS

LISAN MARTIN THERAPY



Lisan Martin, a psychotherapist with 35 years of experience, provides counseling to individuals, couples, and families. A Cabin John resident, Lisan is licensed in DC, MD, and VA and sees clients virtually and in person at her Cabin John office.

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MEET CJCA TREASURER GIL SCHWARTZ

The VN *questionnaire for new CJCA officers offers a chance for readers to get to know CJ's newest volunteers. We will feature other new officers in the next issue.*

When did you move to Cabin John, and what brought you here?
"Well, we never intended to move to Cabin John when we bought our home in 1991. In fact, we had never heard of Cabin John. Apparently, the realtor misdescribed the house's location as Bethesda (likely intentionally) in order to attract more prospective buyers. After we closed, we were surprised when the Cabin John Postmistress paid us a visit and informed us to stop using Bethesda as our address since we lived in Cabin John. Needless to say, we had a good claim for fraud and deception."

Tell us a little about your family members.
"Bonnie and I have two sons, two daughters-in-law, four grandchildren and a chocolate lab granddaughter. One son and his family (and Ruby) live in DC and the other lives in Chicago."

What keeps you and/or your family busy - what are your hobbies/interests/activities?
"We thoroughly enjoy traveling. Lately, however, we spend a lot of time watching nature flourish in our back yard. We also are rabid Baltimore Ravens fans. Go Ravens!"

Where did you grow up? Where else have you lived?
"Bonnie grew up in Atlanta, GA and I grew up in Philadelphia and went to school in New York. Bonnie has lived in many more places than I have (e.g., Paris, Colorado, Florida)."

Have you volunteered with CJCA (or other organizations) before?
"I was the treasurer of our former synagogue and am currently on the Board of Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac as well as the Temple University Law School Board of Visitors. Bonnie was an event planner and has been on the board of many professional and social organizations. We both are deeply involved in the James Renwick Alliance for Craft."

Imagine you have an old friend in town and want to show them one great day in Cabin John - what's on the itinerary?
"We would have them stroll across the one lane bridge, have lunch at Wild Tomato, our favorite local food spot, and tour our home."

Why have you agreed to serve as CJCA Treasurer?
"As the infamous bank robber Willie Sutton was wont to say, "That's where the money is." "



Gil and Bonnie Schwartz

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Our Town

by Annemarie Economou Gormley

KINDRED SPIRITS

Anne Shirley, the protagonist in L.M. Montgomery's ***Anne of Green Gables***, said, "Kindred spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out there are so many of them in the world."

Bill and I, while out walking for the health of our hearts and minds, met Cathie Nelsen, who was weeding, watering, and nurturing the plants at the bottom of 75th Street on Macarthur Boulevard. We shared how our respective physical activities were good for our bones. The more I talked to Cathie, the more we discovered we had in common. Cathie and I share an interest in native gardening.

"We are losing our birds and bees due to pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides. Birds die from eating poisoned insects," explained Cathie. Like me, Cathie enjoys feeding animals in her backyard. She enjoys planting native plants to provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Native species require less food, water and maintenance than non-native species.

Cathie graduated from George Washington University with a degree in fine arts. "When I went to the guidance department to see what kind of jobs I could get, the counselor said, 'A degree in fine arts and a dime will buy you a cup of coffee.'"

She had no education credits, so she couldn't teach art. She never took typing, and didn't like the idea of working in an office. The counselor recommended she join the Army.

"Really? Art and Army?"

"You'll get health insurance and your alcohol. Alcohol is really cheap," he enthusiastically informed her.

"Well, I'm not sick and I don't drink," thought Cathie. She ended up selling her art prints in a covered alley in Georgetown while working other jobs.

During college, Cathie worked in the GW library in the stacks. After consulting a card catalog, patrons would write a call number on a card, have a staff member send it in a tube in the pneumatic tube system, and a staff member or student assistant like Cathie would read the card, find the book in the stacks, and send the book down in a vertical book lift resembling a dumbwaiter.

During college, Cathie's close friend, Peter, found out through a painting teacher that the teacher's friend had a thousand acre farm in Highland County, Virginia. Now, with 20/20 hindsight, Cathie and Peter realize the teacher didn't know anything about farming. The teacher suggested they breed the animals early so that their offspring would be plumper when they took them to market. This plan was problematic. I will explain:

Highland County is Virginia's least populous jurisdiction. It is known as "Virginia's Little Switzerland." It has a high elevation and it is normal for the winter temperatures to plummet well into the negative numbers. The lowest temperature on record is -26 F. Cathie and Peter decided to work there for six months of winter. The job entailed going out at 10pm and 2am, scouring the hillside for mama cows or sheep that had just given birth. Their job was to carry the newborn calf or kid to the barn where heaters were waiting to warm them. They also had to ensure the mama came along, too. Cathie vividly remembers placing a newborn in the barn and only to realize she wore an icy afterbirth armor, frozen to her jacket. I suppose that's the reason farmers don't breed their animals too far in advance of warm weather.

Before moving to the farm in the mountains in 1972, since they had been dating for three years, Cathie and Peter decided to get married. Timmy arrived in July 1973, when they were living in Dupont Circle. While raising her son, Cathie adopted a husky from the Montgomery County shelter and became quite a pro at teaching dogs to obey. She was asked by acquaintances to train their dogs and entered obedience trials. Over time, Cathie could train a dog to follow a scent through a hilly, grassy field and retrieve a hidden item.

Cathie and I discovered we had both worked for the post office! She started delivering mail in Gaithersburg in 1984 when her children were eight and eleven. She then transferred to the Cabin John, where she met her second husband, Brian, and later worked in Glen Echo.

Another commonality Cathie and I share is our propensity to turn an annoying moment or situation into a



Cathie Nelsen multitasks in 1979.

See KINDRED on pg. 12

Cabin John Celebrates Our 2026 Graduates



Claire Lane of Tomlinson Terrace graduated from UCLA on June 12 with a B.S. degree in psychobiology and a minor in French. In September, she will begin her studies toward an accelerated master's of public health at Columbia University.

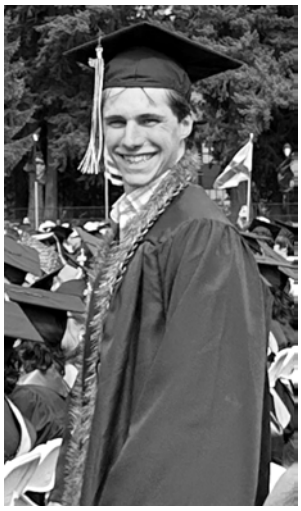


Grady Corcoran graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in chemical engineering and a minor in computer science.



Mark Smith of Russell Road graduated from Marymount University with a master's degree in counseling.

Jaad Jawdat of Carver Road graduated *cum laude* from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington with a B.S. in physics.



Addilyn Hille of Longridge Court graduated from the Holton-Arms School and will attend Davidson College in the fall.

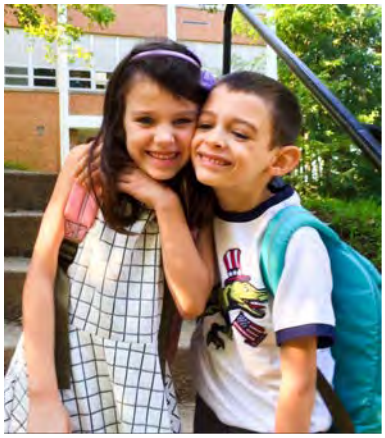


Adi Shankman graduated from Walt Whitman High School and will attend a dual-degree program at Tel Aviv University and Columbia University after taking a gap year to serve as international president of B'nai Brith Youth Organization.





Grace Miller graduated from Walt Whitman High School in June. She'll be attending Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA in the fall.





Amalia and Benjamin Campe of MacArthur Boulevard, on their first day at Bannockburn Elementary and their last day at Walt Whitman High School. Amalia will attend Tufts University in Boston to study psychology and pre-med. Benjamin will attend Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, ME, to study marine transportation operations.

Phoebe Gordon of 75th Street graduated from Walt Whitman High School in June. She is excited to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville in the fall and plans to major in psychology.



Lucy Donnan of 81st Street graduated from Walt Whitman High School. She's headed to Fordham University this fall, where she will be majoring in communications.



Ella Henderson graduated from the Holton Arms School and will be attending NYU's Tisch School of Performing Arts, along with pursuing a major in history.





Anna Curran, a lifelong resident of Cabin John, graduated *magna cum laude* from Skidmore College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental studies and studio art. She is currently studying textile art in Kyoto, Japan, before beginning work with Courageous Sailing in Boston Harbor this summer.



Robyn Miles, a CJ alum from Arden Road, graduated from University of Maryland Baltimore as a physician assistant in May.



Jesse Reitman of McKay Circle graduated from Walt Whitman High School this June and is headed to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study mechanical engineering.

"I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and I will leave a trail."
Muriel Strode



Tristan Allain of 75th Place graduated from the Landon School and was inducted into Landon's *Cum Laude* Society. He will be attending Georgia Tech for aerospace engineering in the fall.



Daniel Miller graduated with honors from Bucknell University on May 17 with a major in political science. He'll be working in the DC-area and has plans to attend law school in the future.

~vn

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Local History

by Rachel Donnan

A CONNECTION ALONG CONDUIT ROAD: FROM OLD ANGLER'S INN TO CABIN JOHN

The Old Angler's Inn has been a part of C&O Canal history since 1860. What many don't know is its connection to Cabin John through several prominent local families. Originally a private clubhouse called the "Order of the Golden Hook," it stood on the canal side of Conduit Road (now MacArthur Boulevard). The club was rumored to have had U.S. presidents among its members. It burned down in 1896 and was rebuilt several years later on the opposite side of the street. Joseph and Ida Bodine operated the building as a general store, boarding house and post office until Ida's death in 1944. Shortly after, the Reges family opened the Old Angler's Inn restaurant; the family continues to run the restaurant today. Though several miles from Cabin John, Old Angler's Inn is a nearby piece of canal history and a community institution that many Cabin John residents are familiar with, either through celebration dinners there or nearby hikes on the Billy Goat Trail.

Richard Bodine, a member of the Classic Potomac Facebook group, shared several black and white photos of Old Angler's from 1937, when it was the Cropley General Store, on the group's page (thanks to Judy Welles for bringing this post to my attention). Richard's great uncle, Joseph H. Bodine, was the proprietor of the general store and inn.

I recently spoke with Richard about his family, the general store and his interest in Cabin John history. Joseph Bodine's general store and boarding house catered to many of the local mine workers who were employed at the nearby Maryland Mining Company, which sought gold there from 1867 to 1939. Though it wasn't a highly profitable mine, it was a busy area. Conduit Road was also a popular scenic route during the first half of the 20th century. The old photos of the store are from an album that had been given to Walter Goetz (Richard's brother's father-in-law), who wrote several books on Maryland mines, by a miner. The photo album eventually ended up in Richard's hands, and to his surprise, held photos of his family.

Richard grew up in the Cropley neighborhood of Potomac. His family has a long history there, and his grandparents' house still stands along MacArthur Boulevard. He even worked at Old Angler's Inn, though he never mentioned his family's historical ties to the building.

The story of Richard's small collection of Cabin John Bridge Hotel china and silver, including three plates, a vegetable dish, a silver butter bowl and silver sugar dish is one straight out of Cabin John lore. His father was born in 1913, and as a young 17-year old during the Depression, he worked along the Potomac as a fur trapper. One day while out working, he noticed something along the embankment of the river, a shiny white object peeking out from the mud that caught his eye. It turned out to be a burlap sack filled with Cabin John Bridge Hotel dishes! He thinks his father held on to the pieces out of a sense of history, as the storied hotel had recently burned down. Additions to Richard's collection include a plate found in a Florida antique shop, and a soup tureen and platter bought on eBay some twenty years ago. Enthused by his finds, Richard had several reproductions made to complement his collection.



Cropley General Store in 1937 (now Old Angler's Inn). Amoco gas pumps can be seen on the left. Courtesy of Richard Bodine.

Piecing together his family history from our conversation, his photos from a Redden family bible, and research into census records over 40 years, shows his family also has a connection to Cabin John and its early days: Percy Redden. Richard's grandfather, Charles, who was Joseph Bodine's brother, married Sarah Redden. (His other great uncle, Thomas, married Mary Redden, Sarah's sister, on the same day). Richard's grandmother, Sarah, was one of nine children of William and Isabel Redden. One of her younger brothers, Percy Redden, built three houses here and was the resident who brought electricity to Cabin John. Watch this space for more about Percy in future issues. ~*VN*



Surrounded by beverage advertising Joseph Bodine, proprietor, poses on the front steps of the Cropley General Store in 1937. Courtesy of Richard Bodine.

KINDRED *Continued from pg. 7*

fun, situation. While Cathie was working as a clerk in the post office, occasionally there was an endearingly exasperating customer.

"I'd like some stamps," requested the customer.

"How many?" Cathie asked.

"Oh, a few," she answered, or "Oh, a slew."

"Can't you just say ten or twenty?" Cathie would think to herself.

Cathy shared about another quirky customer. "Frequently, one customer pored over our stamps for hours before making a selection. She would analyze them forever before making a purchase. One day I told her that we only had flag stamps," stated Cathie.

"You only have flags?" she asked in disbelief.

"Just flags," replied Cathie empathetically.

"Flags, flags, flags!" the lady repeated, as she left the post office.

"I thought to myself, what can I make of these situations?"

After some reflection, Cathie had an idea.

"These interactions became a source of material for a book."

Exaggerating the traits that made these colorful characters memorable became Cathie's way of maintaining her patience. She began drawing caricatures with captions of these eccentric customers. Serving these amusing personalities became fun interactions providing great material. On Cathie's coffee table, there are two full sketch books of captioned caricatures that capture the charm of her customers.



Cathie Nelsen with siblings Stephen, Linda, Bruce, their mother, and family dog in 1959.

Since I am a retired teacher from North Carolina, I was most interested in hearing about the 22 years Cathie taught at Glen Echo Park. Cathie taught adults portrait painting, dog owners how to train their dogs, and children how to create art using their imaginations. Having coached Odyssey of the Mind teams, I am aware of the time and effort that goes into encouraging children to use their imaginations to create solutions to problems. Cathie not only taught the children art tips, she elicited their ideas. She probed them with questions and posed situations to them in order to evoke artistic visions. During summers, she taught with a fellow Cabin Johner, and artist, Kathy Andrle. The teachers would provide materials for the children to build a time machine and Cathie encouraged them to plan trips into the past or future. Cathie loved teaching about the Stone Age and Middle Ages, and Kathy loved teaching about ancient Egypt and Native American cultures.

In 2019, Greta Thunberg inspired Cathie in a profound way. Thunberg is the young Swedish environmental activist known for launching the "Fridays for Future" movement or "School Strike for Climate," which led to a global movement. Her activism began when she asked her parents to reduce their carbon footprint. Her mother, internationally acclaimed opera singer Malena Ernman, gave up her widespread traveling career because of her daughter's climate activism. As Cathie heard more about Thunberg's enthusiasm, devotion and commitment to her cause, she was inspired to become more active in her community, joining Elders for Climate Action.

I met Cathie in April, which is Native Plant Month, a nationally recognized celebration that emphasizes the important role native plants play in supporting biodiversity, ecological health, and climate-resilient landscapes. She told me about an organization that she belonged to: Wild Ones. Its vision is native plants and natural landscapes in every community.

See KINDRED on pg. 14

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Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

ACTIVE

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List Price $3,199,000
6 BR, 5/2 BA, 2 GAR
4,471 sq. ft.

6525 76th Street
List Price $2,399,999
6 BR, 4/1 BA, 3 GAR
8,273 sq. ft.

6614 81st Street
List Price $2,220,000
4 BR, 4 BA, 2 GAR
3,412 sq. ft.

8204 Caraway Street
List Price
$2,995,000
5 BR, 4/1 BA, 2 GAR
4,554 sq. ft.

7630 Tomlinson Avenue, #16
List Price $359,900
2 BR, 1 BA, 0 GAR
846 sq. ft.

CLOSED

6523 79th Street
Closed Price
$1,420,000
5 BR, 4/1 BA, 2 GAR
2,636 sq. ft.

5 Ericsson Road
Closed Price
$745,000
2 BR, 1 BA, 0 GAR
832 sq. ft.

7630 Tomlinson Avenue, #15
Closed Price
$325,000
2 BR, 1 BA, 0 GAR
763 sq. ft.

7630 Tomlinson Avenue, #38
Closed Price
$350,000
1BR, 1 BA, 0 GAR
648 sq. ft.



KINDRED *Continued from pg. 12*

These two organizations that Cathie has joined have helped her realize that she feels great when working with other people. She enjoyed her solitary activities for years. "I love to read. I love to draw. I love to be in nature. I love dogs. I love horses. I never thought how good it would feel to work with other people. I thought of myself as being on the outside of society. Society was over here, and I was doing my thing over there. I now realize life is full of amazing possibilities."

Cathie and I talked about how much of our lives unfolded without forethought, without deliberate, proactive decisions; our lives brought us experiences and interactions that we never planned, nor could have imagined. We have had twists and turns that have brought us to our current situation.

"If you think of life as one day, dawn to dark, representing birth to death, you have the dawn, with its soft light, then midday bright light, later, the afternoon light changing over to dusk, and then darkness. You wouldn't want to live with it always being noon. Life is full of amazing possibilities. No matter which direction you look, whether you travel the world or never leave your house, you can be learning things. You can be helping people. You can be creating things. There are riches of possibilities." ~vn

If you have a story to tell, or a suggestion for a story, please reach out to me at annemarie.gormley23@gmail.com or 703-509-7008.



Poems For Passersby

Presented by Meredith Griggs

Kiss

by Ellen Bass

When Lynne saw the lizard floating
in her mother-in-law's swimming pool,
she jumped in. And when it wasn't
breathing, its body limp as a baby
drunk on milk, she laid it on her palm
and pressed one fingertip to its silky breast
with just about the force you need
to test the ripeness of a peach, only quicker,
a brisk little push with a bit of spring in it.
Then she knelt, dripping wet in her Doc Martens
and camo T-shirt with the neck ripped out,
and bent her face to the lizard's face,
her big plush lips to the small stiff jaw
that she'd pried apart with her opposable thumb,
and she blew a tiny puff into the lizard's lungs.
The sun glared against the turquoise water.
What did it matter if she saved one lizard?
One lizard more or less in the world?
But she bestowed the kiss of life,
again and again, until
the lizard's wrinkled lids peeled back,
its muscles roused its own first breath
and she set it on the hot cement
where it rested a moment
before darting off.

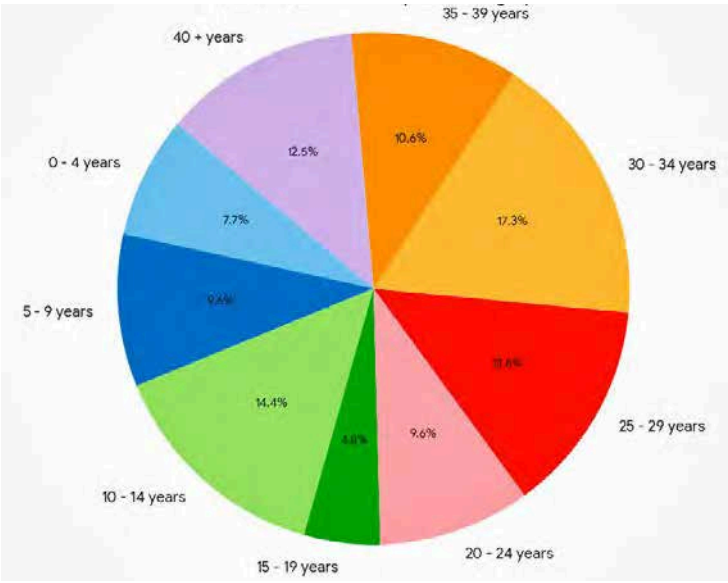
Ellen Bass was elected chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2017 and has founded poetry programs for people in prison.



Nicki Wright, a 53-year resident of Cabin John, stops by upper 78th Street to read a poem, which she also frequently does with her grandson, Frankie.

SURVEY *Continued from pg. 1*

Here are the answers to "how long have your lived in Cabin John" grouped into 5-year increments:



This was a "check all that apply" question:

Action / Statement	Mentions
I regularly use the Canal Towpath	77
I regularly use the Cabin John Creek trail	54
I have visited Minnie's Island	45
I am retired	40
I mostly work from home	40
I do water sports on the Potomac (kayak, canoe, paddle board, etc.)	23
I often bike to work, or to shopping, or for enjoyment/ exercise	22

How many vehicles do you park at your home?

Response	Percentage
1 Car	11%
2 Cars	44%
3 Cars	13%
4 Cars	20%
5 Cars	7%

How much longer do you expect to live in Cabin John?

Residency Plan Category	Total Entries	Percentage of Total
Defined Long-Term Horizon (10+ Years)	36	36.0%
Lifetime / Permanent Residents	21	21.0%
Long-Term / Indefinite Stay	20	20.0%
Short to Medium-Term Horizon (<10 Years)	12	12.0%
Uncertain / Unsure	11	11.0%

Thank you to everyone who participated to give us a snapshot of some key issues and important topics to Cabin Johners. Change moves fast--the January survey asked for suggestions to help the co-op survive and thrive but by the time the results were tabulated the co-op had made the decision to close. The development pressures only grow, and will be a key factor in many minds in the upcoming Montgomery County Council elections.

We'll end our report on the 2026 Cabin John Survey with the words of our neighbors:

About *The Village News:*
"Love hearing about my neighbors and what they are doing and their life stories."
"I love our little paper! Always nice to have useful ads for local services, and development/logistical updates that impact our area (e.g. beltway/bridge work, canal work, etc.)"
"I love history of Cabin John and the area."
"I love this newsletter so much. It makes us a community. It gives us shared experiences, knowledge and conversation points. I like all the kinds of stories. It would be cool to coax more people to contribute to it, even if just once. We have tons of good writers in the neighborhood. Could we use the newsletter to get to know each other better somehow? The obituaries reveal so much but who wants to wait for that? :-)"

What I like about Cabin John:
"Living in Cabin John is like living in a small town within a big city. There are numerous advantages, including a strong sense of community, socio-economic diversity, access to nature, great local schools, the community center, great neighborhood retail, walkability, convenient commuting, and a sense of pride and stewardship around CJ's history. "
"The small town feel, the civic engagement, the care we have for each other and our community, the feeling of safety, the proximity to nature."
"Diversity and uniqueness of the neighborhood. Not a cookie cutter/modern mansion community. Many traditional homes. Location.....to the C&O canal, bike/walking trails and access to parkland. It is a unique community, with shared values. A true community with many long time residents....not transient. " ~VN

Responses grouped and tabulated by Gemini.



The Village News is a monthly newsletter published since 1967 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. Reach CJCA leadership at cjcapresidents@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; **Heidi Lewis**, layout designer; and **Marcy Harrison**, business manager.

Regular contributors: Sarah Craven, Rachel Donnan, Annemarie Economou Gormley, Burr Gray, Meredith Griggs, Heidi Lewis, Scott Lewis, Charlotte Troup Leighton, Joe Saliunas, and Susan Shipp. Illustrations by Trudy Nicholson.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
5pm, July 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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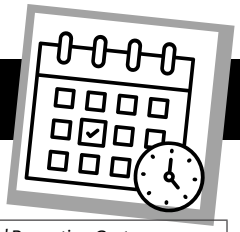
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Happy Pets. Peace of Mind. Because your pets deserve care that feels like home. We provide: Daily walks, Daycare, Boarding, In Home Pet Sitting. Our daycare and boarding are provided in my home, offering a comfortable, home-style environment rather than a large facility—so pets can settle in and receive attentive care throughout their stay. We also offer convenient pick-up and drop-off for daycare and boarding. Locally owned and operated by Lauren Nicholas, Licks & Leashes is built on dependable, reliable, and trustworthy care for your furry family members. www.licksandleashes.net Call: 808-286-6556 Always accepting new clients. Contact us to learn more.

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

Classified ads are 30¢/word. Please email ads to vnbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Community Calendar



JUL	*All events at Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center unless otherwise noted*
4	July 4th Parade-9:30 am meet at 79th & MacArthur to decorate bikes; parade begins at 10
SEPT	
19	56th Annual Chicken and Crab Feast! 2-6 pm
23	CJCA Meeting
OCT	
4	Blood Drive 10 am-3 pm



Have a fabulous, safe summer!

The next ***VN*** issue will appear in August. I've enjoyed my second stint as editor/layout designer but am happy to welcome new layout editor **Joanne Carl** for the August issue. Long live the ***Village News***! *-Heidi Lewis*