The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN | AUGUST 2023 | VOLUME 57 | ISSUE 7

Save the Date for Chicken, Crabs, Veggies, Music, and More!

By Heidi Lewis
Co-President, Cabin John Citizens Association

The 2023 Cabin John Chicken and Crab Feast will be held Saturday, **September 16, from 2:00-6:00 pm**, at Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (CBNRC), 7425 MacArthur Blvd.

Delicious steamed crabs, tasty grilled chicken with a secret recipe rub, yummy fresh vegetables cooked to perfection, homemade baked beans, and more will be served up by CJ neighbors while the Starlight Orchestra serenades the crowd.

The food and fun are served up starting at 2 pm. The 15-piece jazz and swing band gets underway shortly thereafter. The fun continues until 6 pm. The crab feast is the largest community event of the year and typically brings together some 600 Cabin Johners and friends. It is also an important fundraiser for the Cabin John Citizens' Association.

Games and activities for kids will be run by the staff of the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center.

Volunteers Needed!

It takes over 150 people to plan, prep, serve, and clean up the Crab Feast every year. Ask anyone who has worked the Crab Feast, and they will confirm it is really fun volunteering for an hour or two. You'll never regret getting to know your neighbors a little better and getting that warm feeling from knowing you've done your part.

You can volunteer to: serve on the line, snap beans and cut collards at veg prep, help in the kitchen or at the grill, help keep the water and drinks filled, help setup/cleanup, and more!

If you can volunteer a couple of hours on Saturday, September 16 or the days leading up to it, email Scott and Heidi at cjcapresidents@gmail.com. **SSL hours approved**.

Buy Your Tickets Now

Buying tickets in advance saves money and helps us plan quantities. See page 9 for online and in person ticket sales options.



Andrew Friedson, CJ's county council member, with the Couste family at the 2022 crab feast. (Photo: Susan Shipp)

Announcing the 2023-2024 CJ Calendar

By Scott Lewis
Co-President, Cabin John Citizens Association

We are pleased to announce the calendar for CJCA Events for 2023-2024 (to June 2024). All events will be held at CBNRC, unless otherwise noted.

Here are some highlights:

- We begin the fall with the **53rd Annual Cabin John Chicken and Crab Feast** - Saturday, September 16, 2:00-6:00 pm.
- In keeping with previous years, we will have three **Blood Drives**, all on Sundays - October 1, February 4, and May 5, starting at 10:00 am.
- The very-well attended **Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot** will be on **November 23 at 10:00 am** (Thanksgiving, of course).
- Our annual **Holiday Party** will be **Sunday, December 10, starting at 5:00 pm**.
- The world-renowned **CJCA Trivia Night** - **Saturday, January 27, starting at 6:30 pm**.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.

2023-2024 CJ CALENDAR (CONT.)

• Our Spring Egg Hunt will be Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 pm (one week prior to MCPS spring break).

• Our **Wednesday night CJCA Meetings** - September 27, October 25, November 29, January 24, February 21, March 21, April 24, and May 22.

2023

SEPTEMBER
16 — 52nd Annual CJ Chicken and Crab Feast
27 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm

OCTOBER
1 — CJ Blood Drive, 10 am to 3 pm
25 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm

NOVEMBER
23 — CJ Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, 10 am
29 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm

DECEMBER
10 — CJ Holiday Party - 5-7 pm

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT CBNRC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

2024

JANUARY
24 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm
27 — Trivia Night, 6:30 to 10:30 pm

FEBRUARY
4 — CJ Blood Drive, 10 am to 3 pm
21 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm

MARCH
17 — CJ Spring Egg Hunt, 4 pm, Playground & Field
20 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm

APRIL
24 — CJCA meeting, 7:30 pm

MAY
5 — CJ Blood Drive, 10 am to 3 pm
22 — CJCA Meeting, 7:30 pm

JULY
4 — July Fourth Parade



Friends of Moses Hall Need Funds to Keep Preservation Efforts on Track

By Charlotte Troup Leighton, CJCA Vice President & CJ resident Susan Shipp

Friends of Moses Hall, now in its third year of advocacy to protect and preserve the historic Morningstar Moses Cemetery and Hall in Cabin John, is launching a fundraising campaign now that it has 501(c)(3) status, allowing donors to receive a tax-deduction for their gifts.

The funds are needed to move forward with the development of a comprehensive conservation and restoration plan, which will enable the organization to apply for large grants. The phased restoration plan for the site will prioritize mitigation of erosion and providing safe access.

Since 2020, Friends of Moses Hall (FMH) has secured small grants totaling $5,000 from the James R. Trader Foundation, the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, and the Janet Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Cabin John Citizens Association played a critical role in the group's early efforts in 2020, by sponsoring cleanups and donating $2,000 to haul away massive amounts of debris.

Additionally, area law firms and the University of Maryland Clinical Law Program generously have provided pro bono legal services to FMH since 2020.

But the vast majority of funds received to date — more than $12,000 — came directly from individuals, descendants, and the founding members of FMH. These monies were used for bamboo remediation, insurance, a new website, clean-up and tour events, engineering consultants, and educational materials. Through its work, FMH has grown from a grassroots community effort focused on drawing attention to a historic African-American cemetery that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) was ignoring in its Beltway expansion plans into a non-profit advocacy organization that has brought national attention to the site's history, as well as its importance as a compelling example of racial injustice in highway infrastructure projects — past and present.

Along the way, FMH forced the SHA to acknowledge that the historic cemetery and Gibson Grove community were disturbed by earlier highway construction and to rethink their Beltway expansion plans. The pending federal lawsuit represents FMH's continued advocacy at the highest level, but the organization is also committed in the long-term to the restoration and preservation of the Morningstar Moses Cemetery and Hall site.

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-P.D. James

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4th of July with Very Special Parade Leaders

By Loretta Devery Ingalls, Scott & Heidi Lewis



The Cabin John Community welcomed a beautiful day and several luminaries to our community to celebrate our country's founding. Notably, Sara Love, Esq., Maryland State Delegate, and Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Councilmember, led our parade as we walked and rode down MacArthur Blvd. The bicycles were colorfully and creatively decorated thanks to everyone's ingenious use of the CJCA-provided supplies. Thanks to Sean Ruppert for offering use of his yard to start the festivities.

Upon arrival at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center, paraders were treated to drinks, fruit, and doughnuts, prepared and served by Sally Mee and Marcy Harrison.



And as is our tradition, the Declaration of Independence was read by Olivia Seuschek, Claire Mustico, Seraphina Allain, and Riley Lewis (shown below, l-r). In addition, several kid crafts were run by Daisy Lewis and Greta Pokorny. And of course, the sprinkler was a big hit.



Through it all, as we enjoyed the weather, our friends, kids laughing over sprinklers, doughnuts, and crafts, we remember how fortunate we are to be Americans.

A very special thanks to Loretta Devery Ingalls for organizing a successful parade. And thanks to all those who attended and participated.

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



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Fun for the whole family at the CJCA July 4th celebration (top row, from left): Cabin Johners in preparation for the annual parade. Scooters with festive decorations await the start of the parade. Daisy Lewis helping little CJ'ers make a handprint flag. Row two: Parched attendees enjoy a refreshing drink. A young Cabin Johner eagerly awaits the start of the annual festivities. Larry Heflin and Linda Smith enjoy the good weather and good times. (Photo Credit: A big thank you to our neighborhood photographers for your pictures!)

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

FCBCC SEEKING VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS

For Clara Barton **Neighborhood** Recreation Center! Do you ever think how great that is, having a weight room, summer day camp, indoor pickleball court, class and event spaces, right in our own neighborhood?

There is an independent non-profit group of mostly Cabin Johners who, in their appreciation of the CBNRC, seek to keep the Center lively with fun community events (think Haunted House, Grateful Shred, Craft show, Bingo Night), and to step up when unexpected needs arise (think Bounce House for the summer camp finale, flat-screen TV for the lounge, tuning the piano). They are the **Friends of Clara Barton Community Center** (FCBCC), and they are seeking new board members to **envision and help create the CBNRC's future place in our neighborhood**.

JOIN UP! SHAPE TOMORROW'S CLARA BARTON CENTER

If this opportunity interests you, chat with either President Burr Gray (email burrgray@aol.com) or VP Stace Kimmel, aka ring master of the Haunted House, 252-207-2277. FCBCC website: friendscbcc.org.

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

Closed: Labor Day, September 4



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Real Estate Activity in Cabin John

July 2023

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

PENDING

7805 Archbold Terrace
List Price $699,000
3BR, 2FB, 0 Gar, 1218 sq. ft.

7709 Tomlinson Avenue
List Price $825,000
3BR, 2FB, 0 Gar, 972 sq. ft.

CLOSED

7630 Tomlinson Avenue #26
Price $329,000
2BR, 1FB, 0 Gar, 887 sq. ft.

7630 Tomlinson Avenue #25
Price $330,000
2BR, 1FB, 0 Gar, 796 sq. ft.

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Earth Medicine: Yellow Wood Sorrel….A Clover Look Alike

By Sarah Cahill

At quick glance you may think she is good old-fashioned clover. Green and low to the ground with three leaves radiating from a single point. You may even find yourself scanning the ground for those lucky four leaves. Yet on closer inspection you can't help but begin to spot differences.

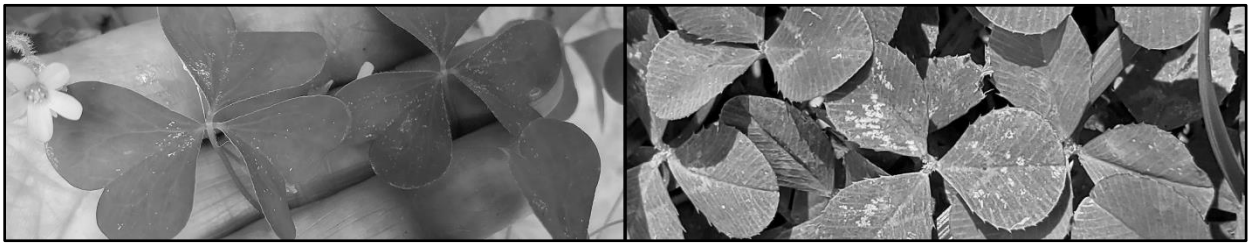
First of all, her green is brighter. The light spring green most plants carry only when young, wood sorrel continues wearing. Also, her leaves when seen up close have a heart shape to them with a fold running down the center, allowing them to open during daytime and close again at night. Her tiny five petalled flowers are a bright sunny yellow and she grows up to 20 inches. The identification is complete when you pop a leaf or two into your mouth. Lemony and tangy. Yum!

She isn't clover after all. Meet yellow wood sorrel!

Yellow wood sorrel will also answer to other names. Yellow oxalis, sour grass, sleeping beauty and sheep's clover. She is also mistaken at times for shamrock and may be incorrectly sold with that label near St. Patrick's Day.

Yellow wood sorrel is native and a common resident in sunny areas of our yards and gardens. The entire plant is edible (although not by cats and dogs). She is great raw as an outdoor snack, put in salad to add some zing or used to infuse water for a refreshing summertime drink or tea.

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered. — Ralph Waldo Emerson



DID YOU KNOW?

The following are several of the up-front costs associated with buying a home:

- **Earnest Money Deposit** – Once an offer is accepted, the purchaser usually pays 1-3% of the purchase price immediately; this amount is held until closing when it becomes part of the down payment.
- **Home Inspection** – A home inspection usually costs between $500-$800, depending on the size of the home.
- **Down Payment** – Your down payment can vary between 3.5% of the purchase price with an FHA-backed loan to 20%.
- **Closing Costs** – Closing costs typically range from 2-5% of the purchase price and include title insurance, loan-processing costs, taxes, and various other fees.
- **Homeowner's Insurance and Moving Costs** – Every mortgage needs to be insured. The first annual premium is usually paid at closing. Moving costs vary based on how large a place you are moving from and how many items you have.

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

Rachelle Cherol

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To Save Wild Nature (and Moths), Please Turn Down the Lights

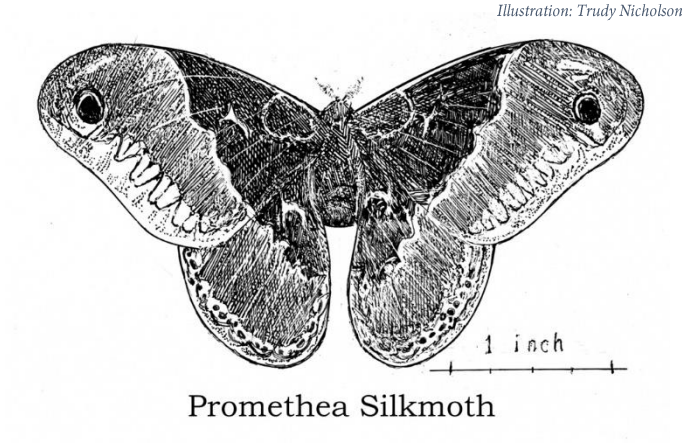
By Eric Dinerstein

If you had a chance to save a piece of the natural world and all you had to do was flip a switch, would you do it? Believe it or not, many of us have that power at our fingertips. For example, if you have nightlights on the perimeter of your property and turned them off or put them on a motion-sensor trigger, you would add to a feature of suburban life that is fast disappearing—pitch darkness. Instead, so much in the summer night seems to be illuminated, to the detriment of clearly seeing the stars, planets, and the August meteor showers at night, but also some of the most spectacular creatures on Earth.

One such species frequents our backyards and woodlands, The Prometheus moth, named after the Greek god who gave humans the gifts of fire and wisdom. Its food plant is the most common woody shrub found along the banks of the Potomac River, spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), a member of the laurel (or avocado) family. The leaves and bright red fruits of spicebush are incredibly fragrant especially if, like me, you think of a turpentine aroma as a kind of natural perfume. The fruits, rich in lipids, are a favorite of birds heading south in early fall. The leaves are just as aromatic and in many ways also serve as a caterpillar fast-food outlet for two of our loveliest flying insects. On some of the leaves you can find the caterpillars of the spicebush swallowtail, a beautiful metallic blue butterfly (previously covered in this column). Another fan of spicebush leaves is the stunning Prometheus moth (*Callosamia promethea*), measuring over four inches in length. The feathery antennae are typical of the species in this moth's family, the Saturniids, which includes more than 1,300 species, mostly tropical. But it's the wings that are works of art, especially in the female, with a palette of rich reddish-browns highlighted by a black eye spot in each wing. The male is more subdued in a tuxedo of dark charcoal trimmed in tan.

You are much more likely to see the spicebush swallowtail than the Prometheus silk moth because the brilliant female is only active at night. In fact, that is one common way to separate moths from butterflies—moths fly at night and butterflies fly during the day. There are other distinctive features: butterflies typically have little clubs at the end of their antennae and moths have anything but clubs. There are exceptions to these rules, as nature's way is to create exceptions to virtually every rule as a byproduct of evolution by natural selection. As if to highlight this point about nature's never-ending exceptions to the rule, the Prometheus moth is the only known member of its family where the males fly during the day and the females only fly at night (the males and females do overlap briefly in their activities at dusk in order to mate). How do male Prometheus moths avoid predators in the daytime? By mimicking a type of butterfly, the poisonous pipevine swallowtail, a cousin of the non-poisonous spicebush swallowtail.

Illustration: Trudy Nicholson



Promethea Silkmoth

If the creator had an inordinate fondness for beetles because he made so many of them (numbering around 330,000 species), as noted in a previous column, some such fondness must also have been showered on moths along the way. We think of butterflies as super diverse, with about 17,500 species, yet that is but a speck in the butterfly net compared to moths, of which about 160,000 species have been identified, just half the number of beetles.

Human urban dwellers have unfairly attributed an ignoble reputation to these diverse creatures because of the clothes moth, whose preferred habitat is the beloved cashmere sweater in the drawer (with food stains on it), or the pantry where grains are stored. But once you are out in nature, the variety and beauty of moths is plain to any nighttime beholder. Instead of the dull gray-brown of indoor moths, the Saturniids and other giant moths are some of the most attractive of all insects.

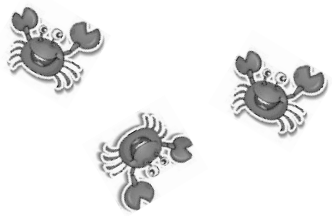
They also have an outsized role to play in three main areas. First, and most narrowly human-centered, certain moth species have been cultivated for centuries to produce silk for the finest clothing and carpets. Second, and of considerable ecological importance, far more species of plants are pollinated by moths than by butterflies, and many flowering plants have evolved unique signaling mechanisms to reel them in. Moth-pollinated plants produce the flowers that open only at night and have strong, often pleasant aromas. In the cloud forests of Costa Rica, I've had the privilege of seeing one species of moth, the hawk moth, visiting a flowering plant in the nightshade family with a flower eight inches long. Nectar puddles at the base of the corolla of this plant, called *Solandra*, attract the hawk moth, its only known pollinator,

which reaches the nectar with its extraordinary proboscis, which is just over eight inches in length when unfurled. But even many plants that flower during the day keep their flowers open at night and the nectar flowing to take advantage of the abundance of moths. Third, and also ecologically important, is the role of the moth in the food chain. Moth caterpillars have been described as tubes of protein, so vital to the menu of our beloved backyard birds. In the late spring and summer, caterpillars are a featured item in the diets of warblers, vireos, catbirds, and all our other backyard singers that can locate them. Adult moths, after they emerge, are a mainstay for our local bats, that themselves also help us by keeping down the populations of mosquitoes when not feeding on moths.

So why do we need to turn out the lights at night? The lights attract moths and the light pollution of our suburban landscapes may cause them metabolic stress and cellular damage. In many cases, these lights are unnecessary. If you must have outdoor lights, please consider buying motion-sensor activated lights. These are more likely to scare off intruders by adding the element of surprise than lights that stay on all night. And if we all turn off unnecessary lights, another lost treasure might reappear—the multitude of stars visible again on a clear night.

If you have kids and want to turn them on to the diversity of nature, or reawaken the kid in you, go purchase a black light on the Internet, and on a warm humid moonless night, put a white sheet over your black UV light and be amazed at the moths that appear. You might even come face-to-face with Prometheus.

Crab Feast Tickets - How To Buy in Advance



2023 TICKETS AND PRICES:

Chicken + 3 sides ..... $18 in advance, $20 at door
Sides only (6 servings) ..... $18 in advance, $20 at door
3 crabs + 3 sides ..... $20 in advance, $25 dollars at door
6 crabs (no sides) ..... $22 in advance, $28 dollars at door

HOW TO BUY:

- Contact your CJCA Block Coordinator - checks only. Don't know your block coordinator? Contact us at CJCAcommunityoutreach@gmail.com to find out
- Online at the CJCA website - go to www.cabinjohn.org. Credit cards accepted. Your tickets will be held at the door
- Venmo - Send your Venmo payment to @cabinjohn (Cabin John Citizens Assoc)
  - On the Venmo app, first select "Pay or Request"
  - Enter @cabinjohn as the recipient
  - The app defaults to results for People - you may need to click the "Business" tab to get to Cabin John Citizens Assoc @cabinjohn
  - After you enter your payment amount, please use the note field to add your full name and the number and kinds of tickets you are paying for. Your tickets will be held at the door.





Pets of Cabin John: Meet Toby

By Sarah Craven



Toby was adopted by the Donnan family of 81st Street in March 2016 when he was about 11 weeks old. Toby is an adorable black lab/basset hound rescue with a distinctive curly tail and ears that feel like velvet.

Toby is a playful and energetic dog who always has his nose to the ground. He loves stealing socks, playing keep-away with his brother Aidan and sister Lucy, taking his mum for walks (sometimes quite literally) and a long hike by the river with his dad. He's very clever and has a few tricks, including crawling, rolling over and balancing a treat on his head.

Toby relishes his morning playdates with his good friend Buddy and will often entertain his next-door neighbor Stella (Linda Reinisch's dog) by running up and down the fence after a sweet nose greeting. He's very fond of long naps in the sun and belly rubs.

Toby loves going in the car, and especially enjoys rides in his mum's Mini Cooper—with the top down, of course.

Most of all, Toby has made the Donnan family house a home.







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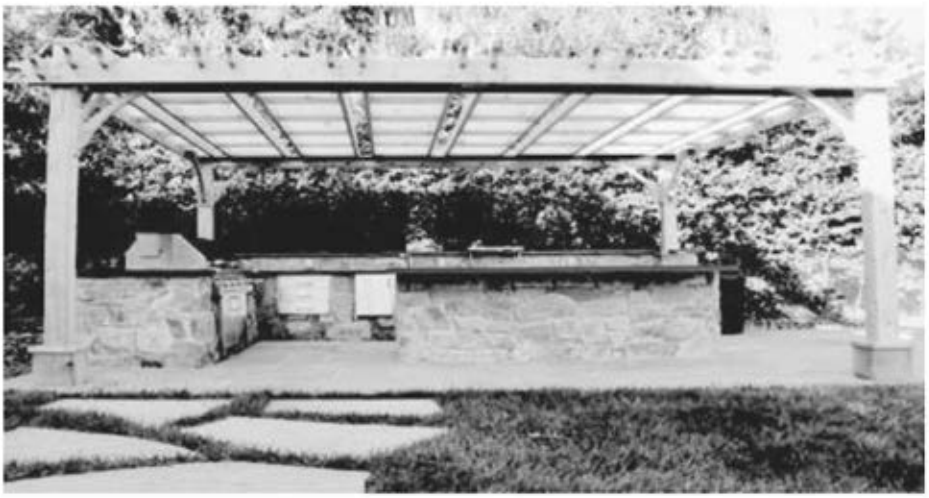
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