The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND | FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 59 | ISSUE 02

LAND USE PROFESSIONALS SPEAK WITH COMMUNITY

by Charlotte Troup Leighton and Scott Lewis

A large gathering of neighbors participated in CJCA's January meeting, which featured a very interesting panel discussion on building and zoning in Montgomery County. Panelists included **Meredith Wellington** (Planning Advisor to County Executive Marc Elrich), **Debbie Spielberg** (Assistant to the County Executive), **Michelle Rosenfeld** (Land Use, Zoning Lawyer), and was moderated by **Heidi Lewis** and **Charlotte Troup Leighton**.

The county faces a housing shortage, and with heavy lobbying from builders, the consensus is that the current county council is very pro-development, with only a few members supporting slow growth. This stance is reflected in the current planning board as well. In fact, most panelists asserted that this is the most pro-development planning board ever. The planning board is not elected, but appointed, and thus is less focused on specific neighborhoods, such as Cabin John.

County land planning begins with the master plan, a long-term policy document that guides the future growth, development, and land use within a county. It sets a vision for how the community should evolve over time and influences zoning ordinances, infrastructure investments, and public

See LAND on pg. 2

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Editor's Note

by Shelly McKenzie

With this issue the *Village News* bids farewell to one nature columnist and welcomes another. **Eric Dinerstein**, who has written a regular feature in these pages for more than a decade, is moving on to greener pastures (pun absolutely intended). In his stead, Maryland Master Naturalist **Joe Saliunas** joins us for a new feature, "The View from Minnie's Island," beginning this month.

Cabin John readers have benefitted from Eric's erudite musings on nature for 11 years. Readers have been treated to treatises on moths, muskrats, bees, invasive plants, and chestnuts, among other flora and fauna, all with proper scientific nomenclature, and references to Thoreau and Shakespeare thrown in for fun. We wish Eric fair skies and following winds as he embarks on new professional adventures using information technology to conserve wildlife around the world.

Joe is an experienced birder and outdoors enthusiast, as well as vice-chair of Minnie's Island Community Conservancy. Joe wants readers to find the wonder in the natural world, even and especially in their neighborhoods.

See EDITOR on pg. 5

CJ HOUSE TOUR - VOLUNTEER HOUSE MONITORS NEEDED

by Marcy Harrrison

The first CJCA house and garden tour since 2008 will occur on **Saturday, May 3, from 1-5 pm**, rain or shine. There will be nine fascinating houses, all located in Cabin John, open for viewing by tour participants. We will talk more about the houses on the tour and ticket sales in next month's *Village News*.

Right now we would like to start soliciting volunteers to help us with the event! Of utmost importance is the role of house monitor. We plan to have two house monitor volunteers stationed in each house for a 2-hour shift (1-3 pm or 3-5 pm).

See HOUSE on pg. 3

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

Neighborly News

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

The celebration of life for Cabin John original **Reed Martin** will be held on **March 29, 2025,** at 1:00 pm at Bethesda United Methodist Church, 8300 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Musicians are invited to bring instruments for a jam session following the service. Light refreshments will be served. RSVPs can be made at https://everloved.com/life-of/reed-martin/funeral/?flow=201 The service will be live-streamed as well.

Lisa Mack and **Griff Curtis** moved from Lorton, VA to River Trail Court this past July with their four-year-old son August and one-year-old son Roman. Griff and Lisa were both Army physicians in Virginia, but after the move, Griff is now stationed at Walter Reed and Lisa transitioned to civilian life, but still works in Virginia. They are enjoying the towpath and the playground near Cabin John Bridge.

Peter and Nataley Ramsumair moved to Caraway Street in December from Chevy Chase along with son Eli (2.5 years old), full-time nanny Beh, and Milo, their 6-year old labradoodle. Peter works in finance and Nataley is a pediatrician. They are excited to join the community and love kid- and dog-friendly activities.

After spending the last 20 years in NYC, **Richard and Tina Kim** relocated back to the area in August to be closer to family. They live on 81st Street with their daughter, Dylan, 12, who is in 7th grade at Georgetown Day, and son Carter, 6, who is in 1st grade at Bannockburn. They also have a spunky pet green cheek conure named Kermit and just added a golden retriever puppy named Zoe to their family in December. Richard works for a financial technology startup and Tina works for a non-profit.

Trivia Night was a great success with 18 teams, 140 players, a dozen volunteers, and a really fun time. Special thanks to **volunteers Dan Mustico, Pat Fitzgerald, Florence Lehr, Tina Eck, Elliott Schoen, Helen Harris, Clive Harris, Rick Duffy, Susan Shipp, Pete Couste, Joanne Carl, Scott Lewis, Heidi Lewis.** Congrats to the Wine Knots on their second win in a row!!



Reigning trivia champs the **Wine Knots**. [L-R] Elliott Schoen, Helen Harris, Jeff Shipp, Meredith McGuire, Susan Shipp, Mike Ellert-Beck, Amy Elsbree, Clive Harris.

LAND *Continued from pg. 1*

services. The county planning board is guided by the master plan, but has the power to supersede it. Zoning ordinances are objective standards approved by the county council that dictate what can be built or how an existing building can be modified. The Cabin John master plan was last updated in 1990. In the latest county growth plan, Thrive Montgomery 2050, Cabin John is considered a "corridor-focused" growth area.

The CJCA, via the *Village News*, previously presented information on the Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (see October 2024 issue). The panel's view is that the particular incarnation will not proceed BUT some of its proponents on the council may advance certain sections of the original plan and urged that everyone stay up-to-date on council activity. To that point, **Andrew Friedson**, Montgomery County Councilmember for District 1, recently introduced a 5-point plan (see graphic at right).

The panel suggested the following steps to ensure that Cabin John and its citizens influence land use that preserves and enhances its unique character:

- Get involved as early as possible with all development activity and subdivision attempts.
- Review any zoning or building applications to ensure they comply with regulations.
- Hire a land use attorney with Montgomery County experience to help review applications.
- Review online resources such as Montgomery Planning development review dashboard – https://montgomeryplanning.org/development/ – where all development applications are posted.
- Attend hearings to ask questions of the planning staff and voice substantive concerns.

The CJCA, on the advice of the panel, is organizing a committee to examine land use practices that impact Cabin John. ~*VN*



HOUSE *Continued from pg. 1*

This allows monitors to have time to view other houses if they want to participate in the tour. The role of the monitor is to check in visitors as they enter the house, keep a watchful eye out to make sure the house and visitors remain safe, enforce any "house rules" that the owners have posted, and answer any questions they can, based on information homeowners have provided. (Some, but not all, of the homeowners will also be there to answer questions.) This job requires standing all or part of the time.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a house monitor, please contact **Marcy Harrison**, marcyharrison@earthlink.net, or text/call 301-908-8906, and indicate your shift time preference. There are lots of open slots to fill–36 volunteers are needed! As a thank you, house monitors can receive a discounted price on tour tickets.

We will also need a few volunteers to sell tickets on the day of the event, from 12-3 pm. These are one or two-hour shifts, sitting at a table. Please contact Marcy if you are interested in volunteering to be a ticket seller and indicate your time preference.



Thanks for helping your Cabin John community!

~VN

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

GIVING TREE RESULTS

by Lori Rieckelman

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the SOME Holiday Tree! This was the 15th year that Cabin John collaborated with Brookmont and Glen Echo in this effort. All together, **$14,500** in gift cards was donated. Every year we hear how our contributions have brightened the lives of residents in SOME's transitional housing.

Here are some of this year's comments:

"Moving into our own place was our Christmas gift, but you all allowed me to have gifts under the tree in our new place this year."–CJ

"With all the changes, SOME still found a way to give us gift cards for the holiday."–CL

"I sure appreciate those gift cards because they came in handy, and I was able to have a nice dinner. I was so happy and it was a surprise I needed."–MH

"Thank you so much, I really liked what I received, and it brought me to tears. This has been a very hard year, and I appreciate the care taken for my family."–RW



We look forward to continuing this tradition this December. Thank you again, Cabin John! *~VN*

CJCA News

by Scott and Heidi Lewis

The February Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center (CBNRC) and virtually via https://meet.google.com/ndm-rpuh-rum

The meeting will feature an informative presentation from **Tree Friends Unlimited**. Tree Friends Unlimited is a group concerned with the accelerating spread of invasive species overwhelming Montgomery County's parklands, roads, and neighborhoods. As volunteers, they assist the National Park Service, the county, and residents in removing invasive vines that are smothering trees and plants that are destroying native ecosystems. As advocates, they are allied with other groups to seek broader public awareness of the growing problem, achieve better funding, and establish coordinated action to counter invasives. *~VN*

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



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I BID FAREWELL, FELLOW NATURALIST

by Eric Dinerstein
Illustrations by Trudy Nicholson

Close readers of the *Village News* might have noticed the absence recently of my monthly columns on local natural history and the stunning illustrations of our esteemed Cabin John artist-in-residence, **Trudy Nicholson**. The truth is that this current article, my last, has been a challenge to write. Farewells are always the most difficult of human interactions to put into words. This task is especially difficult because of those of you who have expressed appreciation to me verbally, by email, or even old-fashioned letters. I will miss you even if you never wrote, but perhaps took a second look at the bird at your winter feeder or that plant along the Potomac because your eyes have been opened to natural history.

For me, writing the monthly nature column and spotlighting the remarkable species living on our doorstep beginning with the April 2013 issue, has been an enriching 11 years of local discovery. The first essay focused on spring singers—the wood warblers that herald the arrival of a new season—while the last, in the October 2024 issue of the *Village News*, featured the common carp. In between, there have been 100+ articles, each exploring the ecology of our non-human neighbors in Cabin John. Over that long decade, my my professional work has increased in geographic scope and interests. Now, the demands of creating a company to manufacture a new technology called TrailGuard AI has taken center stage. This company uses state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) in tiny cameras that is sent over cell, long-range radio, or satellite to park rangers or villagers in Asia and Africa to provide real-time alerts to: 1) stop poachers before they kill wildlife and 2) detect large mammals that enter into conflict with humans near villages—think elephants and tigers. I have also started on other projects to help save nature around the world, so something had to give.

Even after 11 years of these essays, there are still many more stories to tell: there are more than 1,800 native plant species in our area, hundreds of species of vertebrates, and thousands of invertebrates, and I have covered only a fraction of them. I hope that in some small way I have inspired you to take a fresh look at the natural world around us. The great biologist and defender of Charles Darwin, Thomas Henry Huxley, once wrote, "To persons uninstructed in natural history, their country or seaside stroll is a walk through a gallery filled with wondrous works of art, nine-tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall." It was Trudy's aim in fine illustration and mine in prose to serve as a kind of periodic gallery guide to Cabin John's nature.

I was planning on writing a longer piece on a vision for Cabin John in January 2035—what our community would look like if we find a way to continue to reconnect with nature and each other. Since this is the last column, here is an annotated wish list:

By 2035, most Cabin John residents would have converted their monoculture grass lawns to delightful gardens of native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, and ferns, or at least a quarter of their yards, to enrich our lives with more birds, beetles, and butterflies.

By 2035, Cabin John residents would have decided to join the movement to reduce light pollution and return to children, non-human creatures and ourselves the dark sky and an enhanced experience of star gazing. Light pollution hurts us all.



By 2035, the majority of Cabin John residents would have switched over to native plants that have no need for watering, fertilizers, or insecticides, keeping us free from exposure to cancer-causing substances.

By 2035, even where new houses have gone in and trees cut down, efforts would be underway for a massive replanting of oaks, maples, hackberry, and other natives to create a band of forest stretching from the water tower on Archbold Terrace and Cabin Road, down to MacArthur Boulevard, and all the way to Riverside Drive on the Canal—a fully connected forested corridor allowing birds to fly from the Potomac River to the top of our neighborhood in uninterrupted greenery.



By 2035, when on a walk along the Potomac you would be able to stop and drink the water and see native fish and plants in a restored river.

Finally, by 2035, every child growing up in Cabin John would be able at age ten to name at least ten native plants and animals.



Together, we can do this. Thank you again for your attention to these columns. May your Cabin John nature strolls in the days and months ahead be glorious and filled with discovery and resolve to do what you are able to preserve and restore our area's nature. ~*VN*





EDITOR *Continued from pg. 1*

Many of us in Cabin John were attracted to the area because of its proximity to the canal, river and natural environment. Joe intends to highlight some of the beauty that surrounds us.

We are fortunate that the artwork that has accompanied Eric's articles will continue. Artist **Trudy Nicholson** intends to pair Joe's extensive photography collection with her illustrations. In this issue, readers can enjoy some of Trudy's past work with Eric's last column, which details his hopes for the environment in Cabin John in 2035. ~*VN*

View From Minnie's Island

by Joe Saliunas

FUN DUCKS!

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

This is the first of what will hopefully be a series of regular articles describing what is going on in nature down by the river near Cabin John. Most of my observations will come from Minnie's Island but the observations you can make anywhere along the river near Cabin John will be similar. I hope to share the sense of wonder you can experience when you spend time by the Potomac.

It looks like this winter is starting colder than average and cold weather has always meant "Fun Ducks" for me. There are some ducks that you can expect to find year-round in the C&O Canal or Potomac River, such as Mallards. However, during the winter, and especially in cold winters when the river at least partially freezes, you can find the fun ducks. For me, fun ducks are ducks that breed to our north, visit in winter, and just look really cool and different from the ducks you see here in the summer.

One group of fun ducks are the diving ducks that feed underwater. This can be frustrating to the bird watcher due to the "now you see them, now you don't" phenomenon. Our most common diving ducks in winter include the Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Ring-Necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. I remember a cold winter day several years ago when I saw a raft (large flocks of ducks are called rafts) of several hundred Ring-Necked Ducks below Cabin John Island. Common Mergansers can be found year-round in the channel by Minnie's Island. Diving ducks in the winter like to eat protein, and their food source includes freshwater clams and mussels, crayfish, insect larvae, and small fish. These ducks are mostly seen far out in the deeper river waters.

Another group of fun ducks are the dabbling ducks that feed close to the surface. Our most common dabbling ducks include the Mallard, American Black Duck, and Wood Duck. These ducks mostly eat aquatic vegetation. These ducks can be seen in the canal and the river.

A third group are not ducks but behave like ducks. Grebes and loons feed like diving ducks but are in different families of birds. For many years, you could regularly see Pied-billed Grebes in the channel by Sycamore Island. Common Loons have been reported but are quite uncommon.

So how can you see these ducks? A good pair of binoculars is essential. I use 8x42 binoculars–a good balance between magnification (8 power) and letting in a lot of light for a bright image (42 mm objective lens). Birders who regularly look for ducks almost always use a spotting scope mounted on a tripod. Spotting scopes have greater magnification (20-60 power) but are not as easy to handle as binoculars.

A good way to tell if there are fun ducks in the river is to monitor the birding website, eBird. It features a wealth of information and there is a specific link that shows recent reports from Locks 8 and 9 in Cabin John. There are typically several reports posted each week. Check it out at https://ebird.org/hotspot/L761179/recent-checklists. Posts in mid-January recorded both Common and Hooded Mergansers.

Happy birding! ~VN



Male (top) and female Common Mergansers off Minnie's Island, February 21, 2024.



Male (top) and female Hooded Mergansers off Cabin John Island, January 13, 2025.

Public Works Corner

by Scott Lewis

Some updates on local projects for public works enthusiasts:

Stabilization of dry laid stone wall at Mile Marker 11 (log wall)–The towpath is now open between miles 11 and 11.5. Carderock Recreation Area Parking Lot B (mile 10.75) is closed. Parking lots A, C, and D will remain open through construction. See nps.gov for more information.

Virginia 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension/Hot Lanes–The big beam installation, where 495N was temporarily shut down and rerouted, was completed in late January. The beams were installed at the Dulles Toll Road Extension intersection. Overall work remains on schedule for completion late this year. See vdot.virgina.gov for more information. ~VN

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are taking out a mortgage on a new home, the lender may require a homeowners' insurance policy for the duration of the mortgage. If your mortgage is paid off, or if you have paid in cash, no law requires you to maintain insurance. However, having insurance is generally a good idea to ensure that your assets are protected. In the event of a loss, there are three types of reimbursement:

Actual Cash Value - the insurer pays the cost to fix the home and replace your personal belongings, minus any depreciation

Replacement Cost Value - the insurer will reimburse the money needed to make repairs and/or purchase a comparable new model at current prices without taking depreciation into account

Guaranteed or Extended Replacement Cost - the former policy pays the actual cost to replace a home regardless of the policy limit while the latter policy gives extra coverage above the policy limit up to a set percentage.

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Rachelle Cherol

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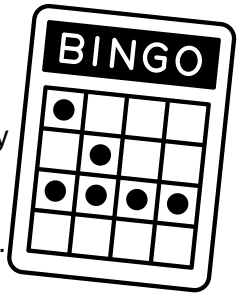
Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

Cabin John Family Bingo Night

February 28 (a Friday) from 7-9 pm

Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center

State Delegate Marc Korman and **State Senator Sara Love** will call the numbers. Pizza and drinks for sale. **Only $5 per card.**



Student volunteers needed; SSL credit available. . Organized by Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center (FCBCC). Net proceeds go to support the Center. FCBCC is looking for additional Board members. Contact is Burr Gray - burrgray@aol.com.

Rec Center Events

Spring Class Registration starts **February 19**

55+ Casino Royale: Coffield Community Center on **February 8th** from 12pm-3pm (2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring, 240-777-4900. *Note this is not at the Clara Barton location*.)

Club Friday: **February 21,** 7-9 pm

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



Our Town

by Annemarie Economou Gormley

THE PROPOSAL



Dedication plaque on the bench in Seven Locks Park

On December 7, 2024, Chris Gormley, on bended knee, proposed to Tawana Johnson, as she sat on the bench dedicated to Chris' mom, Sharon Gormley, in Seven Locks Local Park. A few feet away, applause erupted on the pickleball court, all players smiling ear to ear.

Upon her passing, Sharon Gormley's family arranged for the bench in the park to be dedicated to her. The plaque reads, "SHARON GORMLEY, ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS AND MEMORIES!!!" Chris wanted to include his mother on his special engagement day, so proposing to Tawana on Sharon's bench seemed ideal. Chris also wanted to include Tawana's parents, who live in Jamaica, so he asked his dad and me to film and photograph the event for them. He planned to share the photos and video with his soon-to-be in-laws when he visited them for the holidays. I was elated that my new stepson was including me on his big day.

Bill and I eagerly jumped at the chance to document this occasion, but as we thought through the logistics, we realized it was going to be harder than we thought. Chris told us his plan was to stop by the Seven Locks Local Park in the morning on his way to our house under the pretense that his dog, Doba, needed to be walked, and while strolling through the park he would ask Tawana to sit on the special bench for a moment. Chris intended his proposal to be a surprise for Tawana, so our presence in the park would raise suspicions. Additionally, Chris' words were meant to be private, so Bill and I needed to record and photograph from afar. We had to be hidden from Tawana's view, but have a clear shot of the special moment. We hoped Doba wouldn't spot us or use his incredible sense of smell to detect us nearby.

Bill and I went to the bench as soon as there was daylight to scope out our options and develop a game plan. I tried crawling up the playground slide, hiding in the tunnel portion, with my iPhone peeking out from within. Bill said the bright screen was too noticeable. Maybe I could hide in the wooded area, but with all the limbs bare, there wasn't much camouflage. Eventually, it became evident that the perfect location for me to hide while filming was behind the plywood board attached to the pickleball court fence. I could easily film with the camera lens placed strategically in a space on the chain link fence. Bill and I went home to thaw out and wait for a text from Chris saying he was on the way.

Moments after the text, we were back in the park preparing to capture Chris popping the question.

"Can I talk to you all for a moment?" I shouted out to the players on the pickleball court.

They gathered in front of me, probably surmising that I was about to complain about the loud whacking of the pickleball. As I pointed to the bench, I asked, "Do you see the bench over there dedicated to Sharon Gormley? Well, her son is going to propose to his girlfriend there in a few minutes. I am Chris' stepmom, and I'll be hiding over there filming the event."

They all looked relieved that I was sharing happy news.

"Cool!" commented one player.

"That's awesome!" commented another.

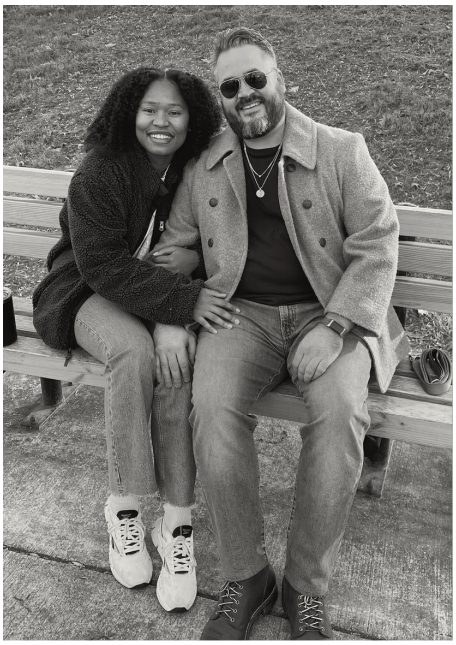
"How can we help? We would love to be involved!" asked another.



Popping the question on bended knee.

I wanted to ask them if they knew any barbershop quartet songs because in a Hallmark movie, that would definitely happen, but instead I just reassured them that I wasn't a voyeur. There was a good, wholesome reason for me to be lurking and filming through the fence.

Eventually, Chris and Tawana came walking down the path and sat on the bench. I filmed as Chris slid off the bench and onto a bended knee. I could see Doba wagging her tail and staring in the direction of Bill taking photos. When Chris rose and hugged Tawana, I heard the cheering and applause of not only the players on the pickleball court, but also the dog walkers in the area. At that moment, I was filled with gratitude that my new stepson had found a way to not only include his father and me during his proposal, but also illustrate his love and respect for his dearly departed mother during the special moment. My heart grew that day as I recognized the blessing of gaining a loving, considerate stepson and another beautiful daughter-in-law. ~*vn*



Tawana Johnson and Chris Gormley at Seven Locks Park moments after the proposal.



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WE WANT YOU!...IN THE 2025 CJ DIRECTORY

by Marcy Harrison

Did you become a Cabin John resident after March 2021? Have you changed your email–or abandoned your landline–or had another child/children or become an empty nester? The CJCA Neighborhood Directory will be updated and printed this fall. It is time for you to provide updated contact information!

We are seeking to hear from EVERY resident of Cabin John (in both 20818 and 20817 zip codes), to either confirm the existing information ("no changes") or provide updated information to include in the print and online versions of the directory. You decide what information you want to share, and it can be different for the print versus online directory. You do not need to be a member of CJCA to be included in the directory.

We are reaching out in several ways, so you may receive more than one request. Pick the easiest method that works for you to respond, but please do respond!

Method 1: Reply to the email you may have received. We sent an email to all addresses currently listed in the online directory at the end of January. The instructions are to reply with "no changes" or reply and submit any changed information to CJDirectory2020@gmail.com.

Method 2: Complete the directory contact information form you received along with the CJCA annual dues letter. Instructions are to reply with "NO CHANGES" or reply with the form completed, and mail (with your dues payment!) using the envelope provided, or drop it off at the address listed at the bottom of the form.

Method 3: If you are on the CheddarUp website to make your dues and donations payments, use the link provided to reach the CJCA website where you can complete the online form, "CJ Directory: Residents' Names and Contact Info." You can check the box to indicate "no changes" or continue and enter your information in the form.

Method 4: At any time you can go to the CJCA website (www.cabinjohn.org), select the top navigation choice "Get Connected," select the drop down choice "CJ Directory," and scroll down to the online form, "CJ Directory: Residents' Names and Contact Info." You can check the box to indicate "no changes" or continue and enter your information in the form.

Reminder: If you want to be included in the Local Talent list in the 2025 directory, submit a short description of your talent along with your name, title, phone, email address, and any website to reference. Send to CJDirectory2020@gmail.com.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact Marcy Harrison, directory administrator, at CJDirectory2020@gmail.com, or call/text 301-908-8906. To make it easy to remember, please respond by tax day: **April 15, 2025!** ~VN

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN CABIN JOHN

ACTIVE

6517 79th Street
List Price $3,190,000
6 BR, 6/1 BA, 2 GAR,
6,055 sq.ft.

6411 83rd Place
List Price $1,750,000
5 BR, 4/1 BA, 1 GAR,
TBD sq.ft.

PENDING

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

Courtesy of Cabin John Realtor Rachelle Cherol

DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES
INNOVATIVE | SUSTAINABLE | MAINTAINABLE
Exquisite Garden Design & Installation
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Garden Walks & Walls | Water Features & Lighting
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Poems For Passersby

Presented by Meredith Griggs



Emily Helmes and Dennis Benson of Tomlinson Court, accompanied by Renny, pause at Poems for Passersby on upper 78th Street.

Small Kindnesses

Danusha Lameris

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone else will help you
pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here,
have my seat," "Go ahead—you first," "I like your hat."



THANK YOU,
Cabin John!

Minnie's Island Community Conservancy's Isle-Fest was a huge success. Thanks to the CJCA and all those who helped, attended and enjoyed a special day with our community.

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

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▪ 7707 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, MD 20818



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**, (interim) layout designer; and **Marcy Harrison**, business manager.

Regular contributors: Annemarie Economou Gormley, Eric Dinerstein, Burr Gray, Meredith Griggs, Heidi Lewis, Scott Lewis Charlotte Troup-Leighton, and Susan Shipp. Illustrations by Trudy Nicholson.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
5 pm, February 25, 2025
CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

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Community Calendar

FEBRUARY	*All events at Clara Barton Neighborhood Rec Center unless otherwise noted*
26	CJCA Meeting, 7:30 pm Topic: Tree Friends Unlimited
28	Family Bingo Night, 7:00 pm
MARCH	
26	CJCA Meeting, 7:30 pm Topic: J. Yang, Dept. of Ed.
29	Clara Barton Center for Children 50th Anniv. https://tinyurl.com/CBCC50years

SAVE THE DATE
April 6 - Spring Egg Hunt
May 3 - House Tour
June 7 - Minnie's Island Isle-Fest