The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

March 2026 | VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 3

POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR UPDATES

by Heidi Lewis

CJCA and the Town of Glen Echo convened a meeting Thursday, February 26, 2026, in conjunction with U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin's office, to update the community on progress repairing the Potomac Interceptor break, current results and continued plans for testing for contamination in the vicinity, and long terms plans to prevent future breaks and fully restore soil and water polluted by this event, which poured more than 250 million gallons of raw sewage in the Potomac River. Raw sewage continues to flow through the C&O Canal bed between Locks 10 and 14. The canal bed bypass will be in use until the collapsed portion of the pipe is repaired. DC Water has provided no firm timeline when that will be completed.

The standing room-only meeting featured presentations by representatives from DC Water, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), MD Department of the Environment, Maryland and Montgomery County health departments, Army Corps of Engineers, and our MD congressional delegation. Many Cabin Johners attended, sharing first person accounts with the presenters and asking pointed, probing, important questions, some of which have not yet been answered adequately. CJCA and the town of Glen Echo have sent a list of open questions to DC Water requesting written responses. A follow-up meeting is being planned and will be scheduled the week of **March 16**.

See SEWER on pg. 7

COUNTY EXECUTIVE CANDIDATE FORUMS

by Jeff Shipp and Scott Lewis

This is an election year - the Maryland primary is on **June 23** and the general election is on **November 3**. Cabin John has invited ALL candidates running for County Executive to join interested Cabin John residents for a discussion about issues of significance to our community.

As of press time, we have secured commitments from candidates Evan Glass and Andrew Friedson to join the community at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Rec Center on:

- **Monday, April 27, 7:30 pm -- Evan Glass**
- **Monday, June 8, 7:30 pm -- Andrew Friedson**

While not official CJCA events, we will use *The Village News* and the CJCA Listserv to keep the community apprised as more events are scheduled. **All are encouraged to attend.**

~vn

CJ BUILDER SUBMITS MODIFIED PLANS FOR 77TH STREET (LEVEL) SITE

by Susan Shipp

OPaL Design + Build of Cabin John is moving forward with its plans to develop five homes on the corner of 77th Street and MacArthur Boulevard, submitting their preliminary application to the county on February 10. Montgomery Planning has tentatively scheduled a hearing on **June 18** to receive public comments.

The submitted plan details one residential home and four "live/work" units on the 0.6-acre property that was formerly home to Level Fitness. The earlier plan, first shared with the community in 2025, detailed five attached townhomes and would have required special zoning to move forward.

"It's the same plan, but with detached homes. This way the plan is within the by-right [current zoning]," said Sean Ruppert, founder of OPaL Design. He believes this approach is "better for the community, the street and our buyers." The pricing expectation is also the same, roughly $2.5 million per house.

Each home would be a distinct property with an average lot size of roughly 4,000 square feet. The houses themselves would average 4,100 square feet, including the basement and loft areas. In addition, each unit would have a screened porch. As in the earlier plan, the height of the homes would be 32 feet. The submitted plan has wider



Drawing provided by OPaL

See DEVELOPMENT on pg. 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coop Closing, Creek Cleanup, Weed Warrior Day -- pg. 2
CJCA News -- pg. 3
View From Minnie's Island: After the Spill -- pg. 5
Go Native This Spring -- pg. 6
My Grandmother's Teapot -- pg. 8
Glen Echo Park Programs Update -- pg. 9
Poems for Passersby -- pg. 11
Neighbor Spotlight: Cory Lewis -- pg. 11
Real Estate in Cabin John -- pg. 12
Scenes from Bingo Night -- pg. 13

Neighborly News

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

Bethesda Coop announced this month that it is **permanently closing**. Helen Atkocius**,** general manager of the Coop for many years, shared this letter with the ***VN*** to share with the community:

For over fifty years, Bethesda Coop, also known as the Bethesda Community Food Store, has held space for all interested in an alternative way of purchasing and consuming food and sundry goods. It has had many iterations, from its beginnings as a buying club to a storefront on Bethesda Avenue. Through it all the Coop has maintained an inclusive and welcoming environment for all in our community. Sadly, those days are coming to an end. ***At the end of May, Bethesda Coop will be closing its doors****.*

For all of you who have joined us on this decades-long journey, whether staff, customer, neighbor, family or friend, thank you for your support. In this wildly changing world, we are sorry to see our iconic store and the dream of grassroots sustainability and independence put to rest. We invite you to take the opportunity to visit us with gusto, using your choice and purchasing power to bring this valiant ship to shore gracefully and with full support. So many of you have meant so much to us. We thank you sincerely.

- Helen Atkocious

CJCA is exploring options for how to bring another grocery vendor into the neighborhood. While not everyone shopped at the Coop frequently, all CJers value having convenient shops and services in our town. If you have ideas, contacts, or just want to help in this effort, contact **Susan Shipp** at jsjshipp3@verizon.net.

Friends of Cabin John Creek (FoCJC) Annual Creek Cleanup -- Sunday, April 12, 2-4pm

Montgomery Parks recently awarded FoCJC with a "Most Remarkable Growth" citation for its efforts in 2025. Due in large part to the efforts of Walt Whitman High School student and scout Sophia Hollister and other volunteers, FoCJC removed 2,318 pounds of trash with 311 hours of service from 143 volunteers. This was 1,593 more pounds of trash than in 2024, representing a 219% increase in impact. The citation from Montgomery Parks, which also includes a description of efforts by other watershed groups, can be viewed on the FoCJC website and Facebook page.

Help keep our lovely creek clean. The annual CJ Spring Creek Cleanup is set for **Sunday, April 12, 2-4pm** at Cabin John Local Park, 7401 MacArthur Boulevard. Entrance to the park is immediately on the west side of the one-lane bridge. If more parking is needed, there are lots of spaces at the adjacent Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (7425 MacArthur Blvd) and a short walk to the park.



Weed Warrior Workday–Earth Day

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

When: **Saturday, April 18, 10am-12pm**
Where: Cabin John Local Park, 7401 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John, MD. Meet at the trailhead near the playground.
What to Bring: Clothes that can get dirty; rain gear as necessary; sturdy closed-toe shoes (required); water to drink; bug spray (optional); a pair of work gloves; a few sturdy trash bags.
Who: Everyone! Volunteers 16 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Community Service / **SSL Hours**: This program fulfills community service requirements. We will have SSL forms available.
Weather: This program is rain or shine but will be cancelled in case of high winds or lightning.
Contact Information: Mark Frey, runcator@gmail.com

Bethesda Modern Primary Care
Dr. Nadia Sirdar
Prevention First | Partnership Always



MEMBERSHIP-BASED PRACTICE

24/7 Access to Your Doctor
Priority Appointments
Tailored Care Plans
Home Visits

Your Wellness Reimagined

Now accepting patients to our Priority List

5272 River Road, Suite 300
Bethesda MD 20816
(202) 931-7669
BethesdaDoctor.com
Membership@bethesdadoctor.com

Scan to learn more

MacArthur Plaza
MacArthur Boulevard at Seven Locks Road

OFFICES AVAILABLE

Short-Term Rentals Available
Single Rooms to Large Suites
Floor Plans Available Online

KMI
Commercial Real Estate

Please call
Brad Klinedinst
301-655-7252

www.garrett-smith.com

CJCA News

by Scott Lewis

The February CJCA Monthly Meeting was held at Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (CBNRC) on Wednesday, February 25. After approving the January minutes, CJCA presented a list of upcoming events, provided an update on the candidate forums (see article in this issue), discussed the DC Water meeting held at Walt Whitman High School (see article in this issue) on February 26 and provided an update on land development in Cabin John.

The next CJCA meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 26** at CBNRC. In addition to CJCA business, we will feature two interesting presentations:

Clive Harris, Cabin John resident, longtime birder, past president of the Montgomery Bird Club, and a member of the Maryland-DC Bird Records Committee, will give a talk on spring birds. Each spring our resident bird population is augmented by migrant birds who arrive in April and May and spend the summer here to raise their young before returning south in late summer and early fall, to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central or even South America. You may not have seen these birds, but on a walk along the C&O Canal or the Cabin John Creek in spring and summer you can hear them and, with a bit of effort, spot them as well. Clive will tell us about these migrants–how they get here, what they look and sound like, where you can find them and where they spend their winters–with a talk featuring his photos.

Greg Gurley of Friends of Cabin John Creek will give a community update on the health of Cabin John Creek. Clean water matters–to our families, our wildlife, and the Chesapeake Bay. Friends of Cabin John Creek will discuss how volunteers monitor macro-invertebrates, chemicals, and bacteria in Cabin John Creek and its tributaries. They will share what this data tells us about the creek's health, highlight some interesting monitoring results, and explain why stormwater runoff from our neighborhoods is the biggest threat to our local creeks.

Unfortunately, the bike shop we selected to hold our spring bike clinic later this month has canceled. We have reached out to other bicycle shops and vendors in an attempt to reschedule. CJCA will provide updates as they become available.

OFFICER ELECTIONS AT MAY 20, 2026, CJCA MEETING

All CJCA officers serve for one June-May term, and elections are held every May. We will have vacancies at the president and secretary positions as Scott and Heidi Lewis (Co-Presidents) and Kelly Banuls (Secretary) will not be standing for another term. Current VP Pete Cousté has agreed to serve as President if elected, but all interested in serving are encouraged to throw their hats in the ring.

If you are interested in running for office, or just want to know more about how to get involved, contact CJCA Co-President Scott Lewis at cjcapresidents@gmail.com.

~vn

DID YOU KNOW?

My company, Long & Foster, offers a concierge service known as Lift that helps clients prepare homes for sale and move-in, without the hassle of managing projects, hiring contractors, or sourcing materials. With fast and convenient access to repairs, refreshes, renovations, and staging, Lift provides clients with a compelling listing advantage, allowing them to compete more effectively and "lift" the value of each listing.

Key Advantages include:
- Free and Fast Proposals
- Dedicated Project Manager
- Full Service Contractor
- Expert Design Assistance
- Ready to Install Materials and Fixtures
- Quality Workmanship
- Communication and Responsiveness

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

Rachelle Cherol
AT LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE



Rachelle Cherol | REALTOR®
Licensed in Maryland and DC
C: (301) 379-5013
O: (301) 907-7600
Rachelle.Cherol@lnf.com
Bethesda Gateway Office
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.

Leading Real Estate Companies of the World | Luxury Portfolio International | Long & Foster Real Estate | Christie's International Real Estate

FishTacos Burgers Pizza Salads FriedClams Nachos Pasta Parmesan Shrimp Bruschetta Calamari CrabCakes FreshFish

Mo-Co LOCAL

SAL'S

Wild tomato
7945 MacArthur Blvd. / Cabin John, MD
301.229.0680 www.wildtomatorestaurant.com

SAL'S Italian Kitchen
7945 MacArthur Blvd. /Cabin John, MD
240.802.2370 www.salsitaliankitchen.net

View From Minnie's Island

by Joe Saliunas

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

AFTER THE SPILL

As I write this piece, it's been six weeks since the start of the Potomac Interceptor spill on January 19. Raw sewage is still flowing through the C&O Canal immediately opposite 83rd Place, the repair completion date is unknown, and the river is still closed per an advisory from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. In this article, I'd like to take you behind the scenes and explain how Minnie's Island Community Conservancy (MICC) was engaged during this time. Minnie's Island is located about one-half mile directly downstream of the point where the spill entered the Potomac and was directly in the path of the plume.

On January 25 (six days after the start of the spill), MICC sent a letter to DC Water asking the following questions. As of the date of this article, MICC has not received a response from DC Water, although we know the answers to most of the questions.

1. What testing is being done to assess the environmental damage relative to baseline conditions?
2. Who is performing that monitoring and when did it start?
3. What monitoring will be done to assess the medium and long-term impact of the spill?
4. How will the public be informed of ongoing testing, monitoring and remediation efforts and results?
5. What total volume of wastewater has been discharged into the Potomac?
6. Will clean up and habitat restoration be conducted? If so, by whom?
7. What actions are planned to prevent future sewage spills?
8. How long before safe access to Minnie's Island is restored?

Over time, we became concerned that impacts to Minnie's and neighboring areas were not being assessed by DC Water, as their testing was limited to the site of the spill at Lock 10 and Fletcher's Cove, located about seven miles downstream. On February 7, we sent a second request to DC Water, this time in collaboration with Sycamore Island. We requested that DC Water add additional testing locations:

9. The Minnie's Island canoe landing beside the C&O Canal and the well on the island.
10. Sycamore Island, at the ferry dock, at the swim dock, and the shallow well water.
11. The feeder canal near Lock 6 that is configured as a whitewater kayak slalom course.
12. Directly above or below Little Falls.

It took DC Water until February 18 to begin daily testing in the vicinity of Minnie's Island. On February 24, we collaborated with Canoe Cruisers Association again to reiterate our request for testing at the sites noted above, plus regular testing for staph and MRSA, including sediment testing.

The good news is that test results at Minnie's Island show ***E. coli*** levels below the EPA standard starting on February 22. Questions remain however. What about the MRSA and staph bacteria reported by the University of Maryland? What about the safety of the sediment? Will there be impacts this summer in the more flat water locations (like around Sycamore Island) where sediment likely settled out? We hope public health officials can answer these questions for all of us.

Moving forward, MICC is advocating for a data-driven, science-based decision to either open the river to recreational use or to keep it closed. In the meantime, MICC will not host public events or volunteer workdays on the island, and we discourage public access until Montgomery County issues an advisory that says the river is safe. I know we are all looking forward to a warm day this spring when we can safely walk along the river (or on an island) and wonder at our wonderful bluebells.

~vn

	E. coli (MPN/100			
Sample Date	Old Anglers Inn (upstream of collapse)	Near Drainage Channel @ Overflow (Swainson Island)	Between Minnie's Island and north shore of Potomac River	South Side of Minnie's Island
2/16/2026	76	173,000	N/S	N/S
2/17/2026	59	16,700	N/S	N/S
2/18/2026	43	5,000	3,300	1,600
2/19/2026	49	15,200	17,800	14,800
2/20/2026	53	7,600	1,550	770
2/21/2026	135	1,700	727	1200
2/22/2026	285	1,000	261	238
2/23/2026	204	1,100	299	299
2/24/2026	178	1,100	186	172
2/25/2026	58	500	58	63
2/26/2026	22	2,420	41	40

E. coli *concentration in water samples by date and location. Results from DC Water.*

Welcome

NEW TO CABIN JOHN?
EMAIL US TO RECEIVE A WELCOME KIT:
cjcapresidents@gmail.com

GO NATIVE THIS SPRING

by Cathie Nelsen

Our birds and bees need a more sustainable landscape if they are to thrive. Native plants co-evolved with them over thousands of years and they offer the best habitat and nourishing food sources for them. Our iconic monarchs can only eat milkweed, for example. Most of us know that over the last few decades there has been a drastic loss of both birds and insects.

Happily our suburban gardens are a great and necessary resource, as the many millions of acres of our gardens can create safe ecosystems to compensate for habitat loss. If enough of us in Cabin John add native plants to our gardens we can become a pollinator and bird haven.

This can be accomplished by planting a single tree or shrub, or putting some native perennials into your garden. The oak tree is habitat and food for over 500 species of *lepidoptera* whose caterpillars are "protein in a sack" for baby birds. A good small tree is our native redbud. Some perennials are known for attracting great numbers of pollinators. Among these are asters, goldenrod, mountain mint, bee balm and evening primrose. A great comprehensive list of native plants for all situations is the *Maryland Native Plant Guide: Piedmont* available via free download at mdflora.org/piedmont.

It can be difficult to find a good source for native plants. Most commercial nurseries have at best a small selection, and often these are not the straight species but a cultivar, which has been altered and isn't always recognized by its pollinators. There are good sales of native plants this spring:

- Bethesda Community Garden Club has a sale at the Bethesda Farm Women's Co-op on Wisconsin Avenue **May 14** from 9:00am-noon.
- Chesapeake Natives in Upper Marlboro has sales the last Sunday of each month from **March to October**, as well as online sales.
- Pope Farms, a National Park nursery for native plants, holds a spring sale **May 16-17** from 10am-2pm at 7400 Airpark Road in Gaithersburg. There is a great selection of inexpensive healthy plants.
- Swamp Rose Co-op at 8900 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring has sales every Saturday starting on **March 21**.
- Earth Sangha in Virginia has sales by appointment in the spring.
- Wildflower Native Plant Nursery is also open by appointment on Thoreau Drive and opens on **April 2**. Contact is (703) 589-6654.

Three other important things we can do:

- Minimize outdoor lighting. Where lighting must be used, change white bulbs to yellow as moths are attracted to the white lights and exhaust themselves flying around them.
- Do not use pesticides.
- Have water available for birds in a bird bath.

It is such a pleasure to watch birds and insects in one's garden that it repays one's efforts hundredfold. If you would like to learn more, join the local chapter of Wild Ones (wildones.org), a national native plant organization that provides education, offers plant swaps and other events.

~vn





Consider making an effort to include native plants in your garden this spring. Pollinators, such as the bumblebee seen on [L-R] aster and mountain mint, will thank you. (Photos by Cathie Nelsen)

DEVELOPMENT *Continued from pg. 1*

green roofs, now on the back of the house, and the downspouts will feed into cement "storm trunks" that are four feet wide and six feet deep, running roughly 40 feet along the side of four of the five homes. They will feed into a drain pipe that runs along the back of the property, emptying into the existing gully and culvert along MacArthur Boulevard.

The trunks will look like raised beds and be filled with sediment that should slow down the flow of water to the drainage pipe, said Ruppert, adding that Montgomery Parks and Planning will recommend the best plants for this type of system.

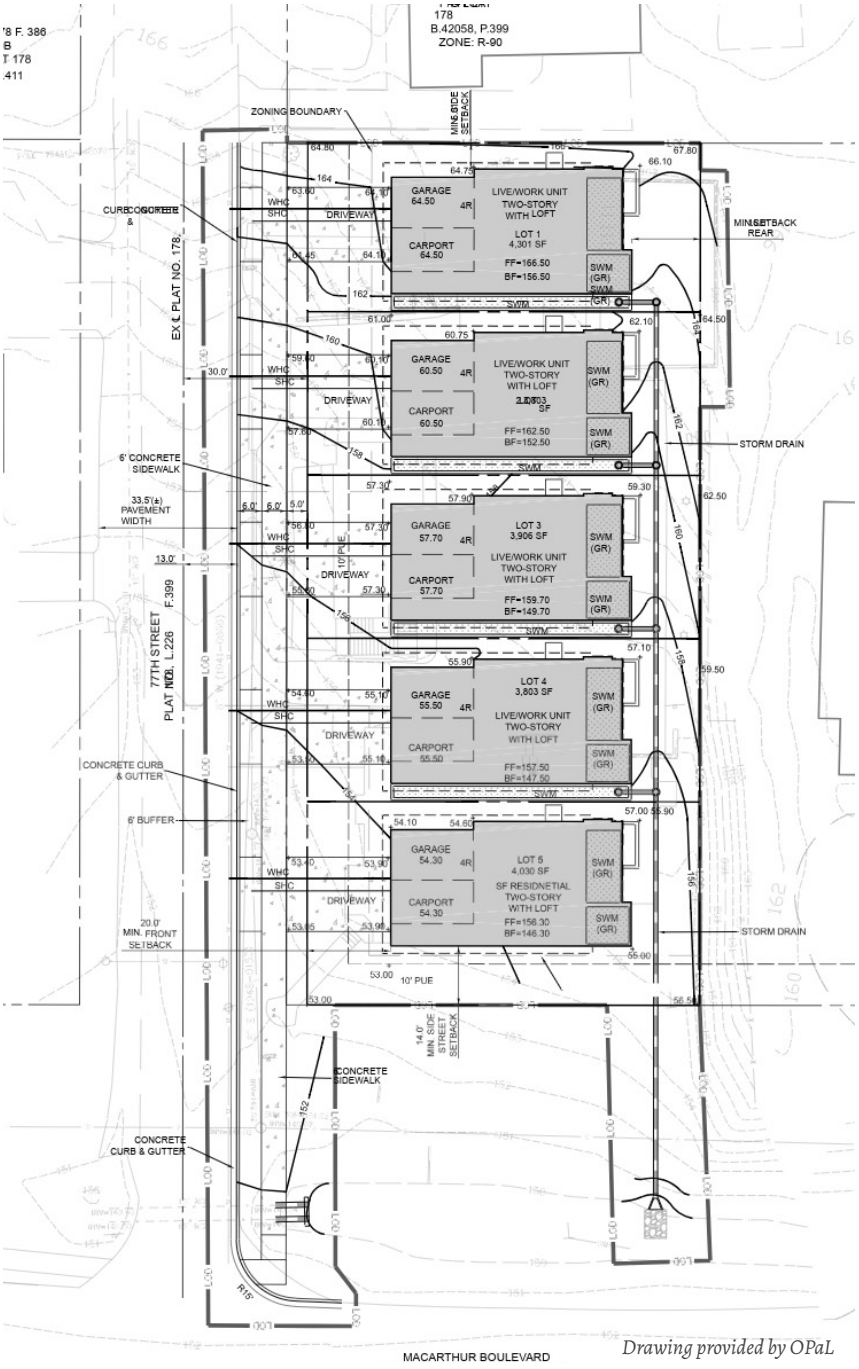
It is unclear if the county has any special requirements for "live/work" homes, which are allowed for properties zoned commercial/residential (CR), which all of Cabin John's commercial properties were changed to in 2014. Live/work units in CR zones are allowed a higher density than residential homes.

"We will sell them like regular houses and the floor plan will stay the same with a foyer, kitchen and dining room on the ground floor," said Ruppert, noting that the live/work units could appeal to a buyer, such as a therapist, lawyer or accountant, who might want to work out of their home.

~vn

Plans related to this development have been filed with Montgomery County Planning. Details can be viewed on the Planning website, **plan numbers 120260080 and 820260090**, address 7687 MacArthur Blvd. Community members can sign up to testify remotely or in-person by completing a form by noon two business days before the hearing: https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings/signup-to-testify/

Any individual or organization may submit a written statement for consideration by the Planning Board. Email your written testimony, including a mailing address, with comments on specific Planning Board agenda items to **mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org** by 12pm two business days before the Planning Board meeting, referencing the hearing date, item, and including a mailing address, in order to be reviewed by the board and included in the official record of the hearing.



Drawing provided by OPaL

SEWER *Continued from pg. 1*

Recording of the livestream: https://tinyurl.com/2-26-DC-Water-Livestream

Slides from the meeting: https://tinyurl.com/2-26-DC-Water-Presentation

Many of our local organizations are actively engaged in responding to this disaster, monitoring and advocating for appropriate action. See Joe Saliunas' ***View from Minnie's Island*** column on page 5 for details of some of those efforts.

A list of reputable and timely sources of official information around ongoing disaster response is below:

- https://www.dcwater.com/about-dc-water/media/potomac-interceptor-collapse
- https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/dc-water.html
- https://www.wsscwater.com/potomac-interceptor
- https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2026/03/02/sewer-pipeline-collapse-information-and-resources-updated--potomac-river/watershed-water-quality/
- https://potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/potomac-sewage-spill-data-updates/

~vn

MY GRANDMOTHER'S TEAPOT

by Annemarie Gormley

Over 25 years ago, one of my children shook my curio cabinet, and the glass in the door came loose and fell, breaking all the glass shelves, thus breaking most of the items inside. There were shards of glass everywhere, but not one speck was on my child. Nick, my husband, and I all thought his guardian angel must have been hovering over his head. At that moment I was sad I had lost so many items, but extremely grateful that my child was fine, and I swore not to be attached to material items ever again.

The curio was where I kept my grandmother's treasured knickknacks. My grandmother died in 1974 when I was 14 years old and she was 86. My mother and father had made sure we had opportunities to forge a relationship with her. My dad would pick her up in Astoria, Queens, on Friday after work, and bring her out to our Long Island home. My mother would remind all the children to spend time with their grandmother while she was visiting. I didn't need reminding. I loved playing Goldfish with her. I loved playing Crazy Eights with her. And she taught us a game called Knuckles. The loser had their knuckles smashed by the deck of cards several times, so it was painful for the loser, but we still wanted to play. Probably twice a month, my family drove into New York City on the weekend to have dinner at my other grandmother's apartment, and we always stopped in Astoria for a cup of tea on the way. In fact, my siblings and I called her Grandma Tea for part of our childhood. Fortunately, the teapot I was given after her death was not kept in my curio, so it is still intact. I frequently get it out, and make an entire pot of tea for myself.

Today, as the ice is melting on my back deck, and my early morning tutoring jobs have been canceled, I am drinking tea. I've always made my tea the English and Irish way. You place the milk and any sweetener you want in your cup before pouring the tea in. When I look at the teapot, I think of my grandmother. I don't just remember all the stories she told about Ireland, her favorite cow, the NY Yankees, and the shows we watched together, like ***Truth or Consequences***, but I think of her joy. She had parakeets that she let out every day and smiled at their antics on the mantel and by the window. She found joy just watching her six grandchildren sit around a table spooning way too much sugar in their tea. She could sit for hours on our front porch watching the neighborhood children play in the street or the birds flying to the trees. She was a strong woman who stood by her convictions. She wanted the girls she taught in Ireland to learn field hockey or rugby, so she taught them despite protests from people who thought sports were for boys only. My father told me she was radical for her time (1920s). She found joy in hard work. She was one of the first women I knew who worked fulltime outside the home. Of course I didn't know her during her working days; I knew her during her aging years. As I look at the teapot, I think of all the women I know now who are strong: family and friends doing what is right, in big ways and small ways. Whether they are a loud voice for social justice in this big world, or they are home, dedicating their time and energy to loving and caring for a failing elder or an energetic child, my thoughts are with them. I am rooting for them, praying that they know their sacrifices are worth it to the people immediately surrounding them, to their descendants and to others impacted indirectly. What you do does matter! Keep up the good work. My hope is that you find joy in both all the hard work you do, and in all the slow-paced quiet times. Our lives ebb and flow, sometimes with great energy and velocity, and other times with quiet solitude. May everyone find joy throughout their day no matter their calling, no matter their pace. ~vn



This teapot reminds Cabin John writer Annemarie Economou Gormley of her Irish-born grandmother.

DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES

INNOVATIVE | SUSTAINABLE | MAINTAINABLE

Exquisite Garden Design & Installation

Decks & Patios | Custom Fences | Arbors & Pergolas

Garden Walks & Walls | Water Features & Lighting

Planting & Maintenance

BEST of BETHESDA AWARD WINNER

WASHINGTONIAN AWARD WINNER

Mark Willcher Landscape Design & Build

Building Sustainable Gardens Since 1980

www.markwillcherco.com

Tel: 240-672-3191 | Email: info@markwillcherco.com

GLEN ECHO PARK EXPANDS ITS CREATIVE PROGRAMMING AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

by Susan Shipp

Mixed media and collage art camps as well as a superstar singing camp are just a few of the new offerings being added to the extensive summer camp line up at Glen Echo Park, according to Katey Boerner, chief executive officer of the Glen Echo Park Partnership. Boerner provided an update on the range of park offerings and its long-term restoration goals at February 25 CJCA meeting.

This March the park is hosting Dance for Parkinson's Disease classes on Wednesday afternoons. The classes are free for participants, care partners, and family members thanks to program donors. Boerner says the initial response to these specialized dance classes has been strong and they hope to secure funding to continue.

The park also has added a monthly ranger-led civil rights and park history tour and continues to offer its monthly tour of the beloved Dentzel Carousel, installed in the park in 1921 and recently completely restored.

In all, the park is home to 13 resident artists and organizations, including two award-winning children's theaters; a nature and aquatic life program for kids; a thriving social dance program; numerous art studios and galleries; and hundreds of classes in visual and performing arts, including ceramics, painting, photography, glass, music, dance, and more. These activities, as well as free summer concerts, festivals, and special events brought more than 250,000 visitors to the park in 2025.

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture also is looking to the future. The non-profit partnership, was created in 2002 by Montgomery County to serve as the manager of park programs and historic buildings in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), which owns the site. In February, NPS put forward an environmental assessment, endorsed by the partnership, that would enable future site development, including new buildings for more arts and cultural programming and events, improved accessibility throughout the grounds and buildings, and continued preservation of the park's historic character.

While the NPS assessment provides a required framework for potential future development, the park partnership is currently focused on improvements, including air conditioning, to the Spanish Ballroom. According to Boerner, the fully-funded design phase is underway as is fundraising for the construction phase.

To find out more about Glen Echo Park, including ways to volunteer or donate, go to https://glenechopark.org/

SUSHI N YOU
Eat Drink Take-out
Authentic Sushi
Tel. (301) 500 - 1063
7607- B Macarthur Blvd. Cabin John, MD 20818


FARM TO TABLE MEALS
By Cory Lewis, Professional Chef
Stock your fridge and pantry with farm to table meals & snacks for your for home and work. Made with ingredients from local farms and producers. Small batch soups, salads, snacks, entrees & more...
Email me and I'll send you a menu every week. Place your order by end of day Friday for Tuesday delivery. My food preparation focuses on local sourcing, flavor and healthy food to nourish your body, mind + spirit.
EMAIL: CORY@CORYLEWIS.INFO

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

Patty Sieber
(240) 743-7194
Realtor Associate
Stuart & Maury REALTORS®
sieber.patty@gmail.com | stuartandmaury.com | (301) 654-3200



Crafting Visions into Reality.

Custom interiors designed and built for discerning homeowners.

Highfill Custom Woodworks LLC

Scan the QR code to visit:
highfillcustomwoodworks.com

(301) 767-6596
MHIC# 136069



HUGHES LANDSCAPING

301-330-4949

"FROM FIREPLACES TO FLOWERBEDS – OUTDOOR SPACES LIKE NO OTHER."

- LANDSCAPING
- HARDSCAPING
- MAINTENANCE
- DRAINAGE
- CONSTRUCTION
- TREE SERVICES
- DESIGN & BUILD
- IRRIGATION

HUGHESLANDSCAPING.COM

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: CORY LEWIS

by Scott Lewis

At the height of the pandemic lockdown Cory Lewis (***no relation***) arrived from sunny and warm San Diego to a Cabin John covered in snow and 32 degrees. She came to help her daughter and her son-in-law get ready to welcome their first child: her first grandchild. The original plan was to stay for three months as she was leaving her kitchen and restaurant business back in San Diego.

Now it's 2026 and she's still here. She fell in love with her two grandchildren and with Cabin John.

Cory Lewis's connection to food began early in the kitchen of her grandmother Minnie's home outside Cincinnati, where summers were spent picking raspberries, tending the garden, and watching the family prepare meals from scratch. One of her earliest food memories—Minnie's hot biscuits with melted butter and homemade peach preserves—still inspires the way she cooks today.

Lewis's curiosity about ingredients and technique deepened as she grew older. After earning degrees in ceramics, she spent several years working with clay, drawn to the creative process of transforming raw material into something functional and beautiful. Eventually she realized that the same process of transformation existed in cooking. That realization led her to culinary school in New York City.

Her career then took an unexpected turn into the world of celebration cakes. Lewis spent years designing elaborate cakes for weddings, birthdays, and special events, including a cake created for Barack Obama's first presidential run debate in Mississippi.

While the work was creative and successful, Lewis felt drawn back to food's deeper connection to the land. After moving to California, she helped her son Kris Schlesser launch LuckyBolt Kitchen + Bakery, where their shared commitment to thoughtful, sustainable food took root.

Today, through Hands to Heart Kitchen, Lewis creates seasonal farm-to-table meals guided by a simple philosophy: food nourishes not only our bodies, but our connection to the soil, the farmer, and the community. You can find out more about Cory's home-cooked meal service by emailing her cory@corylewis.info. Cory is also a new advertiser in *The Village News*. ~VN

WASHINGTON FOLK FESTIVAL RETURNS TO GLEN ECHO PARK -- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Washington Folk Festival is Sunday, August 23. This event, which restarted at Glen Echo Park last year after a several year hiatus, draws more than 5,000 spectators. If you would like to volunteer, **please email wff@fsgw.org**.

Poems For Passersby

Presented by Meredith Griggs

Apophasis at the All-Night Rite Aid

Not wanting to be alone
in the messy cosmology
over which I at this late hour
have too much dominion,
I wander the all-night uptown Rite Aid
where the handsome new pharmacist,
come midnight, shows me to the door
and prescribes the moon,
which has often helped before.

---Catherine Barnett
Winner of many prizes, among them the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Catherine Barnett has published four volumes of poems and teaches at New York University and Hunter College.



At the post next to her house on 78th Street, Jan Iris Smith takes a moment to read a poem.



IT IS CJCA DUES TIME! just $20

All Cabin John residences are asked to contribute **$20** to help fund the activities and events -- what a bargain! Watch your mail for a letter on how to donate, or click this QR code to donate now:

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN CABIN JOHN

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

ACTIVE

7630 Tomlinson Avenue
#L-16
List Price $379,900
2 BD, 1 BA, 0 GAR
846 sq. ft.

6514 76th Street
List Price $3,374,000
6 BD, 5/2 BA, 2 GAR
4,471 sq. ft.

CLOSED

4 Russell Road
Sale Price $555,000
2 BD, 1 BA, 0 GAR
934 sq. ft.

8033 Cypress Grove Lane
List Price $1,275,000
4 BD, 3/1 BA, 2 GAR
2,922 sq. ft

Minnie's Island
Community Conservancy

All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get back to where it was.
-Toni Morrison

Please visit our website and join our mailing list to get updates
minniesisland.org

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

KICKBOXING
WITH WBG SPORTS AND FITNESS
Burn calories + Build endurance + Sculpt your body
April 8 to June 3 * Wednesdays from Noon-1:00pm
This is a non-contact boxing class. Ages 18 and up.
Activity #R05342-307

Attention Former Level Fitness members (and all CJ residents)!

Use of the fitness/weight room at the center is FREE with a recreation card
available to all Montgomery County residents.
Pick one up at the rec center office!

SUMMER JOBS! Clara Barton Recreation Center is now hiring for our 2026 Summer Fun Center camp
Applicants must be able to work all six weeks—June 29 to August 7
Pay rate starting at $17.65/hr
Contact Barry Jones directly at 240-777-4911
or barry.jones@montgomerycountymd.gov

SAVE THE DATE
After taxes, the Grateful Shred!
Annual shredding party set for Saturday, May 16 from 9:00am-Noon
Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

7425 MacArthur Boulevard Cabin John | 240-777-4910
Open Mon–Thurs: 9 am–8 pm | Fri: 9 am-3 pm | Sat-Sun: Rentals Only

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

*On February 6 Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center was host to the annual Cabin John Family Bingo Night sponsored by Friends of Clara Barton Community Center (FoCBCC). Maryland State Delegates **Marc Korman** and **Sarah Wolek** and Maryland State Senator **Sara Love** served as celebrity callers for the crowd. Contestants also vied for prizes for "Best Hawaiian Shirt."*

~VN









Photos by Burr Gray

MICHELIN GUIDE

BEST OF Bethesda

Winner 2026

BETHESDA MAGAZINE
Readers' Pick,
Best Mediterranean,
Middle Eastern Restaurant

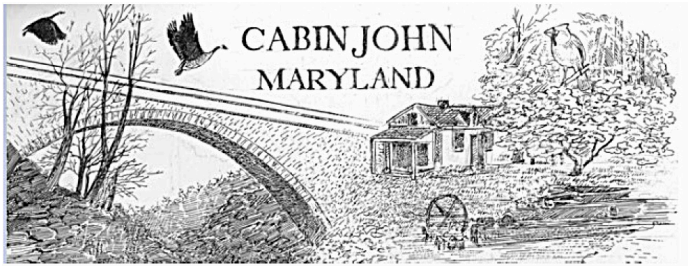
ala

LEVANTINE EXPERIENCE

unique food | rare drinks | loving hospitality

www.ala-dc.com

4948 Fairmont Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814
1320 19th St NW, Washington, DC 20036



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 (interim); 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, March 25, 2026
CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

Classified Ads

COMPUTER SERVICES
DC/PC Computer Support offers friendly, personalized computer and electronic services to area residents. In person, remote and telephone support are available. To schedule an appointment or learn more about our services, email support@dc-pc.com or call Jim at 202.841.0873.

LICKS & LEASHES PET CARE
DEPENDABLE, RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY We provide: Daily walks, Daycare, Boarding, In Home Pet Sitting. 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!

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

Community Calendar

MAR	*All events at Clara Barton Neighborhood Rec Center unless otherwise noted*
26	CJCA Meeting, **Clive Harris** Birds of Spring, 7:30pm
APR	
12	Creek Cleanup, 2pm - 4pm, Cabin John Local Park
18	Weed Warrior Workday, 10am - 12am, Cabin John Local Park
22	Spring Egg Hunt, 4:00 pm SHARP Cabin John Local Park
27	County Exec Candidate Forum, **Evan Glass,** 7:30pm

SPRING EGG HUNT -- for kids through 6th grade. Must have adult with them. Bring a basket or container and be at the playground below the field behind CBNRC no later than **3:50pm**! The egg hunt starts at 4pm sharp and lasts about 3 minutes!!!!