The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN | MARCH 2018 | VOLUME 52 | ISSUE 3



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SUSAN SHIPP

Olivia and August Seuschek play Foosball, while Sean Curran practices his shots during drop-in game time at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Community Center Game Room Offers Kids After-School Option

Foosball, pool, air hockey, hoops, and Wii are just some of the options at the drop-in game room now being offered at the Clara Barton Community Center, Monday thru Thursday from 3 to 6 pm.

Kids of all ages are welcome, however anyone 8-years-old or younger must be supervised by someone who is at least 13-years-old as there is no direct staff oversight. Got questions? Give the center a call at 240-777-4910. VN

Building Community in CJ's Evergreen Neighborhood

BY CHARLOTTE TROUP LEIGHTON
CJ Resident

Cabin John has long benefited from its engaged and caring residents who work hard to create a strong sense of community. The Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) does an outstanding job of fostering a sense of place for some 2,000 Cabin John residents by preserving our history and natural surroundings, engaging its citizens, and hosting community events. It's this esprit de corps that lends charm and a small-town feel to Cabin John, located only nine miles from Washington, D.C.

In 2012, when my family moved to the Cabin John subdivision of Evergreen, comprised of the 26 homes along Cypress Grove Lane, we noticed that our tiny neighborhood lacked the sense of community enjoyed by other Cabin John residents. Things were really quiet on our street and we rarely saw our neighbors. We attributed this to larger home lots and the small number of young families in Evergreen. Children and more closely-spaced homes have a way of bringing people together.

Evergreen has had the good fortune to welcome several young families over the last couple of years. We realized that this presented an opportunity for outreach. We

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

HELP CLEAN UP CABIN JOHN CREEK APRIL 15

BY TINA ROUSE
FoCJC

Every April, Friends of the Cabin John Creek celebrates Earth Day by conducting clean-ups of the Cabin John Creek. The first clean-up was held in Cabin John in 1996. This year we will be working with communities in the watershed to clean up the portion of the creek nearest them. We hope that in the near future, every branch of Cabin John Creek will get the beauty treatment once a year.

Our flagship clean-up, co-sponsored by the Cabin John Citizens Association, will be held Sunday, April 15, from 1 to 3 pm. Please gather at Cabin John Local Park by the one-lane bridge at 12:45 pm. Refreshments and gloves will be provided. Bring your own gloves if possible. The clean-up, held rain or shine, is messy and old clothes are recommended. The CJCA will send out an email if inclement weather forces us to reschedule. This event qualifies for SSL hours, but keep in mind that children ages 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. For more details, check out the FoCJC website (**www.cabinjohncreek.org**) or email *cleanups@cabinjohncreek.org*. VN

THE CJCA NEEDS YOU!
By Susan Shipp **2**

EARTH MEDICINE: Ms. Dandelion
By Sarah Cahill **8**

For more info, check us out: www.cabinjohn.org

The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN

The Village News is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to all 700+ homes in Cabin John. Others may subscribe for $10 per year. Send news, ads, letters, and subscriptions to: The Village News, PO Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818. Limited copies of *The Village News* are available at the Clara Barton Community Center. All back issues are also available online at cabinjohn.org. Total circulation: 800

[EDITORS]

CONTENT | Vashti Van Wyke
PRODUCTION/LAYOUT | Noelle Tower
VNeditorial@gmail.com

[CONTRIBUTORS]

Irena Bojanova, Eric Dinerstein, Rachel Donnan
Amy Elsbree, Mrs. GoodNeighbor, Burr Gray, Jen Jordan
Trudy Nicholson, Nancy Russell, Susan Shipp

[BUSINESS MANAGER]

Jordan Creed | *VNbusinessmanager@gmail.com*

[NEIGHBORLY NEWS]

Judy Brookes | *judy@brookes.com* | 301-263-0388

[FEATURES/NEWS]

VNeditorial@gmail.com

Next Deadline: 12:00 pm, Mon., March 5

Please send comments about *The Village News* to VNeditorial@gmail.com. Story ideas and volunteer writers are always welcome.

Cabin John Citizens Association

www.cabinjohn.org

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

CJCA PRESIDENT

Susan Shipp | *jsjshipp3@verizon.net*

BOARD MEMBERS

Irena Bojanova | VP for Activities | *ibojanova@gmail.com*
Greg Pawlson | VP for Advocacy | *gpawlson@gmail.com*
Nancy Russell | VP for Community Service & Outreach | *nc3russell@yahoo.com*
Amy Elsbree | Secretary | *amy.elsbree@gmail.com*
Bob Walsh | Treasurer | *rjwalshjr@gmail.com*
Robin Sidel | Editor, cabinjohn.org | *rsidel@gmail.com*

NEXT CJCA MEETING: WED., MARCH 21, 7:30 PM

THE CJCA NEEDS YOU!

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

There are several volunteer positions that need filling, please consider stepping into one of these important roles in service to your community.

CJCA Secretary

After seven years of dedicated service, Amy Elsbree is stepping down as CJCA secretary. The primary responsibility of the secretary is to take the minutes at CJCA meetings and provide occasional meeting stories for the newsletter. Amy also took on special projects, such as helping with tributes to Burr Gray and Clare Amoruso.

SSL Coordinator

Now that the CJCA is approved to offer Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, we are in need of an SSL coordinator. The job, which should only take a couple hours a month and does not require meeting or event attendance, will help ensure that student volunteers receive their hours in a timely fashion.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Coordinator

Judith Bell and Bob Norris are in search of one or two people who can join them as coordinators of this valuable community service program. As the lead coordinator, Judith is the first responder for calls that come in seeking assistance. She also keeps the master list of volunteers and the services they are equipped to provide. Like Bob Norris, the new coordinator(s) will provide back-up when Judith is unavailable.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Volunteers

Please see the questionnaire on page 5, if you are interested in being a N2N volunteer.

Blood Drive Coordinator

After 18 years coordinating the CJ blood drives, Karen Melchar is ready to step down as coordinator. She has a great process in place and dedicated volunteers who make the coordinator's job easy. If you would be interested in taking on the coordinator role, please contact Nancy Russell, vice president of community service, at *nc3russell@yahoo.com*.

CJCA Dues Are Due!

Please support your community by paying your $20 dues. These dues are critical to supporting this newsletter, advocacy on traffic and airplane issues, and beloved Cabin John traditions old and new, from the Crab Feast to the Turkey Trot and the upcoming New Neighbors Potluck.

There are three easy ways to pay:

- PayPal at **https://www.paypal.me/cabinjohn**
- Online at **www.cabinjohn.org** (Select Pay Dues Online from the home page.)
- Mail a check to the CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818.

VN

SARAH CAHILL, CARAWAY STREET

BY JUDY BROOKES
CJ Resident



Sarah Cahill and husband Jim have lived in Cabin John for 31 years. Sarah writes the Earth Medicine column for The Village News.

My husband Jim and I moved to Cabin John 31 years ago. I was 25 with a 3-year-old son and Cabin John was going through its transition from roughneck to yuppie. We lived in our home for 20 years, raising three boys. Ten years ago we bought, renovated and moved into the home right next door! We loved the neighborhood that much.

Professional Life:

I started with Xerox in sales and finance right out of college and worked there until early retirement last fall. Yoga found me 20 years ago. My first two teachers lived right on the street and we practiced in their homes. Ten years later I became a teacher and my classes are held in my own home studio. How many streets can say that?

I jumped at retirement to focus on growing Serenity Circle Yoga. Teaching is my passion and I want to expand my offerings.

Tell us about your immediate neighborhood?

I always say I live in the woods only a few miles from D.C. I run on the canal and sit by the river. My boys grew up playing in what they called 'the forest' behind our house. I built a medicine wheel garden in my backyard that draws deer, fox, butterflies, and bees.

We live on a great street! 81st and Caraway hold an annual adult progressive dinner and a family block party. The recycle bin after the progressive dinner shows what a good time was had by all! Watching people (both men and women) walking up the street to my house with their yoga mats warms my heart.

What are your plans for the near future?

I am in this major life transition after 34 years in corporate life. I see the stress of our society and the impact it has on our health. I know I can do my part to help bring people back into balance. We all have a unique gift and mine is helping people relax and feel more alive through yoga, meditation, reiki and nature. I want to do more of all of it! VN

You can find Sarah's first 'Earth Medicine' column in this month's newsletter.
--The editors





MICKIE SIMPSON

If you are thinking about selling your home, either soon or in the future, let's talk. I have a resident's understanding of the unique Cabin John market.

Associate Broker | Green Designation

msimpson@ttrsir.com
202.906.9865 mobile
linkedin.com/in/mickiesimpson

Friendship Heights office
301.967.3344
www.ttrsir.com

TTR Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

CJCA MEETING: 7:30 PM, March 21 | CLARA BARTON COMMUNITY CENTER

REPAVING PROJECT REBOOT FOCUS OF MARCH CJCA MEETING

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

With the county planning to restart the Cabin John repaving project soon, the community needs to prepare for their return. Please come to the March 22 citizens association to discuss the work that still needs to be done, the problems that need to be fixed and aspects of the project that folks are pleased with.

County officials were invited to this meeting, but are not available. They also do not have their own punch list to share with us at this time. The goal of the meeting will be to compile our own comprehensive punch list of issues and outstanding work to present to the county.

Also, it would be helpful for residents who have already had repaving done on their streets to share tips, concerns and information with folks whose streets are still to be worked on.

In the interest of time, please be prepared to sum up your concern an a minute or two and provide a write-up, including your name, street address and phone number, if you are able. A photo or two of the issue is always helpful. The write-up can be shared via email if that is easier.

If you cannot attend the meeting, but have items you want on the community punch list, please email a detailed accounting to Susan Shipp at *jsjshipp3@verizon.net*. To ensure that we include all outstanding work, please provide your write-up even if you have already reached out to the county directly about the problem.

In other business, we will discuss the latest on the effort to mitigate cut-through traffic along the Tomlinson Ave. — Arden Rd. corridor. VN

Innovative
Landscapes
for
Outdoor Living

Building sustainable gardens for birds, wildlife and people since 1980.

MARK WILLCHER & CO., INC.
landscape designers/contractors

www.MarkWillcherCo.com

301-320-2040
Mark@MarkWillcherCo.com

2014 BEST OF BETHESDA AWARD WINNER
WASHINGTONIAN AWARD WINNER

NEIGHBOR 2 NEIGHBOR SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

BY JUDITH BELL
N2N Coordinator

After a wide-ranging discussion at the Feb. 28 CJCA meeting, the Neighbor 2 Neighbor program wants to hear from the community about the kinds of services that would be most helpful to residents. It also needs to build its roster of volunteers and see if this effort might benefit from the involvement of students in middle and high school.

At the meeting, the topics of outreach to residents, the recruitment of volunteers and the mission of N2N kept intermingling. Talk of recruitment led to the idea that tech-savy teenage volunteers earning SSL hours might be able to help a senior Cabin Johner figure out a new smartphone.

N2N has a new phone number: 301-799-4550

Perhaps the parents of that teenager are both working and need someone to let in the much-needed plumber. A retired resident, who is also a N2N volunteer, is around during the day to help. Implicit in the discussion was a sense that N2N could serve and be served by Cabin Johners of almost any age.

Please review the N2N questionnaire (see next page), share your thoughts on the program and see if you would like to sign up to provide and/or receive assistance as needed. VN

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Questionnaire

Please complete this brief form if you might be interested in receiving N2N services, or in volunteering your services, ***or both!*** To complete the questionnaire online, please go to **www.cabinjohn.org/neighbor-2-neighbor/**

Your name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Street address: _____

Names and ages of children, if interested in earning SSL hours:

_____

- ❑ I am interested in becoming a N2N volunteer, or am one already.
- ❑ I might consider seeking informal assistance, like N2N, in Cabin John.
- ❑ I've helped neighbors in the past and might consider referring them to N2N.
- ❑ I would like someone from N2N to give me a call.

N2N offers the following kinds of help. Please check any boxes that apply.

Comments and suggested new services are welcome.

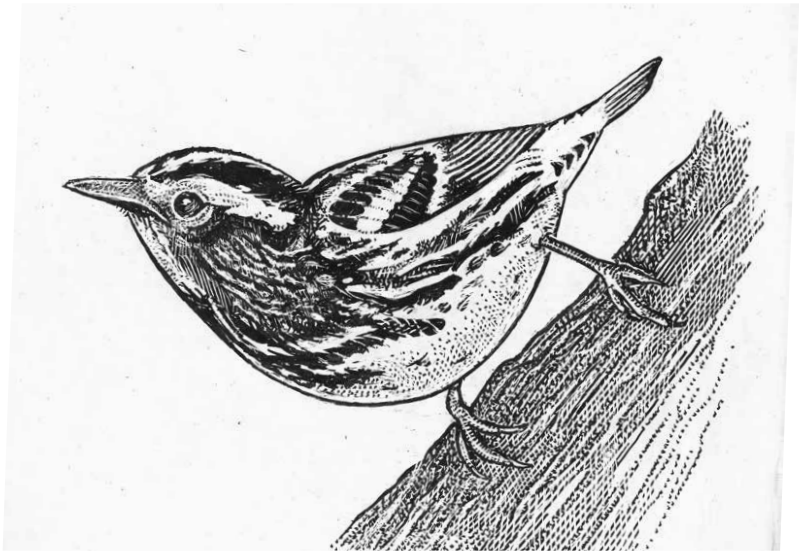
	I could help with this	*I'd appreciate help with this*
TRANSPORTATION—driving to appointments and errands, help with public transport	❑	❑
DOING ERRANDS—shopping, library drop-offs	❑	❑
Friendly visits—conversation, read aloud, watch a show	❑	❑
SIMPLE HOUSEHOLD JOBS, repairs—ceiling light bulbs, moving trash and heavy items	❑	❑
PET CARE—dog walking, cat feeding	❑	❑
PET VISIT—have a dog or other pet come by	❑	❑
ASSIST A HOUSEHOLD in health or other crisis— bring in meals, answer phone, make calls	❑	❑
OCCASIONAL YARD WORK—weeding, leaf raking, snow shoveling, pruning	❑	❑
PAPER WORK—organize bills, tax documents, correspondence	❑	❑
TECH SUPPORT—help with email, smartphone set-up, computer assistance	❑	❑
REFERRALS to home-maintenance professionals	❑	❑

Thank you for responding! Return your form by mail to: CJCA (attn: N2N), P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD, 20818; or by email to *4CJN2N@gmail.com* (scan form and attach to an email, or send an email summarizing your responses.) For more information or to request services, please call Neighbor 2 Neighbor at 301-799-4550.

NATURE IN BLACK-AND-WHITE

BY ERIC DINERSTEIN
Contributing Writer

ILLUSTRATION BY TRUDY NICHOLSON
Contributing Artist



Black and white warbler. (Illustration by Trudy Nicholson)

At the start of Spring—which in this new era of climate change seemingly arrives in mid-to-late March rather than mid-April—I start to look and listen for one of the earliest migrating wood warblers returning to us from its winter home in the southern U.S. and Central America. I am searching for a small bird that creeps along branches and trunks, but has the peculiar habit of starting from the canopy and working its way to the ground. Typically, when you look for birds and especially most wood warblers, you look for specks and splashes of color—the orange of American Redstarts, the yellow of Yellow Warblers, or the rich palette of colors in the plumage of Chestnut-sided Warblers, to name a few. But the bird I am after is an exception to this rule and is aptly named the Black-and-white Warbler. Unlike most other warblers, its early 1950s look is reminiscent of the era when our televisions and movies portrayed two tones instead of a kaleidoscope of hues.

And then I hear a male. Sitting on a branch, it throws back his head and utters an odd squeaky wheel song: *"see-wa, see-wa, see-wa"*—the giveaway to the presence of this harbinger of spring and the chorus of singers soon to follow him from down south. This singer is a small bird with a streaky pattern of feathers. The male has a black cheek, while the similar female does not.

I notice that little attention is paid to the Black-and-white Warbler among avid birders when there are much more colorful varieties to spot. And maybe there is even a built-in bias: after all, color vision is part of what made us so successful as a species. Most mammals outside of primates see only black-and-white, because most mammals are nocturnal, making color vision less advantageous. Further, neuroscientists tell us that something like 90% of all incoming stimuli to our *Homo sapiens* brains comes from visual cues and thus, not surprisingly, 50% of our brain is dedicated to vision processing. So looking at a warbler with black-and-white streaks on its body triggers less excitement than the flaming orange throat of a Blackburnian Warbler.

"See-wa, see-wa, see-wa." The male Black-and-white Warbler repeats its refrain, reminding me to value our senses besides sight. If humans had such limited hearing that we couldn't hear the squeaky wheel imitation of the Black-and white or the more neighborly *"Please, please please to meetchya"* song of the Chestnut-sided Warbler or even the *"tea-kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle"* of our Carolina Wrens, would we be missing out on the joy that birdsong brings, especially in Spring? Visuals are exciting for sure, but don't songs fill us with more emotion?

When a Black-and-white Warbler starts to forage, things become even more interesting. The bird's Latin genus name *Mniotilta* means "moss-plucking" and refers to how the bird hops along trunks and branches searching crevices for its meal of arthropods, a technique called 'bark-gleaning' in the bird literature. This feeding behavior is more like that of a nuthatch or tree creeper than like other warblers. Other members of the warbler family fly from a perch to grab a flying insect, a technique called sallying, or feed on the ground and specialize in turning over dead leaves, like the Worm-eating Warbler. Many flit from branch-to-branch to search leaves for fat caterpillars in various parts of the trees, especially oaks, which harbor the most kinds of caterpillars of any group of trees in the world. Ecologists call these varied feeding strategies a diversity of feeding niches, much as another influential ecologist—Dr. Seuss—described creatures called "nutches" and their behavior.

Unlike the others of its kind, the Black-and-white Warbler feeds on branches and trunks, and thus is not bound for its foraging by the emergence of new leaves in Spring. This exemption means that the Black-and-white Warbler can arrive earlier than the other species and start feeding even when the leaves of the trees are still in bud. This independence from leaf flushing may be one reason why Black-and-white Warblers are so common. And regardless of how the vagaries of climate change disturb the leafing out of our trees in future Springs, the Black-and-white, steady as she goes, will likely stick to its task, hopping up and down the trunks and branches, plucking insects in its curved beak, anchored by its strong legs, toes to the bark, searching for the next juicy bug. VN



Glaucio and Aldaceli Veloso, Ellen and Steve Futterman, and Maria Khatchadourian

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE TROUP LEIGHTON



Hot dogs!

distributed flyers asking our neighbors to join us for a meet-and-greet to discuss ways to improve the neighborhood. At least 15 enthusiastic residents old and new showed up and shared many great ideas. It quickly became clear that we have terrific neighbors who share a collective interest in building a sense of community.

We brainstormed about neighborhood improvement projects. We complained about the lack of a beltway sound barrier wall. Original Evergreen owners shared their experiences and history. We collected contact information for a neighborhood phone/email list. We encouraged the sharing of tools, ladders, books, vacation house-watching, pet sitting, and babysitting among neighbors. It quickly became clear that we have terrific neighbors who share a collective interest in building a sense of community. Two-thirds of Evergreen households have attended at least one of our community meetings. We were on a roll!

We decided that our first improvement project would be the replacement of our dilapidated Evergreen subdivision sign erected decades ago. This was no small feat considering that absent a homeowner's association, our only option was for neighbors to make voluntary donations to fund the project. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised nearly $1,600 within six months to design and replace the old Evergreen sign.

A concern was raised that Cypress Grove Lane lacked adequate street lighting, so we reached out to MCDOT requesting an assessment. MCDOT, in cooperation with PEPCO, has agreed to erect a new streetlight later this year. Another win for Evergreen!

Evergreen neighbors and volunteers really came through to plan and execute three successful events in 2017: a block party, a Halloween party and a community yard sale.

Our end-of-summer block party featured live music by Ron Emrit of Steel Pan Jam, old-fashioned kids' games, and a smorgasbord of great food. Evergreen is not historically a destination for Halloween trick-or-treaters. To rectify this, we threw a neighborhood Halloween party. Evergreen residents didn't disappoint with their 'wickedly' creative Halloween potluck and imaginative costumes. Our community yard sale allowed many of us to clean out our closets, basements, and garages.

We plan to keeping the momentum going in Evergreen with similar events in 2018.

When a community comes together, it can accomplish great things. By far, the most rewarding outcome is that we've made some amazing new friends over this past year--all living along Cypress Grove Lane! We've learned that we weren't the only residents of Evergreen who craved the sense of community and neighborhood vibrancy that can only be gained through social interaction and proactive engagement.

"Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person." — Mr. Rogers VN

How does your Cabin John neighborhood foster community? We welcome articles that tell your block's story! —The editors



Sharing Evergreen history.



Enjoying food and music by Steel Pan Jam!

MS. DANDELION

BY SARAH CAHILL
CJ Resident

It's coming... dandelion season. She will be everywhere! But often her mere presence sends us humans scurrying to Home Depot to load up on "weed" killer. She seems to somehow threaten our sense of being in control.

But I have gotten to know her and can see clearly that she contains so many of the characteristics we all want in ourselves. An unshakable sense of self with no need to change only to suit others.

First, she is confident. No hiding in the shadows for Dandelion. She simply finds the sun, settles her long roots deep into the earth and looks upward. Not hoping to be a tulip or a rose, just being her.

Dandelion will not let obstacles cloud her vision. Even a good lawn mowing will simply remove current blossoms, but she will dig down and find her inner strength to create more. Her focus is unwavering.

Oh my gosh is she adaptable! You will even find her in the sidewalks of New York City. And when complete she releases herself to the wind without attachments.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SARAH CAHILL



Dandelion is also dependable. You can count on her young, bitter leaves to cleanse the liver and strengthen sluggish digestion each spring. She helps us "digest" life. Dandelion juice is an ally for those with diabetes or acne, and her roots can be roasted and ground as a healthy coffee alternative. Her cheerful flowers brighten up our day and any salad.

As she arrives, before any spraying, introduce yourself. Get close and see her with new eyes. Maybe, just maybe, she will have something to teach you! VN

This is Sarah's inaugural Earth Medicine column, where she will highlight local plants and their uses throughout the seasons.—The editors

MacArthur Plaza
MacArthur Boulevard at Seven Locks Road

OFFICES AVAILABLE

Single Rooms to Large Suites
Floor plans online.

KMI
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Please call
Brad Klinedinst
301-655-7252

www.garrett-smith.com

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN CABIN JOHN

Courtesy of your neighbor and realtor
PATRICIA AMMERMAN

FEB 2018 - MAR 2018

ACTIVE:	LIST PRICE	BR	FB	GAR	SQ. FT.
8 Froude Cir	$499,995	2	1	0	936
6414 83rd Pl.	$1,125,000	4	4	1	2700
6608 80th Pl.	$1,146,000	4	3	0	1734
6614 81st St.	$1,675,000	5	4	2	3412

UNDER CONTRACT:	LIST PRICE	BR	FB	GAR	SQ. FT.
7864 Archbold Ter	$557,000	3	2	0	1218
6510 79th St.	$945,000	5	2	0	2,726
6520 78th St.	$1,850,000	6	6	2	0

SOLD:					
8212 Caraway St.	$2,425,000	6	5	2	4,566

Hughes Landscaping

16111 Morrow Road, Poolesville MD 20837
(301) 330-4949 (O) / 301-977-4949 (F)

Landscaping Professionals
Dedicated to Exceptional Quality

Residential & Commercial - Mowing & Maintenance

Landscaping - Design & Installation
Walks, Patios, Built-In Grills – Flagstone, Brick, Block/Stone
Retaining Walls – Stacked Stone, Flagstone, Block, Timber
Tree & Shrub Care – MD Licensed Tree Expert



Serving Montgomery Co. Homeowners Since 1983

Come Visit Our Web Site – www.hugheslandscaping.com

Or E-mail to info@hugheslandscaping.com



TOP PRODUCER
LICENSED IN MD, DC & VA
FLUENT IN
ENGLISH AND SPANISH

pammerman@longandfoster.com

PATRICIA AMMERMAN

YOUR CABIN JOHN REALTOR

CELL 301-787-8989

OFFICE 301-229-4000 EXT 8306

Call PATRICIA, an agent who is HIGHLY EXPERIENCED in CABIN JOHN and THE GARDENS, it's Amenities, Parks, and everything that makes CABIN JOHN so special.

EXPERIENCED, PASSIONATE, INTEGRITY, SKILLED NEGOTIATOR!

W.C. & A.N. MILLER REALTORS® A Long & Foster Co.

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE, INC.

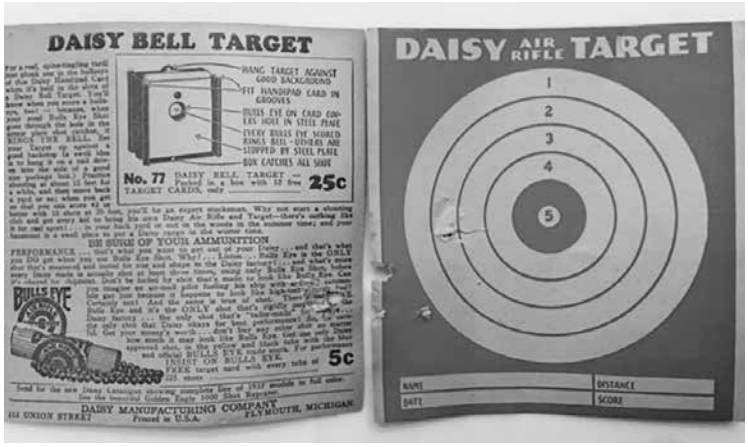
Exclusive Affiliate of CHRISTIE'S GREAT ESTATES

IF WALLS COULD TALK—A BRIEF HISTORY OF A SEARS KIT HOUSE



Blueprints and catalog page for our Sears kit home along with a 1925 newspaper clipping of the house..

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RACHEL DONNAN



Daisy Air Rifle Target from 1936 found in the wall of our house.

BY RACHEL DONNAN
Regular Contributor

While recently doing minor work on our home, we discovered a handful of 1936 Daisy Air Rifle Targets buried within the lath and plaster walls. Just one more piece of the puzzle to our nearly 100-year-old Sears, Roebuck and Co. bungalow in Cabin John. With the original sash windows stashed away under the screen porch, blueprints for our Honor Bilt Modern Home No. 3052 left behind in a kitchen drawer, and a crudely drawn cartoon of Puck (from a turn of the 20th century magazine of political satire) on an old electric panel in the basement, our house is filled with hints of the history that makes up its story.

Further research uncovered an advertisement in an August 1925 *Evening Star* newspaper of our home at 71 Main Street (now 81st Street) in Cabin John Park, for sale by the owner just two years after it was built. Boasting "modern improvements; approved construction; new; one half acre lot in beautiful rolling wooded section" there's a photograph of our house that matches the original Sears blueprints.

'The Uriel,' at $1,374 to $1,527 offered "...a neat home with five comfortable rooms, conservative and economical. The wonder of the house is how exactly right all the little points are."

The previous owners, Fran and Cephas Patch, lived in this house for 51 years and raised their two children Martha and Nate here. A doorframe in the pantry is dotted with black lines that start at my knee and go up nearly 6 feet, marking each year of their children's lives as they grew from toddlers to teens. The Patches kindly left behind those Honor Bilt blueprints together with an original 1927 Sears catalogue, newspaper clippings, and old Cabin John maps, helping to piece together the narrative.

Between 1908 and 1940, Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold an estimated 100,000 kit homes through their mail order Modern Homes program. With 447 different styles, designed by anonymous architects, one was able to purchase anything from a charming four room cottage to a luxurious ten room abode.

Sears offered three types of homes that could be adapted to individual buyers' tastes and means: the most expensive and finest quality Honor Bilt homes to the more modest Standard Bilt and Simplex Sectional, with prices ranging from $520 for a Standard Bilt to $2,500 for an Honor Bilt model. Its largest and most expensive model, 'The Magnolia,' went for upwards of $6,000.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. started in 1886, and soon became a symbol of American aspirations and consumerism with their annual catalog that offered everything from car parts and clothing to accordions and appliances. The ability of Sears to mass produce construction materials meant lower manufacturing costs and times.

Houses could be chosen from a catalog then promptly shipped by rail in tens of thousands of pieces, together with blueprints and a 75-page manual. It was then built on site. Balloon style framing—precut timber of standard sizes—meant one carpenter could construct the house. Though the company continued to sell kit homes during the 1930s, the impact of the Depression on the housing market brought an end to the enterprise by 1940.

In its heyday, affordable kit homes combined with Sears financing were just the ticket for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

1ST CHOICE
Home Improvements Without The Hassles

Serving Cabin John Since 1991!

* Interior & Exterior Painting
* Windows & Doors
* Remodeling and Carpentry

240-498-1803

MHIC 39468 www.go1stchoice.com Insured

KEPLER FRAMING
Rich Kepler
Certified, Professional Picture Framers Association
35 Years in Business

All Major Credit Cards
Cabin John, MD

301-320-0248

More than just a neighbor!



Ellen Wilner

A seasoned sales professional with over 25 years experience who has sold Cabin John homes from $225,000 to $2.8 Million!

202.431.6365

www.ellenwilner.com

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
301-718-0010

REALTOR®

Clara Barton Community Center

events & activities

spring EGGSTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, APRIL 7 • 12:00 - 3:00 PM
$5 per person

• Egg Hunt • Games •
• Arts & Crafts • Bounce House •
• Face Painting • Food & Drinks•

Activity No. 47968
Register at CBCC 240-777-4910 or online at montgomerycountymd.gov/rec

for seniors

CASINO Royale

NEW DATE:
SAT., APRIL 14
12:00 - 3:00 PM

WIN PRIZES

TAKE TWO VARIETY BAND, Russ & Donna Miller

FREE! Activity No. 44755
•Receive "Casino Cash" at the door!
•Turn in Casino Cash to win prizes!

Register at CBCC 240-777-4910 or online at montgomerycountymd.gov/rec

MOVIE OF THE MONTH:
Victoria and Abdul | Mon. Apr. 16, 12:00 Noon

7426 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John | 240–777–4910

OPEN: Mon. & Wed. 9 am–9 pm • Tue. & Thu. 9 am–8 pm • Fri. 9 am–3 pm
Sat. & Sun. - rentals only
More on activities and classes at montgomerycountymd.gov/rec

Bethesda Coop

Since 1975

Gourmet Organic & Bulk Groceries
Fresh Produce Fantastic Cheeses
Best Wine & Beer Selection in Town
Local Bread & Pastries Daily
Easter Candies Passover Wines

All are Welcome!

Free WineTasting
Saturday, March 24th
Friday & Saturday
April 7th, 20th & 21st

www.bethesdacoop.org 301 320 2530

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist (Communion) 8:00 a.m.
Nursery Care Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.; Eucharist at Noon

If you are ready to work on your spiritual life in an intimate community faithful to ancient tradition and tickled by our freedom, come by!

Easter Sunday Services on April 1st at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

■ MUSIC AT REDEEMER SERIES

Sunday, April 1st—Easter Services feature our adult and youth choirs

Sunday, April 15 at 5:00 pm—Pianist Sam Post in Concert
Washington pianist Sam Post plays selections from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier and more. Free-will offering. Reception.

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
301-229-3770 ▪ office@redeemerbethesda.org
www.redeemerbethesda.org

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW A REAL ESTATE AGENT
LONG BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY NEED ONE.



ERIC W. BROOKS
Father. Kayaker. Cabin John expert.

Eric knows Cabin John and The Gardens like the back of his paddle. He understands this laid-back community with its rich history, natural beauty and access to both DC and the Canal. CJ is known as the little village with a big name and Eric brings a fresh perspective from a small brokerage with a big name. Whether you're navigating a tough real estate transaction or through Mather Gorge, Eric is the guy to call.

Eric W. Brooks
REALTOR® LICENSED IN MD, DC & VA
240.532.2001
eric@wydlerbrothers.com

Wydler Brothers®
REAL ESTATE
WydlerBrothers.com | 301.463.7800

SEARS KIT HOUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

middle class families searching for a home in bucolic suburbia.

The 1913 American Land Company brochure for the new development of Cabin John Park noted over '3 Dozen Attractive Features' that included 'Pleasant Surroundings, Refreshing Breezes, Healthy Community,' and 'Cheap Prices and Liberal Terms.' In other words, Cabin John was a perfect, pastoral place for a Sears kit house.

In 1986, local Cabin John resident Reed Martin led a tour of some 25 Sears kit homes, and there were at least 20 different models in Cabin John. Though some have since been torn down to make way for new homes, a walk through the streets and keen observation give way to numerous examples that remain.

Between 1908 and 1940, Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold an estimated 100,000 kit homes through their mail order Modern Homes program.

The Sullivan family built two Sears houses along Persimmon Tree Road in the 1920s which still stand today. And the charming white bungalow with green trim across from the shops was built by the Reddings, the family who brought electricity to Cabin John.

Other Cabin John Sears kit homes have undergone sympathetic renovations while still retaining their original character.

At the bottom of our road on MacArthur Boulevard, over morning chats at the bus stop in front of his home, I learned that our neighbor Neil Shaut grew up in a Sears kit house in Glen Echo. He and his wife Colleen are now raising their two young children in the Cabin John Sears house that his mother grew up in. "One Order Brings It All When You Purchase a House from Sears, Roebuck and Co" touts the catalog entry for their home, 'The Langston' model, built in 1923 for $1,630.

"When we renovated both the kitchen and bathroom, I found dates from when it was last remodeled written on 2x4 studs in the walls. Kinda cool to see my Uncle PJ's mark on the walls..." said Neil. "Being in the construction industry and knowing how much time and effort goes into the design and actual construction of a house, it's pretty cool to think that almost 100 years ago, a kit was dropped off with instructions. Within a few weeks, a new home!" VN

LISAN MARTIN THERAPY



Lisan Martin, MSW, a psychotherapist with over 25 years of experience, provides counseling to individuals, couples, and families. A Cabin John resident, Lisan sees clients at her offices in Cabin John and Tenleytown, DC.

www.lisanmartintherapy.com
202.537.6614

▪ 7707 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, MD 20818
▪ 4000 Albemarle St., NW, Washington, DC 20016

C: 202-549-6492
H: 301-229-4639

MD. Lics. # 5753

Hahn Construction Co.

Building/Remodeling/Handyman

Baths, Decks, Kitchens
Electric, Plumbing, Drywall

MIKE HAHN
mikethahn@gmail.com

6510 78 St.
Cabin John, MD 20818

THE RIXEY DEVELOPMENT CO., INC
CABIN JOHN, MARYLAND



Custom homes, additions, kitchens, baths, renovations; projects of any size to meet the most demanding budgets.

301-320-1689
therixeydevelopmentcompanyinc.com

BY JUDY BROOKES
Regular Contributor

HEALTHY KIDS RUNNING SERIES KICKS OFF APRIL 15

Since the fall of 2015, the Clara Barton Center for Children has partnered with Healthy Kids to bring a 5-week running series to Cabin John. The series is designed to motivate kids to be healthy and active in a fun environment that supports self-esteem. Over 100 runners, from pre-K to 8th grade, have participated each fall and spring.

The spring 2018 series will kick off on April 15 from 3 to 4:30 pm at Palisades Park on Seven Locks Road.

All proceeds are donated to charities such as Comfort Cases, Little Friends For Peace, RARE, and Save the Whales.

March Blood Drive Collects 28 Pints

The March 4 community blood drive drew some 30 donors, most of them Cabin John residents, and collected 28 pints of blood for Inova Blood Donor Services. The drive, sponsored by the Cabin John Citizens Association, is the first of three that will be held this year. The next one is scheduled for May 13.

CJ resident Karen Melchar has been the driving force behind these drives, which have collected some 1,900 pints of blood since 2001! After 18 years, Karen would like to step down as the drive coordinator. She has a great process in place and, most important, a number of dedicated volunteers who want to continue to support this important effort.

If you would be interested in taking on the coordinator role, please contact Nancy Russell, vice president of community service, at *nc3russell@yahoo.com*.

Mark Your Calendars: New Neighbors Potluck April 22

BY NANCY RUSSELL
VP Community Service & Outreach, CJCA

New to Cabin John? We'd love to meet you!

All residents new to Cabin John in 2017 or 2018 are invited to a dinner to be held at the Clara Barton Community Center on Sunday, April 22 from 5-7 pm.

More established residents are urged to come welcome our new neighbors and bring along a side dish or dessert to share. The Cabin John Citizens Association will provide lasagna and drinks. There also will be games for the children and door prizes!
To ensure that we have food for all, please RSVP through Sign-Up Genius, an online sign-up site that has been established for our potluck. The link is:
www.signupgenius.com/go/5080849aaab29a7f94-newneighbors

(See this story online at **www.cabinjohn.org**, for an easy link to the sign-up form.)

For questions, please contact Nancy Russell at *nc3russell@yahoo.com* or 301-229-1716.
VN

CJ HISTORIAN TO LECTURE ON THE C&O CANAL

Cabin John's own Judith Welles will be at Great Falls Tavern March 24 from 2 to 3 pm to present Grand Old Ditch, a talk covering the canal's role during the Civil War, historic structures and unique engineering marvels.

Space is limited to the first 20 people; RSVP to Mary Kate Gentile at *mary_gentile@partner.nps.gov*.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day



Adventure Theatre at Glen Echo Park presents this play for all ages through March 31st. Following the fire that damaged the theatre offices, new performances have been added! Please visit **adventuretheater-mtc.org** for up-to-date show times and tickets.

SUMMER CAMP OPENINGS AT CLARA BARTON CENTER

There is still limited space for little ones to attend the CBCC summer camp.Contact Director Paula Curran at (301) 320-4565. (CBCC is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education, License #33118).

Groups & Gatherings

The **Wednesday Morning Ladies Coffee Group** meets weekly at 10 am at The Market on the Boulevard. Drop in and meet fellow Cabin Johners!

The **Vintage Gentlemen's Coffee Group** meets at The Market at 10:15 am on the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of every month. The group enjoys spirited discussions as we ponder local issues, bemoan political offerings, and resolve international dilemmas. For more information, email Bob Norris at *lisabobjoseph@aol.com*

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A COMMUNITY CLUB OR GROUP? *Make it happen by posting information in Neighborly News to get the word out! Send information to Judy Brookes at judy@brookes.com.*

MANION & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

RENOVATIONS-ADDITIONS-NEW HOMES

7307 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 216
Bethesda, MD 20816
Phone: 301.229.7000
Fax: 301.229.7171

Contact: Thomas Manion, AIA





www.manionandassociates.com

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

BALANCE, STRENGTH and FLEXIBILITY are just a few things that we work on in our fun-filled exercise class. Come join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays OUR NEW STARTING TIME IS 9AM! For more information contact Carolyn at *CarolynEvans728@gmail.com.*

BOZEMAN, MONTANA-CABIN JOHN, MD HOME SWAP We would like to exchange our home in Bozeman, Montana for one in Cabin John, MD for one year. Bozeman offers the best of Rocky Mountain living; hiking, skiing, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, near Yellowstone Park, and is home to Montana State University. Our home has 4 bedrooms, a large yard, and is located in a beautiful neighborhood near hiking trails, schools, and the city of Bozeman. Inquiries welcome: *djyoung1946@gmail.com*

CABIN JOHN DOG WALKING Midday walks to keep your pets happy and healthy. Many happy Cabin John and Carderock pet owners and their pets will happily give their recommendations. Call Carolyn 240-204-2953.

CHILD CARE. Licensed Family Day Care since 1991. References available. Call Siew. 301-320-4280.

COMPUTER SERVICES. DC/PC Computer Support offers friendly, personalized computer services to local residents. Services include maintenance, repairs, upgrades, tune-ups, new pc setups, virus and spyware removal, networking and training. Appointments are available mornings, afternoons and evenings. Telephone and e-mail support is also available. To schedule an appointment or learn more about our services email *support@dc-pc.com* or call Jim at 202-841-0873.

ELDER CARE HELP. Cabin John woman resident is looking for household work. Service includes: laundry, light cleaning, meal prep. grocery shopping. References available. Please contact Lynn at *dcwaterstore@gmail.com*

PET CARE. YOUR PET WILL THANK YOU! Daily walks, play dates at my home with new friends, overnight stays at my home or yours - fenced-in yard means lots of playtime. I will pick-up and return your pet for play dates! Many neighborhood references. **http://www.licksandleashes.net/** Lauren Nicholas cell 808-286-6556.

TO PLACE AN AD *in the Village News classifieds contact Jordan Creed at VNbusinessmanager@gmail.com.*



Eleanor Balaban
MacArthur Blvd. Corridor Specialist
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.

Main: 301.907.7600 | Direct: 301.215.6875

"Let's talk about real estate along MacArthur Blvd."

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE, INC.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY REALTOR®

HANDYMAN
LIVING IN YOUR NEIGBORHOOD

Electrical • Painting • Carpentry • Plumbing
Decks • Roofs Gutters • Drywall • Tiling
Masonry • Power Washing & Sealing

Bathroom, Kitchen and Basement Remodeling



References from your Neighbors

Hemy

Insured
Free Estimates

973-432-2287 (c)
301-633-1620 (h)

The Village News

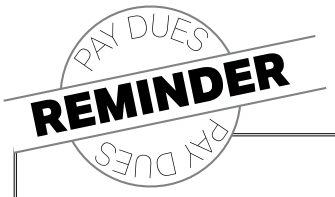
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Suburban MD
Permit 4210

Inside this Issue...

People of Cabin John: Sarah Cahill	3
CJCA Meeting: Paving Project Reboot	4
Nature in Black and White	6
Earth Medicine: Ms. Dandelion	8
History: Sears Kit House	10

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Please Pay Your $20 CJCA Dues!

- **Through PayPal (https://www.paypal.me/cabinjohn)**
- **Online at cabinjohn.org**
- **Mail a check to the CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818**

MARCH

21
CJCA Meeting
Community Center
7:30 pm

25
Spring Egg Hunt
Cabin John Local Park
(by the one-lane bridge)
4:00 pm

APRIL

7
Spring Eggstravaganza
Kids Party
Community Center
12:00 - 3:00 pm

APRIL, *cont.*

15
Creek Clean-Up
CJCA & the FoCJC
Cabin John Local Park
Meet at 12:45 pm
(story on cover)

15
Healthy Kids Running Series Kick-off
Palisades Field,
Seven Locks Rd
3:00 pm

22
New Neighbors Potluck Dinner
Hosted by the CJCA
Community Center
5:00 - 7:00 pm
See more details inside.

25
CJCA Meeting
Community Center
7:30 pm

MAY

10
MoCo Quiet Skies Coalition Meeting
Brookmont Church
7:30 pm

13
CJ Blood Drive
Community Center
10 am to 3 pm

30
CJCA Meeting
Community Center
7:30 pm