COMMUNITY IN RACE TO PROTECT MOSES HALL AND CEMETERY

BY CHARLOTTE TROUP LEIGHTON
CJCA Vice President of Advocacy

Cabin John residents along with descendants of Cabin John's African American community are in a race against time to achieve a historic preservation designation for Moses Hall and cemetery property in light of proposed Beltway expansion plans.

At a Jan. 30 meeting with county employees and local preservationists, the group learned that time is of the essence. In early January, the massive $9 billion project got a green light to move forward with phase one, which includes a new American Legion Bridge with toll lanes that would continue on I-495 from the bridge to the I-270 spur and up I-270 to connect with I-370 and the Intercounty Connector.

The state, as part of the project’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, is currently identifying and assessing historic properties adjacent to the Beltway. Early engineering plans showed a new Beltway access ramp for the toll lanes from River Rd. superimposed over the Moses Hall property. At some point, the state will do an evaluation of any adverse effects on historic properties. However, depending on how it’s handled, there may be limited opportunities to make the case for protecting the cemetery.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CJCA 100th Celebrated and New Endeavors Launched

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

BY SUSAN ROBERTS
Chair of the Beautification Committee

Thanks to the generosity of the many CJ residents who donated time, talent, and funds, the Cabin John Citizens Association was able to celebrate 100 years of civic pride throughout 2019.

Through donations and a very successful Team Trivia Night fundraiser, the association raised some $6,300 for the MacArthur Blvd. Beatification and Cabin John Signage projects. Halfway through the year, the CJCA threw the community a wonderful Cabin John Day celebration. These activities, along with Cabin John’s long-standing traditions, made for a very busy and spirited year worthy of reflection.

100 YEARS OF TRIVIA NIGHT
The first anniversary activity drew 140 CJ residents and friends together for a fun evening of team trivia and community

Dues and Directory Letter Delayed

Please look for the dues and directory informational letter to land in your mailbox in late February. It took us a little longer than expected to get our directory data gathering plan organized. A prompt response to the letter will be greatly appreciated. Thanks!!

Volunteers Needed for Cemetery Cleanup Feb. 29 | Details pg. 7

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY
By Susan Shipp

CJCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For more info, check us out: www.cabinjohn.org
In May, I will have completed my fourth year serving as the president of the Cabin John Citizens Association. It’s a role that I have found to be incredibly worthwhile, but it now needs to be taken up by someone else.

It has been particularly rewarding to get to know so many of my neighbors and to represent you and the whole Cabin John community in dealings with the county, non-profits, state officials, and other communities.

I am honored to have been at the helm for our year-long celebration of the association’s 100th anniversary! There is no doubt that Cabin John would not look or feel anything like it does today without the unwavering stewardship this group has provided since 1919.

In the 1920s, the CJCA led the charge to have a school built in Cabin John. It was instrumental bringing a county recreation center here in the 1950s and two decades later blocking a Sangamore-sized shopping center at Seven Locks and MacArthur. After that fight, the CJCA developed a master plan that has helped protect the community’s bucolic nature.

The question I now put to you is, who is going to step up to foster our wonderful traditions and unique esprit de corps for the next number of years? Who is willing to help to safeguard our beautiful natural surroundings? Who wants to be at the helm as the CJCA starts its second hundred years?

This call is not just for one person to step forward. I feel very strongly that to remain vibrant, the CJCA needs a new generation of leaders and volunteers to join with the many residents that have been working on behalf of this community for years and even decades.

In my four years as president, I have had the privilege of having dedicated and hardworking volunteers alongside me. Everyone is busy! Most of the officers of the CJCA have day jobs, children at home, and other volunteer obligations. I have tried with limited success to find two volunteers to serve together as vice presidents of our activities, advocacy, and community service, etc., as it is more manageable and fun for everyone. I think the same could be true for the role of president.

But exactly what shape the Cabin John Citizens Association takes going forward is not for me to decide. I hope that any number of you, my CJ neighbors, care enough about our community that you will step up to ensure that the Cabin John we know and love today keeps its beauty, traditions, and special small-town feel well into the future. Please, go look in the mirror and ask, how can I help?

Cheers to the next 100 years of the Cabin John Citizens Association!

Susan Shipp

Laura Miller of Tomlinson Ave. has agreed to help in the search for a new CJCA president. Please contact her at lauramiller@hotmail.com to learn more about that role. I am happy to talk to anyone about all of the CJCA officer positions and other ways to get involved. You can contact me at jjsjshipp3@verizon.net.
100th ANNIVERSARY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

celebration. Spearheaded by Scott and Heidi Lewi, with a huge assist from Florence Lehr, Helen and Clive Harris as well as Craig and Nancy Russell, the night also served as a very successful fundraiser, bringing in close to $1,300 for our anniversary projects.

MACARTHUR BLVD. BEAUTIFICATION

Susan Roberts of Wishbone Terrace jumped in to spearhead the gardening effort along Cabin John’s “main street.” The first round of planting in April was done near Alpine Vet with the help of Elizabeth Miller and Susan Shipp. Scott Hoffman, arriving on his gator with a trailer full of helpful supplies, provided critical muscle to get the job done. The plants have prospered, thanks to Anna at Alpine for watering all summer. Minor damage was done by WSSC when the water main broke on 78th St., but the plants have survived.

The second project was on the east side of the access road to the Clara Barton Parkway. Elaine Hornauer took responsibility for this area. In mid-August, Scott, Elaine, Beverly, and Susan Roberst added new plants to this area, as well as stones to the corner to protect them from cars. Elaine faithfully weeded and hauled water until the October rains lent a hand.

Beverly led the charge for the third project at the west side of the access road. She weeded the long-neglected patch of grasses that were there and added some of her Sedum, which she watered over the summer. At the end of October, the crew rallied, adding several plants to this area, as well as a rose bush to the base of 75th St. Jackie Hoglund of Russell Rd. stopped by with some Salvia plants, which she donated and helped plant. It was great to have her help and her donation!

In November, professionals came on the scene to tackle a 75-foot strip of green space where the soil was like concrete from vehicles using it as roadway. A number of CJ residents donated plants for this stretch. A special shoutout to Darla Cable, who dug up and transported five mature Knockout Rose bushes that instantly gave some prominence and, hopefully, protection to this vulnerable strip of land.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Giving back is always in style.

Realtor® | Whitewater Kayaker | Donates a kayak to Team River Runner for every transaction

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Team River Runner is a local non-profit which uses kayaking on Potomac River to challenge and rehabilitate wounded and disabled veterans from NIH. The year round program provides healing, community, purpose, and new challenges through adventure and adaptive paddle sports. So, for every client who buys or sells a home with Eric, he will donate a kayak to this campaign in the clients’ name.

Eric W. Brooks
Realtor® MD/VA/DC
240.532.2001
eric@wydlerbrothers.com

Eric offers same day showings on any active properties in Cabin John
A Brief Explanation of the CJCA Financial Statement

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

As you can see from the 2019 CJCA financials presented on the next page, the Cabin John Citizens Association is fiscally sound even as we had added more community activities and service projects.

Our income primarily comes from dues, donations, and proceeds from our Chicken and Crab Fest fundraiser. Despite our best efforts, our dues income remains fairly constant with less than half of Cabin John’s 750 households and businesses contributing $20 each.

Many of those same dues-paying community members generously donated additional funds totaling $2,000 to the CJCA, as well as $1,640 to the Friends of the Cabin John Creek and $1,135 to the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center. These funds allow us to host a number of events that are free to the community and to support various community service efforts.

Additionally, Cabin Johners gave generously to support our 100th Anniversary endeavors with roughly $5,000 raised through donations and another $1,300 brought in from the Team Trivia Fundraiser. The bulk of those funds are being split between the MacArthur Blvd. beautification project and Cabin John signage.

On the expense side, The Village News is our biggest expense with roughly $12,500 spent to produce and mail 10 newsletters annually to every Cabin John household. In the recent past, advertising revenue covered roughly $9,000 of the newsletter costs, with the CJCA general fund taking care of the rest.

When looking at the 2019 financials, it would appear that the newsletter turned a profit for the first time as it shows $14,084 in income. While ad revenue is up, topping $11,000 for 2019, the rest of the income are payments for 2020 ads that came in before Dec. 31.

Our balance on hand at the start of 2020 is impressive at more than $28,000. The CJCA has outstanding obligations of more than $6,000 for the 2020 CJ Directory, $2,000 for a rebuild of our 10-year-old website, www.cabinjohn.org, and $2,000 committed for the cleanup of the Moses Hall Cemetery.

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

WIFI ARRIVES AT CBCC !!
Enjoy internet access during your presentations and meetings

FAMILY SKATE NIGHTS
Skate in the Social Hall
7:00 – 9:00 pm
All ages | $5 per person

Last Friday of the month
Mar 27, Apr 24, May 29
Skates available, but bring your own protective gear

REGISTER FOR ACTIVITY 75832, 75834, AND/OR 75835

YOUTH CHESS CLUB
Free with Youth Open Gym membership
Tuesdays | 5:00 – 6:00 pm
All skill levels encouraged to come

Might need help?
Ask a Walt Whitman H.S. Chess Club volunteer

MOVIE OF THE MONTH
with popcorn!

March 1
You Are What You Eat
Presentation by RN Gwen Jones
Wed. March 11 • Noon to 1:00 PM

7426 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John  |  240–777–4910
OPEN: Mon. - Thurs 9 am–8 pm  • Fri. 9 am–3 pm • Sat. & Sun. - rentals only
Learn more & register for activities & memberships at montgomerycountymd.gov/rec
Ad funded by Friends of Clara Barton Community Center, www.FriendsCBCC.org

www.cabinjohn.org | February 2020
Balance on 12/31/2018 $ 19,842.51

**Income**
- Community Event – Canoe Trip $ 930.00
- Community Event – Trivia Night $ 2,660.00
- Community Event – Turkey Trot $ 1,440.00
- Donations $ 2,007.96
- 100th Anniversary – Donations $ 5,070.20
- Fundraising – Crab Feast $ 11,933.00
- Membership Dues (~45 percent participation) $ 6,452.88
- Village News $ 14,084.44

**Total Income** $ 44,578.48

**Expenses**
- Admin $ 122.00
- Citizen Meetings $ 178.13
- Community Event – Cabin John Day $ 1,662.44
- Community Event – Canoe Trip $ 1,258.11
- Community Event – Easter Egg Hunt $ 87.33
- Community Event – Fourth of July $ 461.16
- Community Event – Potluck Dinner $ 312.69
- Community Event – Trivia Night $ 1,380.44
- Community Event – Turkey Trot $ 1,503.14
- Community Event – Winter Holiday Party (Expenses for 2018 & 2019) $ 2,875.30
- Community Service – General $ 25.16
- Community Service – Newcomers $ 81.61
- Community Service – Red Cross Blood Drive $ 371.09
- 100th Anniversary – MacArthur Blvd. Beautification $ 2,909.45
- Fundraising – Crab Feast $ 8,362.26
- Insurance – General Liability $ 325.00
- Membership Dues Mailing $ 850.34
- Office Supplies $ 33.00
- Postage & Delivery $ 403.00
- Village News $ 12,544.64

**Total Operating Expenses** $ 35,746.29

**Net Profit** $ 8,832.19

**Balance on 12/31/2019** $ 28,674.70

**100th Anniversary Fund** $ 3,440.31

**Pass-Through Grants**
- Grants – Friends of Cabin John Creek $ 1,640.00
- Grants – Friends of Clara Barton Community Center $ 1,135.00
- Grants – So Others May Eat (2018 raffle proceeds -gifts purchased) $ 329.00

It’s incredibly impressive what this handful of dedicated folks accomplished in one planting season. They not only improved the look of our community, but they also made the bike path safer in stretches by providing a more substantial barrier between it and the roadway.

They hope to continue their work in 2020, if they can recruit more volunteers for planting “parties” and receive more donations of drought-tolerant plantings. Please reach out to Susan Roberts, susanroberts487@gmail.com, if you can help.

**CABIN JOHN SIGNAGE**

There was not quite the bandwidth to tackle this project in 2019. The good news is we have $3,000 in 100th Anniversary funds earmarked for the effort and the possibility of additional funds from the citizens association and new donors. We also have a few folks who have expressed a willingness to help.

To make it happen in 2020, we need a group of people willing to see this project through. If you would be willing to serve on the CJ Signage Committee, please contact Susan Shipp, jsjshipp3@verizon.net.

**CABIN JOHN DAY**

Luckily, when the call went out for volunteers to make Cabin John Day a reality, members of the community really stepped up. As a result, more than 200 people gathered June 1 for a celebratory afternoon of festivities, food, and live music.

The highlights of the day were two activities that truly let participants appreciate the uniqueness of our community. Nancy Russell, Meredith McGuire, and Caitlin Schoen created a clever scavenger hunt that had dozens of kids running around the grounds collecting prizes and learning about Cabin John’s past in the process.

Everyone had the opportunity to reflect on Cabin John’s history by perusing the pop-up museum pulled together by Burr Gray and Joel Ann Todd, with many CJ residents loaning their memorabilia and artifacts.

Thanks to all who pitched in with their time, talents, and donations to make our 100th Anniversary year such a success.
A CROWD-PLEASING PRESENTATION ON HISTORICAL POTOMAC

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

It was a packed house on Jan. 29 as roughly 50 people came to the CJCA meeting to enjoy CJ historian Judith Welles’ presentation on her newest book, *Images of America: Potomac*, which was published in December.

Using photos from the book, Judy talked about the gold mine that operated near Great Falls from 1865 to 1940 and the amusement park in the early 1900s that people often got to by taking the electric streetcar that ran from Bethesda along Bradley Blvd. to River Rd. and then across farmland to Great Falls. Who knew?! A few of the more than 200 photos from the book, which is available at the Bethesda Co-op, Strosniders, and on Amazon, are shared here.

In other business, the group gave its unanimous approval for the CJCA to spend up to $300 to acquire the original certificate, dated March 18, 1878, appointing Joseph Bobinger as the first postmaster of Cabin John. Glen Echo historian Richard Cook was kind enough to notify the CJCA when he saw that it was up for auction on Ebay. A few days after the meeting, the auction ended with the CJCA posting a winning bid of $177.50! A photo of the certificate will be included in the March issue of The Village News.

As part of the meeting discussion about this purchase, it was suggested that the CJCA approach the community center to see if there is a place where the association could install a display case to house the various Cabin John artifacts it has in its possession. Anyone who would be willing to explore this possibility on behalf of the CJCA, should contact Susan Shipp at jsjshipp3@verizon.net or by phone at 301-320-5106.

The Perry Store, built around 1878, was built after Thomas Perry had a falling out with Winfield Offutt, the owner of the first market in what we now know as Potomac Village. The photo to the left is from 1919 when Thomas’s son Edgar owned the store. At the corner of River and Falls Rds., the store had to be moved 21 feet when Falls Rd. was widened in 1986. It now houses a branch of Capital One Bank.

In 1902, Edgar built his home across the street from the store on a 21-acre parcel. In 1922, Perry sold the house and eight acres to a cousin, who turned it into a commercial property. The photo above is from 1974 when it was home to The Happy Pickle restaurant. Located at 10200 River Rd., it now houses a real estate office.

Falls Rd., pictured above in 1909 when the county had built three miles of the road, was originally called Post Rd. In 1914, Falls Rd. was widened and completed as a dirt road from River Rd. to Rockville, the county seat. A distance of six miles, it still took an hour to travel by horse and buggy.

The Potomac Hunt was recognized by the Masters of the Foxhounds Association in 1931. In this photo from the 1940s, riders and hounds gather at Ray Norton’s 166-acre Western Breeze Farm. Today, it is the site of the River Oaks Farm development with multi-million-dollar homes sitting on 2-acre parcels. Due to development, The Potomac Hunt now holds its events in Poolesville.
Meeting participants identified a number of critical actions that need to happen within the next couple months.

The top priority is to get historic designation paperwork filed. Charlotte Troup-Leighton, a CJCA vice president for advocacy, will be working with preservationists to compile and submit all the necessary paperwork.

As part of this effort, they are asking community members to scour their attics for photos, documents, or artifacts relating to Moses Hall. Please contact Charlotte if you have information or leads on where any historical materials might be unearthed. Her email is troupleighton@gmail.com.

The site where it's believed Moses Hall stood and the cemetery grounds must be cleared so that headstones and regular stones that were used as grave markers, grave depressions, pieces of the Moses Hall foundation, and any other features are clearly visible. This will allow for the archeological mapping of the site that is important for preservation efforts.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FEB. 29 FOR CRITICAL CEMETERY CLEANUP

To that end, the Cabin John Citizens Association is sponsoring a cleanup day at the site on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. As many people as possible are needed to help find grave markers and then clear by hand the grasses, leaves, and debris from around each one.

The stronger among us will be asked to tackle the bamboo that has largely engulfed the area where we believe Moses Hall once stood. There is trash to haul away and pathways to clear too. If you have even an hour or two to spare, please plan to come out.

The base of operations will be Charlotte's home at 8005 Cypress Grove Lane. Bring work gloves, clippers, rakes, and other tools you think would be useful. We could also use some wheelbarrows and chainsaws! We will have extra work gloves on hand too. The rain/snow date will be Sunday March 1. VN
Rhizomatous begonias sprout from a thick, fuzzy stem-like structure, or rhizome, which grows on the surface of the soil. Depending on the variety, rhizomatous begonias range from demure plants with 1-inch leaves to plants large enough to require a wide, sturdy container. Blooms appear in late winter and spring.

The shamrock plant has leaves that are clover shaped, and some think the plant brings good luck. These leaves fold up at night and open when light returns. Caring for shamrock plants is simple when you understand their periods of dormancy.

At American Plant, customers often bring beloved indoor plants for us to repot or diagnose. These are plants that have great history and stories associated with them. They may even have been passed down for generations. But however old these plants may be, it's important to remember that the learning curve starts anew with each owner because house conditions and an owner's "green thumb" vary so much.

Many of us employ landscape services or receive garden advice for our yards, but when it comes to our houseplants, we are left to our own devices. It’s the same feeling as when you bring your newborn home from the hospital: “Now what?!?” Like child-rearing, much of gardening is trial and error, along with the advice of well-meaning relatives and friends. For those without someone to consult, American Plant now offers a "home visit" service to provide tips for caring for interior plants that work best in the customer’s specific home conditions.

In talking to neighbors, I found a number that share a special bond with at least one of their houseplants.

**RHIZMATOUS BEGONIA:**

**TACIE FOX OF 81ST STREET: FOUR GENERATIONS NURTURE A MONSTER BEGONIA**

The original plant was my great-grandmother's, and it's about 100 years old. My grandmother, Nana, took it over when my great-grandmother died. My grandmother had Huntington's disease, and when she could no longer care for it, my mother took it. My mother, the family historian, has seen this plant live through overwatering, underwatering, kid attacks, kitten attacks, you name it. But it keeps bouncing back. We call it a "monster begonia," which she has to keep separating, trimming, cutting back, and repotting. The care and fuss over this plant knows no bounds.

I personally didn’t think it was as resilient as my mom claims. A housekeeper knocked mine over one time, and most of its hairy branches broke off. It took a long time for new growth to come from one of the many tubulars in the plant, and I got in big trouble for almost killing it (I was 30 years old at the time). But I guess my mom is right: it did come back, and so it is resilient. I especially like the large leaves because they remind me of something prehistoric. It is especially beautiful in late winter when long shoots covered in small white blossoms appear.

**SHAMROCK PLANT (OXALIS REGNELLII):**

**LORI RIECKELMAN OF 79TH STREET: A PLANT I CALL AUNT ALICE**

Aunt Alice was an extraordinary woman who was a missionary, surgeon, and later a psychiatrist. She ran hospitals in both Korea and Hong Kong in the 1950s and, in 1980, she returned to the US and moved into an apartment in Bethesda. When she wasn't traveling to third-world countries offering counseling to other missionaries, we got to spend a lot of time with her; she was a very special part of our family. In 2012, due to failing health, she moved to an assisted-living facility in New York, leaving us several of her belongings, including a couple of houseplants. I kept one of them, the shamrock plant, in the kitchen where I could keep a close eye on it.

For several years while Aunt Alice was still alive in New York, the shamrock plant limped along, barely staying alive. By the time Aunt Alice died in December 2018, the plant seemed on its last legs with two or three tiny leaves on it. I had pretty much given up on it. Then, by some miracle, it started to show signs of life. I started calling it "Aunt Alice" and it began to grow into a beautiful specimen with white flowers and healthy triangular leaves. I still can hardly believe my eyes. Whether it makes sense or not, I always feel that Aunt Alice is indeed still with us.

**AFRICAN VIOLET (SAINTPAULIA):**

**ELLEN D. EULE OF CARLYNN DRIVE: A TREASURED HOUSEPLANT THAT KEEPS ME ROOTED**

This African Violet was a housewarming gift I received 43 years ago! Even though I have only repotted it once during the past four decades, its hearty dark green fuzzy leaves and seasonally perfect purple blooms are a source of constant pride and pleasure. It demands little care, but still I take pride in the fact that I’ve kept it alive and thriving for
so long. The pleasure I derive lies in the simplicity of its beauty and its dependability. I have always enjoyed houseplants; their needs and “personalities” are all different. This one in particular holds a special place in my heart, almost like a much-loved pet. VN

African violets are charming old-fashioned indoor plants, valued for their slightly fuzzy, ruffled leaves and colorful little blooms in various shades of purple, pink, blue, red, and white. African violet care is really very simple if you can refrain from over-watering.
IDENTIFYING TREES FROM A DISTANCE IS ALWAYS A TOUGH CALL EVEN FOR VETERAN NATURALISTS. SO, WHEN YOU CAN SNAP UP A FIELD TIP THAT ALWAYS HOLDS TRUE AND ALLOWS YOU TO PROUDLY NAME A TREE SPECIES FROM THE CAR WINDOW OR ACROSS A HILLSIDE, IT’S A NUGGET OF NATURAL HISTORY KNOWLEDGE TO TREASURE. MY FIRST NUGGET CAME FROM A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO SPOT A WESTERN HEMLOCK, A COMMON NEEDLE-BEARING EVERGREEN OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. HE POINTED AT THE WAY THE TIP OF THIS TALL CONIFER BENT OVER—THE WESTERN HEMLOCK’S “DROOPY TOOPEE,” HE CALLED IT. TRY IT NEXT TIME AS A SUREFIRE WAY TO DISTINGUISH THE WESTERN HEMLOCK STANDING IN MIXED FORESTS FILLED WITH SPRUCES, TRUE FIRS, DOUGLAS FIRS, YEWs, CEDARS, AND PINES, THE OTHER NEEDLE-BEARING TREES FOUND ALONG THE NATION’S WEST COAST.

INTERESTINGLY, THE EASTERN AND CAROLINA HEMLOCK SPECIES DIFFER FROM THEIR WESTERN RELATIVE IN THAT THEIR “TOOPEES” STAND STRAIGHT UP, AT ATTENTION. BUT, IF THEY MIRRORED THE CURRENT STATE OF THEIR SPECIES’ HEALTH, THEY WOULD BE AT HALF-MAST OR LOWER. FOR ABOUT 70 YEARS NOW, THE HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID (HWA), AN INVASIVE MEMBER OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, has infested stands of Eastern Hemlocks in the eastern deciduous forests of the U.S. The aphid-like insect is pictured here. The infestation now spans an area from northern Georgia to Nova Scotia, affecting 90% of the North American range of the Eastern Hemlock.

ODDLY, HWA HAS BEEN PRESENT IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WHERE IT CAUSES ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO THE NATIVE WESTERN HEMLOCK. NATURAL PREDATORS AND PARASITIC WASPS HELP TO KEEP HWA IN CHECK. HWA WAS INTRODUCED TO EASTERN NORTH AMERICA FROM JAPAN AND WAS FIRST DISCOVERED SOUTH OF US, NEAR RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. THE HWA IS NATIVE TO JAPAN AND EAST ASIA; IT SUCKS THE SAP FROM NATIVE HEMLOCKS AND SPRUCE SPECIES THERE BUT DOES NOT CAUSE MORTALITY.

IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES AND SOUTHERN CANADA, THE HWA IS OUT TO GET EVERY HEMLOCK STANDING. THE ADULT BUG IS LESS THAN A MILLIMETER LONG AND OVAL IN BODY SHAPE—HARDLY IMPOSING. BUT ITS MOUTH PARTS, FOUR THIN, THREAD-LIKE STRUCTURES THAT ARE PACKED TOGETHER, MEASURE THREE TIMES THE LENGTH OF THE BODY. WHEN THIS HYPODERMIC-LIKE STRUCTURE PIERS THE PLANT’S TISSUES, IT BEGINS TO SUCK OUT THE SAP TO GAIN ITS MEAL AND SOMETIMES Injects A TOXIN IN THE PROCESS. PERHAPS THE TOXIN HELPS TO KEEP THE STORED RESERVES FLOWING OR INHIBITS THE HEMLOCK’S CAPACITY TO FIGHT BACK WITH ITS OWN CHEMICAL DEFENSE. IF HEAVILY INFESTED, THE HEMLOCK NEEDLES TURN FROM THEIR TYPICAL HEALTHY DARK GREEN TO GRAY-GREEN. NOW DESICCATED, THE HEMLOCKS BEGIN SHEDDING THEIR NEEDLES. DEATH USUALLY COMES IN FOUR TO TEN YEARS AFTER BEING INFECTED. EVEN TREES THAT SOMEHOW CLING TO EXISTENCE AFTER HAVING THEIR JUICES SUCKED OUT REMAIN IN POOR HEALTH AND OFTEN DIE OF SECONDARY CAUSES.

INTERESTINGLY, THERE ARE SEVERAL HEALTHY-LOOKING EASTERN HEMLOCKS IN OUR CABIN JOHN NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WERE PLANTED AS ORNAMENTALS ALONG PROPERTY EDGES. THOSE I CAN REACH AS YET SHOW NONE OF THE TELLTALE SIGNS OF AN INFECTION. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
HEMLOCKS
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

signs of infestation: bunches of tiny white woolly balls at the juncture of the needles—HWA egg cases. Making the HWA even more difficult to control is that it reproduces asexually and can have two generations per year. Each individual can lay up to 300 eggs in the woolly egg sacs. Larvae emerge in spring and are spread around by wind or on the feet of birds and mammals. The nymph, the stage after the larval period, stays put and lives on a single tree.

Let’s now scale up from the single tree to the forest so, to use that tired but apt metaphor, we don’t miss seeing the forest for the trees. A number of potential cures have been tried to halt the destruction of the Eastern and Carolina Hemlock, but none seem to be working well. These include introducing native pathogens and parasitoids from Japan and introducing the black lady beetle, which is native to the western U.S. and Canada and preys exclusively on the eggs of various Woolly Adelgids. Treating individual trees is possible but costly and hard to achieve if the tree is quite tall.

A recent president once said derisively, “If you have seen one redwood, you have seen them all.” That lack of appreciation for native conifers notwithstanding, if we apply the same logic to the less imposing Eastern Hemlock, and they were to disappear from our forests, would they be missed, and would their place simply be taken by some other tree? As it turns out, Eastern Hemlocks, an abundant species in native New England forests, are vital to the ecological health of that system. Hemlocks prevent soil erosion, provide food for deer and other wildlife, and offer shelter for deer in winter.

Elsewhere, hemlocks often line riverbanks and create a microclimate favored by newts and salamanders, while providing nesting ground for birds and cool water in the streams below, which is essential for brook trout to thrive.

When the eminent ecologist Paul Ehrlich famously coined the airplane rivet metaphor to answer critics about the overall effect of individual species extinctions, his argument was that an airplane could possibly lose a rivet here and there, but we really don’t know which rivet popping out of the wing could lead to a cascade of rivets popping and the wing falling off. The loss of Eastern Hemlocks to the HWA could have a cascading effect on what ecologists call the structure and functioning of the Eastern deciduous forest ecosystem. The next time you walk in a forest covered in hemlock, see if you can imagine the rivets popping. And look at the tips of the trees—they may be drooping under the weight of extinction.

Perhaps it will be possible to use new genetic techniques to transplant the genes that code for HWA resistance in Western Hemlocks or Asian species of hemlocks into hemlock seedlings and plant these HWA-resistant strains. Until then, there is little to do but send in armies of lady beetles that at least slow down the demise of the hemlock.

Mo-Co LOCAL

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

Wild tomato

SAL’S Italian Kitchen

7945 MacArthur Blvd. / Cabin John, MD
240.802.2370 www.salsitaliankitchen.net
An Easier Way to Lodge an Airplane Noise Complaint

BY CATHERINE TINSLEY
CJ Resident

As Cabin John continues to endure an unfair burden of the airplane noise from Reagan National airport (DCA), registering our concerns is more important than ever.

Unfortunately, official tallies from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority show that the number of Cabin John residents registering airplane noise complaints has dropped precipitously from 132 individuals in 2017 to just 39 people in 2019. The number of complaints fell too, from 1,397 to 1,066.

The airport authority, which runs the airport, the airlines, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which manages our national air traffic system, all have reasons to interpret the decline in the number of people complaining as a sign that residents have become accustomed to the noise and are willing to accept the highway they created overhead.

But many CJ residents feel differently. With almost half of the 800 planes in and out of DCA daily flying directly over Cabin John, they know the current flight paths are unfair and unacceptable. The airport authority noise monitor on 76th Street gives us an official tally that shows an average of 11,200 airplane noise incidences each month – or 373 each day! With all that noise, why aren’t more folks complaining?

One of the reasons is that the airport noise complaint website, https://tinyurl.com/DCA-Noise-Complaint, is not that user friendly. In January, a handful of CJ residents gathered at the home of Cathy Tinsley to discuss a new software interface, airnoise.io, that gives users a straightforward way to register complaints from their computer or smartphone. They found it took only a few minutes to set up an account that lets you register a complaint with just a few keystrokes.

Another feature, called a “quiet circle,” makes complaining even easier as it enables neighbors to piggyback on each other’s complaints by only having to reply to an email. If Cabin John could create a handful of quiet circles in our community, we would boost the number of individuals submitting complaints exponentially. This simple feature is critically important as the airport authority tracks not just total complaints, but how many different people are registering a concern. In other words, 50 individuals complaining once a month has much more sway on decision makers than one person submitting 50 complaints in that same time period.

If you are concerned about the unsafe and disruptive levels of aircraft noise and emissions in our community, let’s start some quiet circles! Cathy Tinsley would be happy to help anyone get set up. Just email her at tinsleyc@georgetown.edu.
### REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN CABIN JOHN

**Courtesy of your neighbor and realtor**

**PATRICIA AMMERMAN**

### JAN - FEB 2020

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<th>FB</th>
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### REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN CABIN JOHN

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pammerman@longandfoster.com
“CLARA BARTON: RED CROSS ANGEL”: A DRAMATIC PRODUCTION

Clara Barton was a humanitarian, teacher, Civil War nurse, organizer of supplies, and the founder of the American Red Cross. But, did you know that she was also a woman full of wit, intelligence and conviction? Or that she rode a horse, skirted bullets, traveled oceans, and used cosmetics and hair dye?

On Saturday, March 14 at 3:00 pm, award-winning actress Mary Ann Jung will offer an exciting and personal window into one of history’s most famous people in her one-woman, interactive performance. An open house event will follow the performance from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Hawaiian shirts are optional.

As hopes are dashed or flung high with each number called, this year’s celebrity callers—MD House of Delegates members Marc Korman and Sara Love—will attempt to ease tensions and maintain order.

Admission is free. But each five-dollar Bingo card you buy brings a better chance of taking home one of the many tempting prizes. Pizza slices and soft drinks will be available at bargain rates. We are looking for donations appropriate for kids or adult bingo prizes. Please contact Stace Kimmel at stace.kimmel@gmail.com, if you’ve got anything to offer up.

Bingo Night is sponsored by the Friends of Clara Barton Community Center (www.friendscbcc.org) and the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Proceeds from the event help fund activities and programs at the center. For more information, call the center’s office at 240-777-4910.

Free Nationals World Series Champions t-shirts, tasty snacks and, most importantly, a chance to help save a life. That’s what you’ll get when you take an hour to donate blood at the next Cabin John Blood Drive, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.

In 2019, the three CJCA-sponsored blood drives resulted in 108 pints collected. Not bad, but far from capacity! There is plenty of room for more donors. We would especially encourage high school students who are at least 16 years old to donate. Parental consent forms are needed for 16-year-olds. One can be completed in advance, or bring your parent, and we’ll have copies at the drive.

Overall, Inova says 22 percent of their donations come from high schoolers. At the CJ drives, we are lucky to have one or two students participate.

To schedule your donation appointment, please go to the Inova website using this URL, https://tinyurl.com/March2020CJBloodDrive, and sign yourself up. Or send an email to Karen Melchar at cjblooddrive@gmail.com, and we can put you on the schedule. If you do not want to commit to a specific time, no problem. But please email Karen saying you plan to come so that we can ensure there is enough staff on hand to move everyone through the process quickly.

We also need volunteers to post signs around the neighborhood, help setup, deliver the lunch order to the INOVA workers and center staff, and sign donors in. Please contact Karen Melchar by email or call 301-229-9049 if you can help out.

Free Performance: 3:00 pm
Open House: 4:00-5:00 pm
Clara Barton National Historic Site
5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo, MD

When: Friday, February 28
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Where: Clara Barton Community Center

The March 1 Blood Drive Needs You, Especially High School Students!

HAWAIIAN-THEMED FAMILY BINGO NIGHT SET FOR FEB. 28

Aloha, and Llaki maika’i! (Greetings, and Good Luck!) Don a lei and play to win amid Hawaiian Hā‘āheō (decorations) at Family Bingo Night 2020. This fun-filled family event is to be held at the Clara Barton Community Center (CBCC) Friday, Feb. 28, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Hawaiian shirts are optional.

Admission is free. But each five-dollar Bingo card you buy brings a better chance of taking home one of the many tempting prizes. Pizza slices and soft drinks will be available at bargain rates. We are looking for donations appropriate for kids or adult bingo prizes. Please contact Stace Kimmel at stace.kimmel@gmail.com, if you’ve got anything to offer up.

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HAWAIIAN-THEMED FAMILY BINGO NIGHT SET FOR FEB. 28
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES


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Inside this Issue...

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Houseplants: Part of the Family 8
**Local Nature:** Eastern Hemlocks 10
**Lodging Airplane Noise Complaints** 12
Neighborly News 14

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

SEEKING NEW VILLAGE NEWS BUSINESS MANAGER

_Are you interested in contributing to our community, but need a “job” with flexible hours?_

Please consider signing on as the volunteer business manager for The Village News.

_The Village News_ business manager typically spends 4-6 hours a month coordinating with advertisers and managing the mailing list. This position is also responsible for invoicing subscribers and advertisers on a calendar-year billing cycle using a new electronic invoice and tracking system. If you are organized, a good communicator, and comfortable using Microsoft Excel and Google Drive, we could really use your help!

Please contact Noelle Tower at VNeditorial@gmail.com to learn more about this position.

---

**FEB**

22
CJCA Trivia Night
1:00 - 5:00 PM
Community Center

26
CJCA Meeting
7:30 PM
Community Center

28
Family Bingo Night
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Community Center

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Feb., cont.

29
Moses Hall Cemetery Cleanup
11 AM TO 4 PM
8005 Cypress Grove Lane

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**MAR**

1
CJCA Blood Drive
10:00 - 3:00 PM
Community Center

25
CJCA Meeting
7:30 PM
Community Center