The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND | APRIL 2025 | VOLUME 59 | ISSUE 04

A JEWEL OF CABIN JOHN: BRANDON MCDONALD, ARTIST AND ADVOCATE

by Sarah Craven

On 81st Street, local artist Brandon McDonald has been quietly capturing the beauty of Cabin John since moving to the neighborhood with his wife, Tracey, in the fall of 1997. Brandon has found boundless inspiration in the area's wooded trails and changing seasons. Strolling with his children on the towpath, slowing down to experience wonder through kids' eyes—toads, snakes, skinks, owls, songbirds, and wildflowers—was another step in the creative process. Brandon's cumulative time spent exploring the nearby forests has driven him to turn observations into detailed pen and ink drawings, often enhanced with ink washes and watercolor.



See ART on pg. 5

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR CABIN JOHN HOUSE TOUR - SATURDAY MAY 3

by Marcy Harrison

https://2025-house-tour.cheddarup.com
$25 per person

We welcome you to participate in the Cabin John House Tour on **Saturday, May 3, from 1-5pm**, rain or shine. Nine fascinating houses in Cabin John will be open for you to enjoy thanks to the generous cooperation of their owners. Tour participants can see one of the oldest homes in CJ, one of the newest, several award-winning designs, stunning renovations featuring light-filled rooms and wood views, including one overlooking the C&O Canal/Potomac River, lush exteriors, an expanded original Sears "kit house," and unique stonework and art collections.

See HOUSE on pg. 3

JULIE YANG - EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

Representative for CJ on the Board of Education Shares New Initatives and Updates at CJCA Mtg

by Scott Lewis and Kelly Banuls

Julie Yang, who represents District 3 (the Whitman, BCC, Churchill, Richard Montgomery, and Walter Johnson catchment areas) on the Montgomery County Board of Education, provided an informative update and answered questions relating to public education and schools in our community at the March CJCA meeting.

Born in Wuhan, China, Ms. Yang found herself on a predestined educational path to a career in the city's meat factory. That trajectory was changed by an elementary school teacher who, refusing to accept that her students could not do better, gave up her own time before and after school to give them the extra coaching and support they needed. While many of the young second-grade students did not appreciate the extra work at the time, Ms. Yang now credits that teacher with helping her and nine other students climb out of their educational tier by the end of the school year.

She went on to become an educator herself—moving to the U.S. for graduate school and then serving more than 20 years as a classroom teacher, school instructional data analyst, and college and career counselor.

See BOARD on pg. 3



Is your teen or young adult graduating soon? We want to feature them in our annual photo spread in the June issue of *The Village News*.

Send a photo of your graduate along with a 1-paragraph description of their degree path and plans for the future to VNeditorial@gmail.com. **DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2025.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Neighborly News -- pg. 2
Our Town -- Inspiring Teens -- pg. 6
Public Works Corner -- pg. 7
Local History -- Cabin John's Historic School -- pg. 8
CJCA News -- pg. 13
Poems for Passersby -- pg. 13

Neighborly News

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

Several of the **Cabin John Ladies Coffee Group** "regulars" went on a fun and delicious luncheon outing to Hershey's Restaurant in Washington Grove, MD, on March 20.

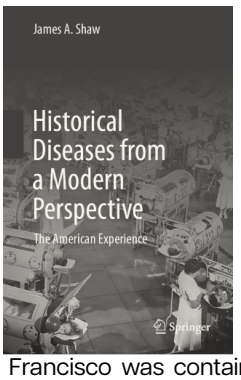


Clockwise from the left bottom corner: Veronica Valle-Evans, Nancy Shaw, Beverly Sullivan, Marcy Harrison, Elaine Hornauer, Helen Daniel, Judy Welles, Pamela Swisher, Susan Roberts, Susan Gelb, and Nicki Wright.

A few days later on March 26, several members went on a bus trip to the National Museum of Health and Medicine. The outing was organized by Brandi Scott-Swales, Montgomery County Senior Programs Coordinator at CBNRC. The group was treated to a two-hour guided tour of the museum collections by an extremely knowledgeable docent.

Highlights included the assassin's bullet in President Garfield's spine, the bullet that killed Abraham Lincoln, and many Civil War examples of amputation, including bullet-impacted bones, surgical instruments, prostheses, and even plastic surgery available at the time. While in Silver Spring, the group enjoyed lunch after the visit at Parkway Deli.

New attendees are always welcome to join the ladies' coffee group - they meet on Wednesdays 10am-12pm at CBNRC. Just show up!



Retired orthopedic surgeon and ardent student of history, **Jim Shaw** of Tomlinson Avenue, recently published a new book: *Historical Diseases from a Modern Perspective: The American Experience*. The book is organized by disease sections and contains fascinating historical insights relevant to the American experience, including how the 1900 outbreak of plague in San Francisco was contained, why the flow of the Chicago River was reversed, and why "chicken pox parties" were once common. He covers the use of anthrax for bioterrorism, the social history of alcohol and opioid use, and many other diseases. Drawing on the content from his book, in January he spoke to an appreciative audience of about 60 people (and 350+ subsequent video viewers) at the National Museum of Health and Medicine on the impact of historical diseases, including smallpox and syphilis, on U.S. troop strength and military preparedness in wars from the American Revolution to World War II.

Jan Marie (Pauley) Shaut, 73, passed away suddenly on Friday, March 21, 2025, leaving behind a devoted family and a cherished community in Glen Echo and Cabin John, MD, who also considered her family. Born on November 21, 1951, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, Jan spent her early years on the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba before settling in Cabin John, MD.

She married the love of her life, **Jim Shaut**, on August 10, 1974, at St. Elizabeth's Church in Rockville, MD. They moved to Glen Echo, MD, in 1980 where they built a loving home and raised their three children: Neil (b. 1979), Robert (b. 1986), and Chelsea (b. 1989). Jan and Jim shared a beautiful life until his passing in 2013.

A dedicated professional, Jan worked for Case Design/Remodeling for 45 years, serving as the Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Administration. Her kindness and leadership left a lasting mark on colleagues and clients alike. Jan was a pillar of the community. She was a familiar sight around the town of Glen Echo, walking with her beloved dog, Mya, and cat, Davey, always stopping to chat and making everyone feel special. She had an incredible memory for people's lives and stories, greeting all with warmth, respect, and kindness.



Her greatest joy was being a grandmother to Finn and Ryan, whom she adored beyond measure. "Grandma Jan" became a beloved figure to all of their friends, extending her love and generosity to everyone she met. Jan poured her time and energy into the Glen Echo community. She was a driving force behind *The Echo* town newsletter, led the Election Committee, and was an enthusiastic member of the Livable Town Committee. She rarely missed a town event, often bringing family along to share in the joy.

She is survived by her siblings **Peggy McCombs** (Ken) and **PJ Pauley** (Deb Ahern); her children **Neil Shaut** (Colleen), **Robert Shaut** (Italia), and **Chelsea**; her grandchildren, **Finn** and **Ryan**; and her devoted pets, Mya and Marley. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim, as well as her brothers, Neil and Ned Pauley, and parents, Myron and Joann Pauley.

Jan's legacy is one of love, generosity, and an unwavering dedication to her family and community. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

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

BOARD *Continued from pg. 1*

Ms. Yang provided the following updates on these issues affecting education in Montgomery County:

- Reading - The elementary school curriculum is being changed to focus more on the science of reading and phonics and is decidedly moving away from whole language techniques.

- Final Exams and Assessments - Ms. Yang suggests that the overall assessment process for students needs to be balanced and multi-faceted. This could include tests and/or other assessment mechanisms. Some students entering college have had issues with final exams having, not had final exams in high school. This is a key subject this spring before the Board of Education.

- Cell Phones - Pyle Middle School is part of a pilot program on cell phone usage in schools and its impact on students' behavior and academic performance. The overall intent is to limit cell phone usage during school hours.

- Hate and Bias - There is a code of conduct that determines how kids are to behave and - if there are violations - how to address them. One focus is to ensure code of conduct and disciplinary actions are handled consistently. Hate and bias events are monitored carefully and undergo a quarterly review.

- Vaping - Montgomery County was awarded a settlement from Juul and will install vape detectors in bathrooms with the proceeds. Vape shops must be a mile or further from every school in Montgomery County.

- New Programs - The county has implemented a number of new programs including photography and automotive diagnosis & repair.

- Enrollment in MCPS is flat overall but experiencing an increase in the number of students who speak English as a second language, and students who have special education needs. The lack of MCPS enrollment growth is consistent with the relatively flat growth in overall population.

- Teachers - A new blueprint for teacher salary has been implemented across Maryland, and Montgomery County is ahead of its implementation schedule. This fact is ensuring Montgomery County schools are close to 100% staffed.

- Funding - Montgomery County Public Schools receive 28% of their budget from the state, 3% from the federal government with the balance from the county itself. Near-term focus is on special education given the increase in special education needs across the county. The second focus is on security. Lastly, there is some underfunding on the teacher pension programs; the county expects to address this as well

.

- Funding from the federal government - Ms. Yang made the point that the federal funding from the Department of Education primarily supports special education and schools serving low income families. Regarding the potential impact of the Department of Education closure, Ms. Yang explained that the local Boards of Education have always set the policies relating to the local schools. Additionally, through non-Department of Education grants, the federal government supports equipment purchases for technical training such as automotive mechanics, and these grants are at risk.

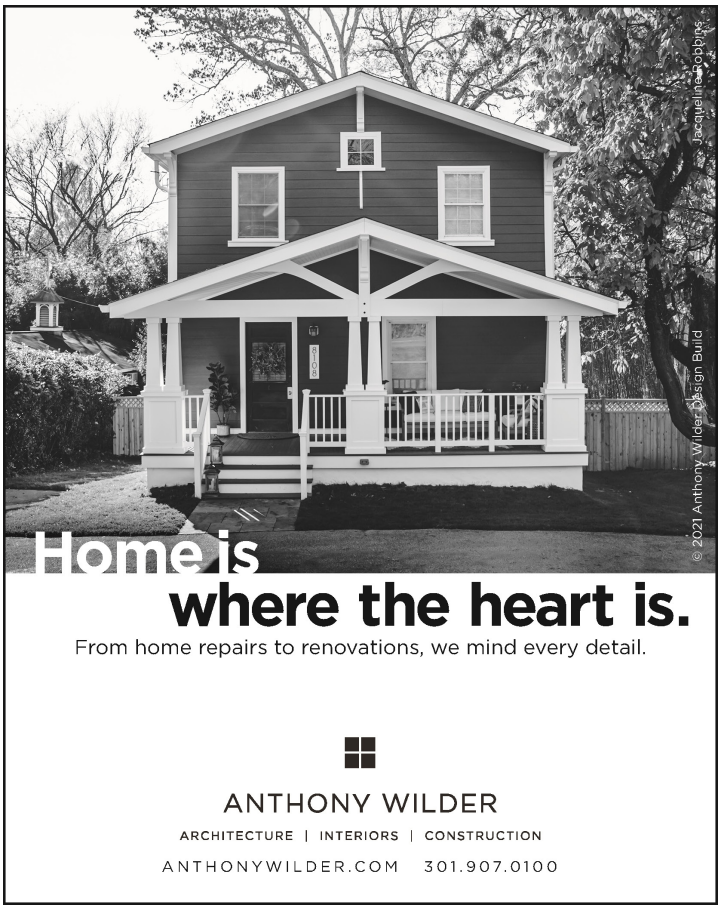
- Student member of the Board of Education - There is one student member on the Montgomery County Board of Education who serves a one-year period and who is elected via a multi-step process. This student has full voting authority with the exception of personnel issues. Montgomery County was one of the first counties in the country to implement such a program. ~*VN*

HOUSE *Continued from pg. 1*

- Tickets for this event are $25 per person and are **limited to persons over the age of 12**.
- Tickets can be purchased in person with cash, check made payable to CJCA, or Venmo in the parking lot of the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, on April 30 from 9-10am and 12-1pm, May 1 from 6-8pm, or May 3 from 12-3pm,
- Tickets can also be purchased online using a credit card (+fee) at https://2025-house-tour.cheddarup.com.
- Each participant will be asked to sign a waiver form and will receive an entrance ticket, house descriptions and a tour map.

HELP! We need more HOUSE MONITORS! Please volunteer for 2 hours (or 1?) to be stationed in one of the houses and check in tour participants. Contact Marcy Harrison, tour organizer, at marcyharrison@earthlink.net or 301-908-8906 to volunteer. Thank you!! ~*VN*

Proceeds from the tour support the ongoing community activities of the Cabin John Citizens Association.





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

Highfill Custom Woodworks LLC

Transform your home with Custom Built-ins



MHIC# 136069

301-767-6596
www.highfillcustomwoodworks.com

ART *Continued from pg. 1*

For Brandon, treading the trails is an essential part of his creative process. “Getting outside is primary,” he says. “Walking, hiking, and running are ways to gather ideas for my drawings.” He often pauses to take photos, capturing the light, textures, and shadows that define the landscape.

Back in his studio, he uses these references to create intricate, atmospheric pieces that reflect the natural world around him. While Brandon’s artwork is largely a personal practice, he does share it with the broader community.

He has exhibited at the Amy Kaslow Gallery and participated in the Glen Echo Labor Day Art Show. He also shares pieces on Instagram and gives drawings to friends and family. Still, he sees his art as mostly a quiet, meditative practice.

Spending so much time in nature has made Brandon aware of the challenges facing local trails and green spaces. He regularly notices the effects of erosion, flooding, and litter, and he reflects on how even small changes impact the larger environment.

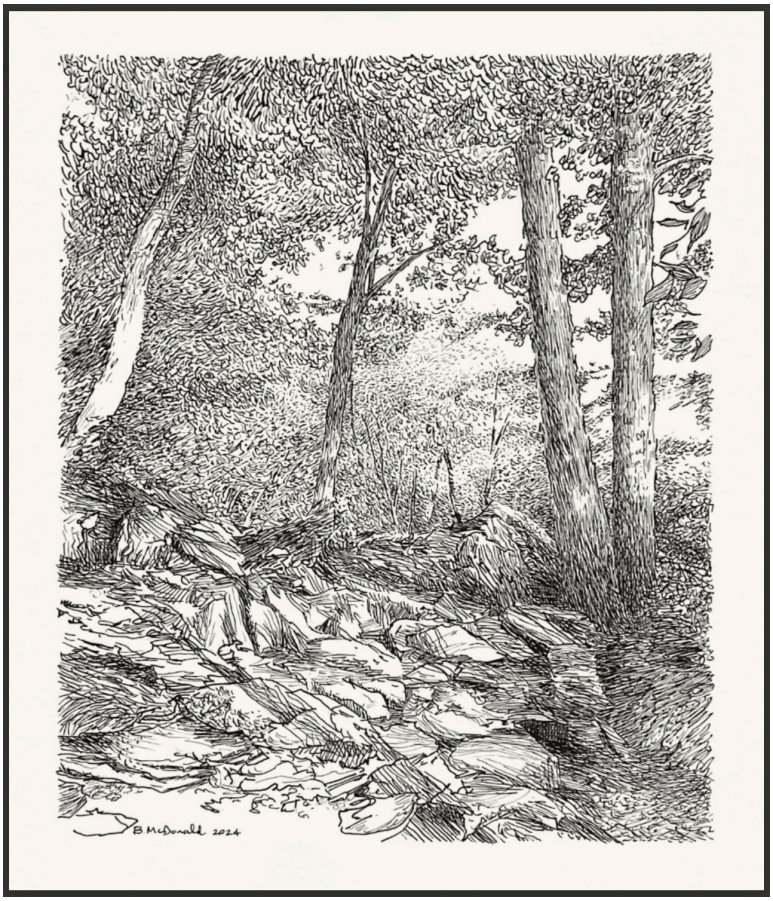
"I often think about ‘Leave no Trace’ and ‘Tread Lightly’—ideas that encourage us to care for our surroundings,” he says. Brandon is concerned about the decline of some nearby trails, particularly the closures of Billy Goat B and parts of Billy Goat C due to storm damage. “These trails are a treasure and deserve care and maintenance,” he says. He believes everyone can help by following park rules, staying on designated paths, leashing dogs, and picking up trash.

Through his art and his actions, Brandon McDonald is a community jewel who offers a thoughtful perspective on the natural beauty of Cabin John.



Nature-inspired artwork by Cabin John resident Brandon McDonald.

You can find Brandon’s art on Instagram: @bmcd_pen_and_ink



Know of another “Jewel of Cabin John” –plant, animal, human or mineral– that might be featured in a future column? Send an email to lovecraven@gmail.com sharing your discovery.



Our Town

by Annemarie Economou Gormley

INSPIRING TEENS: PEACE WORK IN CABIN JOHN



Cabin John peace-makers Tobias (Tobi), 15, and Zakariya (Zaki), 17, Budiani-Saberi.

"If you want to change the world, start with yourself." Mahatma Gandhi

As Bill and I walk throughout the neighborhoods of Cabin John, we often strike up conversations with residents. Both of us step out of our comfort zones to do so, but have learned throughout our lives that chatting with others nearly always pays off. We have met numerous interesting people, made several good friends, and learned so much information. Additionally, through watching a few documentaries on blue zones (where people live exceptionally long lives,) and by reading the results of studies on longevity, we have learned that talking to strangers and acquaintances is linked to longer life expectancy. Brief social interactions can increase the release of oxytocin, a hormone that lowers cortisol levels and reduces stress. Social engagement can help maintain cognitive function and can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, anxiety, depression and dementia. We were already chatting our way around Cabin John, but now we have an increased eagerness to do so.

Recently, Bill and I were walking along Tomlinson Avenue when we struck up a conversation with Debra Budiani-Saberi, who was walking her dog, Rumi. Debra exuded a joyfulness that warmed my heart. I was captivated by her meek, mild persona and sweet, gentle voice. She smiled easily, and seemed to thrive on



Debra Budiani-Saberi and Rumi.

explaining things to us. Debra is a medical anthropologist. She is a facilitator of mindfulness, restorative justice practices and conflict transformation with the DC Peace Team and the Center for Justice and Peace of Eastern Mennonite University. She spoke of her work in Maryland and DC schools.

Having been a North Carolina school teacher, I was interested in learning how Maryland is striving to fully implement restorative justice practices in all their schools. Where I taught, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) was the school-wide approach to discipline. PBIS focuses on creating and maintaining a positive school climate and teaching appropriate behaviors to all students, rather than focusing on punishment for misbehaviors.

Restorative Justice Practices similarly reinforce positive behavior and acknowledge student strengths. Restorative Justice Practices build collaborative community relationships, establish agreements and supports for maintaining those relationships, and advanced tools when relationships need repairs. These practices support all parties involved when harms occur with expectations of accountability for persons who cause harm to make things right. As such, they contrast with punitive responses to harm and instead focus on healing as much as possible.

Whether a teacher is guiding a young kindergartener that ripped up a student's paper or guiding a high schooler who vandalized property, Restorative Justice Practices have processes for harmed parties and persons to cause harm to listen to one another and make requests for repairs. In these examples this may include asking the kindergartener to repair the ripped paper with tape, apologize to the other child and reflect on the inappropriate behavior to determine what would have been a better choice. It may involve the teenager to apologize to the property owner and repair the damaged property.

Debra and her husband, Ali Saberi, have two sons. Zakariya Budiani Saberi, hence Zaki, 17 years old, and Tobias, hence Tobi, 15 years old. They founded the Conflict Capability Club (CCC) for students across the globe who want to build skills to meet conflict with nonviolence, peace and justice. Their website is conflictcapabilityclub.org.

"We believe that every young person has the power to make a difference and this club is about equipping ourselves and each other with the tools to navigate challenges in a way that

See TEENS on pg. 9

Public Works Corner

by Scott Lewis

Virginia Beltway – In Spring 2025, I-495/Beltway travelers just south of the Maryland border will experience something new. Instead of driving on the current lanes that have been in service since this stretch of the Beltway opened in 1962, motorists will ride on newly constructed lanes that are being built on the outside of the current Beltway alignment. The traffic switch for both north- and southbound I-495 will be implemented in phases, as sections of the new, outside lanes are completed.

Westbard Redevelopment – With Giant, Montgomery County Liquors, Oak Barrel & Vine, and Tatte open, this redevelopment effort is entering its second phase with construction in the area formerly occupied by Giant. New apartments, townhomes and retail space will be completed in 2026, along with green space, a park and more parking. Additional information can be found at www.westbardsquare.com.

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

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



Local History

by Rachel Donnan

CABIN JOHN'S HISTORIC SCHOOL BUILDING



The Clara Barton School as it looks today. Some of the original architectural detail can be seen on the second level of the building that faces MacArthur Boulevard.

The Clara Barton Center for Children (CBCC) celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, continuing a tradition of education in what is one of Cabin John's historic school buildings.

As Cabin John grew from the rural pastures of the late 1800s to the village of the 1960s and beyond, local children attended schools that ranged from a nearby one-room log cabin to a small schoolhouse on Wilson Lane, fraught with kids' long walk across the Union Arch Bridge. Local African American children faced further challenges to educational opportunities, moving from various one-room schoolhouses and a five-year period without any schooling options at all. With the opening of the Glen Echo-Cabin John School in 1928, Cabin John's kids returned to this side of the bridge. In 1955, it was among the first integrated schools in Montgomery County and served as a successful model for others.

When Washington, DC began to limit student enrollment to local taxpayers only, the Glen Echo School on Wilson Lane became more crowded, with 91 students spread across two additional buildings. Cabin John and Glen Echo citizens lobbied for a new school. Land was purchased from the owner of the Cabin John Hotel, Mrs. Bobinger, for $15,000 and despite the contentious issue of naming rights (Glen Echo ultimately got top billing, while Cabin John the location), the community welcomed the Glen Echo-Cabin John School. With strong civic pride from the start, the new school was the recipient of gifts from local groups, including not one but two pianos, as well as a cherished painting donated by a local woman, "only to send her husband hurrying to the school that evening to retrieve their marriage license which had always been kept in the back of the picture frame." Citizens donated flowers and shrubs and helped with landscaping.

Designed by prominent Washington architect Howard Wright Cutler, the original red brick Glen Echo-Cabin John School was a larger version of the Garrett Park School, also built in 1928. These modern buildings were a departure from the traditional, domestic spaces of small one- and two-room schoolhouses and reflected Montgomery County's growing identity through a more urban, modern architecture. The original facade of the Glen Echo-Cabin John School (which faces MacArthur Boulevard), with its Art Deco lines and centered decorative stone relief, was considered the most architecturally important aspect of the building. Unfortunately, a 1960s addition to the school partly obscured the noteworthy facade, though one can still glimpse details on the second level exterior.



The Glen Echo-Cabin John School circa 1940.

According to a Maryland Historic Trust site survey, the school "exemplifies the spirit of Montgomery County's new academic vision....The new image which this building presents–the image of a solid and stable institution that is both tradition and modern–is the visual equivalent of major reforms in the public school system during the post World War 1 period."

See SCHOOL next page

SEEKING: Layout Designer for *The Village News*

Do you enjoy reading the VN? Have you ever used any sort of layout or design tool for a holiday card or class newsletter? Want to join a great team and meet lots of CJ'ers? Then you might be our next layout designer!

Contact Heidi Lewis - heidibrownlewis@gmail.com - to find out more and see if you might be willing to lend a hand.

"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

SCHOOL *Continued*

In 1944, befitting this symbolic reform, the school changed its name to honor Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross. And in 1954, it became one of the first schools in the county to integrate following the landmark *Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education*. The number of African American students at the school–14 percent–was higher than any other elementary school in the county at the time.

After Bannockburn Elementary School opened in 1957, enrollment at the Clara Barton School dropped. It closed in 1974 and became the recreation center. That following year, a one-room kindergarten class was opened. Today, the Clara Barton Center for Children continues to teach and nurture preschool children in this historic local building.



Photo of a 4th and 5th grade class at the Clara Barton School, 1955. Photo from Cabin John Collection. ~VN

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

TEENS *Continued from pg. 8*

promotes understanding and positive change. We are launching this video series offering insights, advice and wisdom from committed peacebuilders. These are leaders that dedicate their entire lives to creating peace within and in their relationships in the world. We hope their stories, lessons and messages will encourage you to join a future rooted in peace and justice. Together we can be the change we want to see in the world." Zaki and Tobi Saberi quote on conflictcapabilityclub.org.

I asked Zaki if his mother's job as a medical anthropologist and her passions for building empathy and mercy, working with the underprivileged, addressing healing from trauma, and advocating for restorative justice inspired them to start the club. He told me that his mom's work in social healing and peacebuilding extends to all areas of her life, including his family, so yes!

"Since we were young, we participated in Family Heart Camps to learn nonviolent communication (NVC) and other non-violence trainings, service projects to support people in need of food and shelter and involvement or exposure to social justice initiatives like environmental justice, prison reform, restorative justice processes. We have been able to meet a lot of her amazing colleagues who also do this work across the globe."

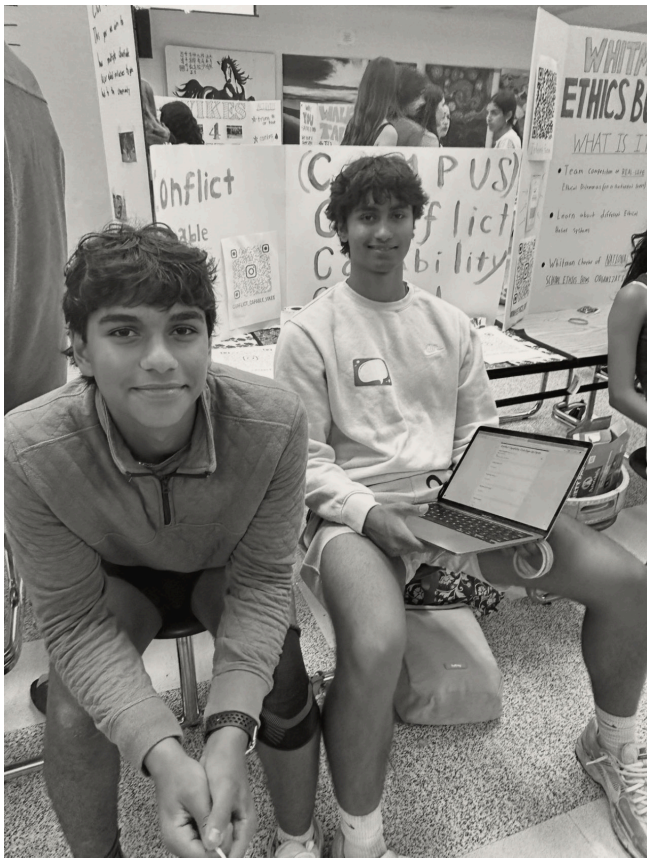
Zaki also explained how having a father from India influenced his outlook on life. "When he was a young adult, he and our family on his side experienced a lot of violent conflict there in the Hindu-Muslim riots, especially where they lived in Bombay. He also experienced some racial targeting in the U.S. at various times, including a time he and I were targeted and threatened based on how an offender read us as to be of foreign origin. We wish we could have had the powers and skills to prevent those and all experiences of violence and so these factors feed our interest in this club. The club aims to provide training and teachings for youth to gain skill sets in non-violence work, like non-violent communication/courageous conversations, depolarization, forgiveness processes, restorative justice, unarmed civilian protection, bystander intervention, non-violent self-defense, etc. Since it's difficult to convene a lot of students at once, we started the interview series to provide resources of teachings from peacebuilders who work through conflict and who we can learn a lot from their experiences." You can watch these interviews on their website.

Zaki and Tobi have also addressed their commitment to peace outside of school. Zaki told me about his time at the White House.

"It was an honor to be an official Advisor to the White House as an invited member of a Peace Circle group with the organization, Black Women for Positive Change in October 2024. We met over several months to prepare as a group of students, mostly from Southeast DC, on how we experienced and could address violence in our lives. Mr. Greg Jackson, the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, invited us and was involved in this process with us where our input was added to the White House record. It was exciting to convene in the same room where Martin Luther King negotiated and signed the Civil Rights Act with President Lyndon B. Johnson and where the Voting Rights Act was also signed."

See TEENS next page

TEENS *Continued*



Tobi and Zaki Budiani-Saberi presenting the Conflict Capability Club for students.

Tobi told me about his encounter with Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"I was extremely excited when I learned that Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was temporarily residing three doors down from us! I have been especially interested in my AP U.S. Government class this year and so I was eager to engage her about her experience as the first black woman justice. I wrote a letter to her about my curiosities and fondness of her work and asked her if we could interview her or have her participate in a webinar with us at her convenience. We are trying to plan events with college students at Howard and Georgetown so we wanted to consider these options as hosts for an event with her. I was extra pleased when she sent me a hand-written reply letter about my questions and encouraging my own journey of peace and justice work. She also was very kind to be open to possibly participating in events with us when she is out of court session. We are working to arrange this and hopefully to make it possible!"

A chance encounter while walking the streets of Cabin John led me to learning about this interesting, passionate family. Outside of the club that the boys co-founded, Zaki is an EMT with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department and Tobi volunteers with Whitman Best Buddies Club. Both boys train in springboard and platform diving with the Montgomery Dive Club and love snowboarding. ~*vn*

If you have a story to share with "Our Town", please contact me at Annemarie.gormley23@gmail.com.





CABIN JOHN HOUSE TOUR







Saturday, May 3, 2025
1 – 5 pm (rain or shine)

9 unique CJ homes



Tickets $25. No children under 12



Ticket Sales

In-person - pay by cash, check payable to CJCA, or Venmo
At Clara Barton NRC (in the parking lot by the playground)
April 30, 9-10 am & 12-1 pm
May 1, 6-8 pm
May 3, 12-3 pm

Online - pay by credit card (+ fee) April 9 - May 3
https://2025-house-tour.cheddarup.com

MORE HOUSE MONITORS NEEDED!!
Contact marcyharrison@earthlink.net or 301-908-8906 to volunteer for 1 or 2-hour shift on May 3.





DID YOU KNOW?

You may have heard about a selling approach called "private exclusive" or "private sale." Does this method serve a seller as well as a sale on the open market? Here are the myths and the facts:

Myth: Private listings attract special buyers
Fact: "Exclusive" sounds fancy, but it excludes buyers
Myth: Private listings get the best price
Fact: Homes sold publicly sell for 17% more
Myth: Private listings sell faster
Fact: Public listings sell three times faster
Myth: Private listings offer more privacy and control
Fact: Sellers can require pre-qualified buyers and by appointment-only showings
Myth: Private listings create an aura of exclusivity
Fact: Limited exposure means limited competition.

"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

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN CABIN JOHN

ACTIVE

6514 76th Street
List Price $3,599,000
6 BR, 5/1 BA, 2 GAR
4,471 sq. ft.

6517 79th Street
List Price $2,999,000
6BR, 6/1 BA, 2 GAR
6,055 sq. ft.

ACTIVE UNDER CONTRACT

7870 Archbold Terrace
List Price $749,900
3 BR, 2/1 BA, 0 GAR
1,536 sq. ft.

CLOSED

6418 83rd Place
List Price $1,350,000
4 BR, 3/1 BA, 1 GAR
2,279 sq. ft.

8018 Cypres Grove Lane
List Price $1,275,000
5 BR, 3/1 BA, 2 GAR
2,004 sq. ft.

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

Manion + Associates Architects
7307 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 216
Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.7000
www.manionarchitects.com
Contact: Thomas Manion, AIA





Renovations | Additions | New Homes

Poems For Passersby

by Meredith Griggs

Spring and All

by William Carlos Williams

By the road to the contagious hospital
under the surge of the blue
mottled clouds driven from the
northeast—a cold wind. Beyond, the
waste of broad, muddy fields
brown with dried weeds, standing and fallen

patches of standing water
the scattering of tall trees

All along the road the reddish
purplish, forked, upstanding, twiggy
stuff of bushes and small trees
with dead, brown leaves under them
leafless vines—

Lifeless in appearance, sluggish
Dazed spring approaches—

They enter the new world naked
cold, uncertain of all
save that they enter. All about them
the cold, familiar wind—

Now the grass, tomorrow
the stiff curl of wildcarrot leaf

One by one objects are defined—
It quickens: clarity, outline of leaf

But now the stark dignity of
entrance—Still, the profound change
has come upon them: rooted, they
grip down and begin to awaken

William Carlos Williams, a physician and poet, wrote Spring and All, *one of his most famous poems, in 1923. He was later named Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and awarded a Pulitzer Prize.*



Susan Gelb of Arden Road pauses on upper 78th Street to read a poem. April is National Poetry Month.

CJCA News

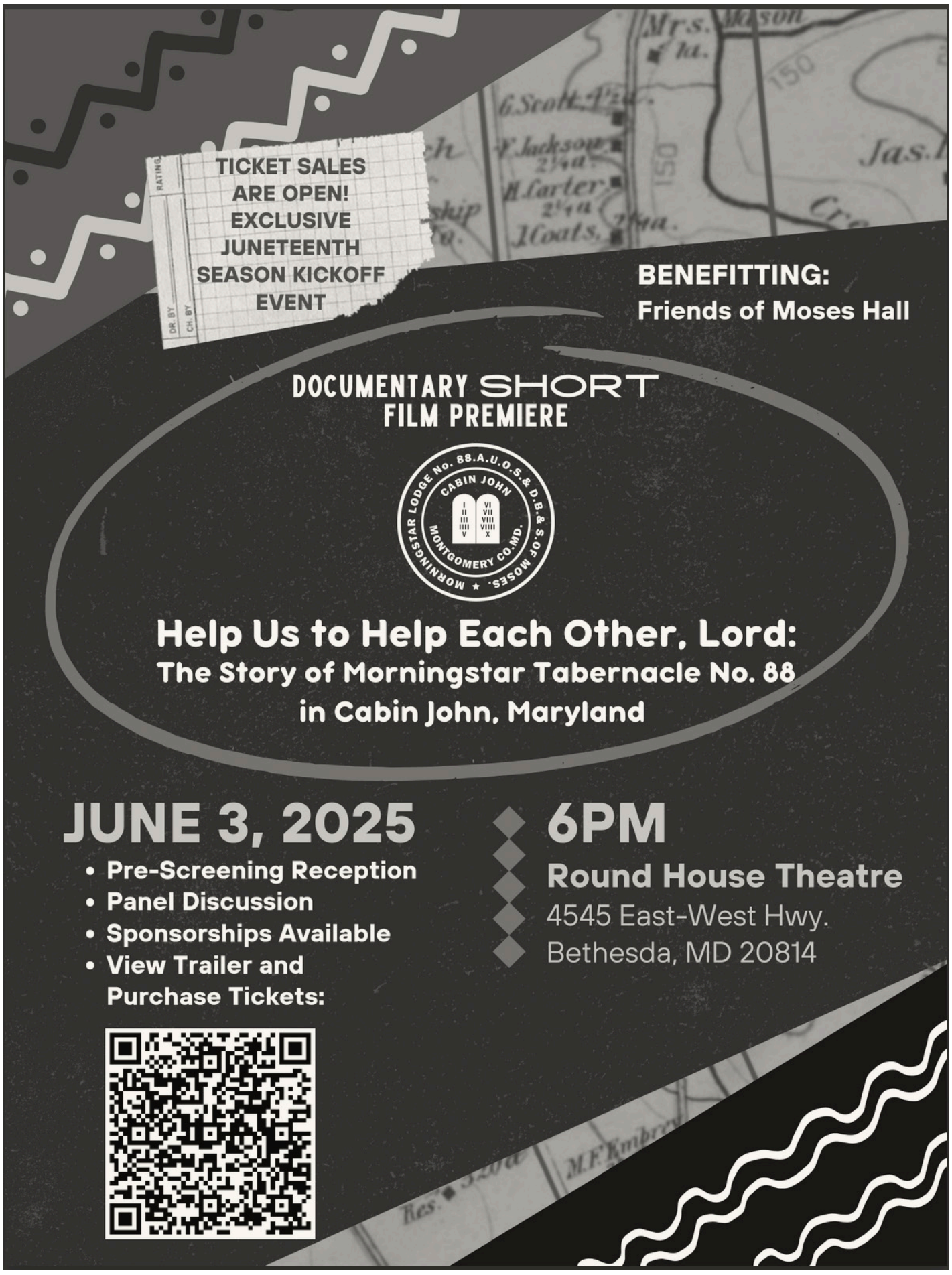
by Scott Lewis

Please join your neighbors at the next meeting of the CJCA. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 23 at 7:30pm** at Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center. You can also join online at https://meet.google.com/kga-refj-dix.

This month's topic will be **Crime and Crime Prevention**. Our Montgomery County Community Liaison **Officer Desmond Johnson** will be attending to lead the discussion.

The last meeting of the year will be **Wednesday, May 28th at 7:30pm** at CBNRC and online at https://meet.google.com/tpr-rbor-kyo. May's topics include a **presentation on Plummers Island** and also the election of CJCA Officers for the 2025-2026.




TICKET SALES ARE OPEN! EXCLUSIVE JUNETEENTH SEASON KICKOFF EVENT
BENEFITTING:
Friends of Moses Hall
DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM PREMIERE
MORNINGSTAR LODGE No. 88 A.U.O.S. & D.B. & S. OF MOSES.
CABIN JOHN
MONTGOMERY CO. MD.
Help Us to Help Each Other, Lord:
The Story of Morningstar Tabernacle No. 88 in Cabin John, Maryland
JUNE 3, 2025
• Pre-Screening Reception
• Panel Discussion
• Sponsorships Available
• View Trailer and Purchase Tickets:
6PM
Round House Theatre
4545 East-West Hwy.
Bethesda, MD 20814

Minnie's Island Community Conservancy

15 Oak saplings planted thanks to a generous grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust



Some of our tree planters: Tim Bragan, Evan Osnos, Sandra Hayward, Jim Mabry and David Sherer

minniesisland.org

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.

www.lisanmartintherapy.com
202.537.6614

▪ 7707 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, MD 20818

The Grateful Shred

Coming to Cabin John
Saturday, May 17, 9am–12 noon

- Are those pesky credit card offers piling up?
- Sensitive documents need to be recycled?
- See them safely shredded at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center.
- Your **donation of $5.00 per box** will go to the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center (FCBCC) to help fund activities and needs at the Center.

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

Montgomery County Rec classes available now for registration

Call or visit CBNRC for information on these and other classes.

For Youth

ART EXPRESSIONS
- Step by step guidance with media and techniques
- Hands-on meets creativity
- Tuesdays, 5-6:30pm, March 25-May 13, Ages 7-12
- Activity **#R03026-301**

GOATS ON WHEELS
- Basic skateboarding fundamentals
- Wednesdays, April 23-May 28
- Ages 5-7 from 4-5pm, ages 8-11, from 5-6pm
- Activity **#R05363** for both classes

For Ages 55+

TAI CHI
- For beginners with some acquaintance with Tai Chi movement principles
- Mondays, 10-11am, April 21-June 9; Activity **#R03027-323**
- Wednesdays, 12-1pm, April 23-June 11; Activity **#R03027-393**

ZUMBA
- Wednesdays, 3-4 pm, April 9-June 11; Activity #R03027-394

LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE
- Focusing on resistance training, balance, core, mobilization, & fall prevention
- Alternate Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30am, April 1-June 10
- Demo April 1, then April 15 & 29, May 13 & 27, and June 10
- Activity **#R03027-364**

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

FCBCC is looking for additional board members to help with events and support the center. Please contact Burr Gray (burrgray@aol.com) if you are interested in this worthy cause.



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:
5 pm, April 25, 2025
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

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!

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

APRIL	*All events at Clara Barton Neighborhood Rec Center unless otherwise noted*
13	Friends of Cabin John Creek Spring Cleanup, 1-3pm Meet at lower playground downhill from Clara Barton field aka Cabin John Local Park
23	7:30pm CJCA Mtg - Crime and Prevention with MCPD
MAY	
3	CJ Home Tour 1-5pm
4	CJCA Blood Drive 10am-3pm
17	Grateful Shred 9am - 12pm

SAVE THE DATE
- June 3 - Friends of Moses Hall Documentary Premiere, Round House Theater 6pm
- June 7 - Minnie's Island Isle-Fest