

Cabin John Village News

Vol. 5 No. 4

December 1971

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec. 7 SQUARE DANCE & OLD TIME GET-TOGETHER, Clara Barton PTA and Cabin John Citizens Asso. 7:30 pm Clara Barton School.
- Dec. 11 Story Hour at Little Falls Library. 10:30 am
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 29 Story Hour at Little Falls Library 10:30 am
- Jan. 12 Precinct Meeting, Democratic, 8pm 6611 80th Place.

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SQUARE DANCE PARTY

You are especially invited to come to the Clara Barton School on Tuesday night, December 7 at 7:30 for a square dance. This is a double double celebration; first, because it celebrates Christmas in Cabin John and Clara Barton's birthday, and second, because it is a joint party of the Citizens Association and the Clara Barton PTA.

Square dancing will be the focus of the evening with all Cabin Johners--young and old--invited. Even if you have never square dancing, you'll be in the right place. The caller will teach us some simple steps and guide us carefully through easy dances. It's called a First Nighter and that means no experience necessary.

Morris Fradin has planned an intermission special--Neil Potter and some other "old-timers" who will recall the days of long ago in Cabin John.

To pay the caller's fee, there will be a charge of 50¢ for each adult, with their children admitted free. No children should be there without their parents.

Home Study will provide refreshments. Come and enjoy a Christmas party with your neighbors. 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 7.

WANTED

The Montgomery County Department of Community Development is looking for temporary office space in Cabin John to be used in conjunction with the proposed Cabin John Planning Project. The office would be used by one urban Planner and would be the site of small committee meetings in the evenings. Space should be available in early January and use would be expected until June 1972. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL - Tom Brown 279-1582

COMMENTS FROM THE SURVEY

One page of the Community Survey was reserved for comments on any subject pertaining to Cabin John. These various expressions cannot be tabulated, of course, but they will be used as input for the various working committees (described elsewhere in this issue). We will publish all of these comments in this and future issues of the Village News, grouped by subject matter. Editorial license has been taken in condensing and combining the comments, but essentially they appear just as expressed by the various respondents.

Development and Land Use

Let's not have any more pretty subdivisions. Won't more development (houses, apartments) just mean more pollution?

Land can be planned for multiple usage, and more than one dwelling type and price range in a given area. Property so planned gives the community a better mix, and the developer/landowner benefits from a higher return. E.g., Burgess tract: townhouses in \$25,000 range and detached homes in \$35,000 range, and small playground.

If Shapiro tract is built as zoned, how many more residents will be added?

There should be an access to the canal through the Pollinger tract, regardless of how it is developed.

If the present Cabin John Gardens were torn down, that area and the Pollinger tract could be combined to build a mix of single family homes and community facilities.

At this point, is there any way to keep the Shapiro tract in woodland?

Wooded area should be kept between Cabin John and the Beltway to lessen noise.

Not enough low-cost housing around for a family of 4-6. Many apartment families would like to live here but can't find available, affordable houses to buy or rent.

Would like to see \$20,000 homes built instead of \$40,000 homes. Maybe our real estate taxes would level off then, instead of climbing each year.

We have lived here since 1947 and watched all other areas surrounding DC develop to a point of madness, except Cabin John. Can't expect landowner to leave his property undeveloped for benefit of those of us who like it rural, but hope citizens will consider more than dollar signs when making plans.

Making property values go up by intensive development would not be an improvement.

Let's get a landscape architect-community planner to draw up a physical plan for 1980.

Could we use some of the money allotted to Cabin John by the county to buy undeveloped land and keep it woods?

AMERICA HAD BETTER GO MODERN

Our nation's need for Japanese yen, French francs, South African rands, German marks, and Canadian dollars has become acute. We need foreign exchange to purchase bauxite for aluminum, iron ore, nickel chromium, manganese, columbium, natural gas, mineral oil and a host of other substances. All we have in reasonable quantities outside of farm products, is molybdenum and coal. Basically the United States is a poor country. And worse, we are losing our former superiority in management and metal working.

Again, due to our antiquated system of measurements and our fantastic system of spelling, our educational system takes the student about three years too long; at a great cost to the state and to the individual.

The adoption by America of the world-wide S.I. type of metric system would open many possibilities for the sale of our machinery abroad. What foreigner would want our American jib borer or lathe graduated in inches? There is much talk about the great cost of converting to metric measurements. Such wild stories are poor exaggerations. Just make the new machine models "metric" and in about five or ten years everything would be metric.

Foreigners have a grievous time in learning to deal with our type of orthography. Our system of spelling varies from pedantry to gross stupidity. "Ache" needs to be spelled AKE. The great Dr. Johnson mistakenly believed the word to be derived from Greek and introduced the present idiotic spelling. There are numerous similar examples.

A good workable simplified spelling of the American language would help sell our goods abroad (trade follows language) and would reduce school costs.

Geoffrey Chaucer as early as the 14th century was troubled by the various English spellings of words of his time. Statesmen, linguists, playwrights, librarians, and a great number of other interested and competent men have, over a period of a hundred and fifty years, been demanding a system of simplified spelling; men like Isaac Pitman, Alexander Ellis, Melvil Dewey, Theodore Roosevelt, Bernard Shaw, and a host of others.

The real trouble is that it has been only lately recognized that the strict Latin alphabet does neither suit nor fit the American language. We use many more sounds than did the ancient Romans, about thirty-eight in all. Bernard Shaw found need to write, using an alphabet of his own. And no one has surpassed him as a strict literary workman.

There is, of course the standard International Phonetic Alphabet used by scientific linguists. We could easily apply the I.P.A. alphabet to "Standard English," and have our problem solved out of hand. In Leipsic in early '45 I picked up an English copy of "Treasure Island" printed using the I.P.A. characters. With about two hours study I was able to read it. So it is workable but there are possibly alphabets more useful for the purposes of simplified spelling.

It is suggested here that if the I.P.A. were used the number of separate vowel characters be reduced in number, otherwise Harvard and Michigan Universities spelling would vary. Also that any type of capital letter usage be abandoned and double letters be eliminated.

This leaves the problem of a suitable script to be taken care of. It is suggested that the easy, somewhat slow but very legible Melvil Dewey shorthand would fill the bill.

Let's get on with the job --

Alan Osbourne 6512 75th Place
229-4376

Village News Financial Statement

The Village News runs on a June 1 to June 1 basis financially. That puts us exactly half way through this year, and at a good point to take stock money-wise.

First of all -- the costs. Each 3-page issue costs almost \$50. That includes \$41.03 for printing, \$5 for delivery and \$4 for mailing costs and miscellaneous. A four-page issue like the June and November ones costs \$54.71 for printing alone.

Now -- the contributions. Our subscription drive last May brought in \$80, and we hope to do even better next May. The county has paid \$75 since May for news in three issues directly related to the Community Development Office and its work on the Cabin John Plan. Commercial advertising has paid in \$176 since June 1, and want ads plus other contributions make up the difference of \$165.40.

The outlook for the next six months is a little different. Our costs will remain the same, and we should have \$400 to last until June. We already have nearly \$200. But our commercial advertising is going down, and no volunteers have come forward to get new ads. Most people have paid their subscriptions and contributions. County money should be \$75 again and commercial ads perhaps \$50. That leaves about a \$75 deficit.

Organizations like the Fire Department might donate money out of their treasuries -- especially groups whose news is reported regularly in the Village News. People who have been meaning to donate \$1 might do so for this year, while understanding that they'll be asked to give again in May.

In sum, our thanks to the people who have already given (more than \$200) and to those who will be giving soon. So far we're running in the black -- let's keep it that way.

Finances since May '71

Contributions

Balance	\$ 61.35
Subscription Drive	\$ 80.00
County Money	\$ 75.00
Advertising	\$176.00
Contributions & Want Ads	\$165.40
Total	\$557.75

Costs

Printing, etc.	\$329.44
Delivery	\$ 30.00
Total	\$359.44

Balance toward next six months = \$198.34

PROPOSED PLANNING PROGRAM IN CABIN JOHN

It is proposed that a possible organizational structure designed to produce a plan in Cabin John by the residents and the Department of Community Development would be as follows. The Cabin John Citizens Association shall be the parent organization to this effort resulting from its continued interest and demonstrated ability to do the required work. Other community-wide organizations and institutions shall be given access to the planning process and decision making and the Cabin John Citizens Association shall have no special powers regarding the outcome.

It is proposed that a village-wide "Citizens Planning Committee" should be established. This committee would be comprised of the chairman and one member of various "issue" subcommittees and the officers of the Cabin John Citizens Association. After review of expressed community interest, the Cabin John Community Survey, and a felt need for further information on certain subjects, several issues stand out as natural foci for a community plan. Proposed committees are:

1. Housing Committee The responsibility of this committee would be to formulate a complete inventory of housing conditions and deficiencies in Cabin John in conjunction with the Department of Community Development. This survey would point the way to a comprehensive program for improved housing in Cabin John.
2. Schools and Public Services The responsibility of this committee would be to review the future of schools serving Cabin John with special attention to enrollment levels and prospects for maintaining a community school. Other public services would also include health care, welfare and any other county service of interest to the community.
3. Public Improvement The responsibility of this committee would be to review and suggest what capital improvements are needed and desired, to clearly specify what streets need to be improved if any, and what the character of the improvements shall be. This committee shall ascertain who wants what in the way of curbing, storm sewers and sidewalks and then propose a unified, well-reasoned set of recommendations for improvements.
4. Natural Resources The responsibility of this group shall be to develop a comprehensive plan for the preservation of natural environment in Cabin John. The recommendations shall be integrated into the final plan.
5. Land Use The responsibility of this group would be to review the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan's land use recommendations, and to clearly define community desires for future development in terms of total community needs. This committee will refine the Cabin John Survey in this regard.
6. Action Committee - Cabin John Development Corporation This group, which is existing, shall be provided with inputs from the county in hopes of activating the group as a non-profit sponsor of improved housing or other possible programs for Cabin John. This group should be provided access to the planning process so that feedback of community opinion can be incorporated into its actions.

Each of the six committees shall provide two members to the village-wide Planning Committee in addition to the officers of the Cabin John Citizens Association. The "Citizens Planning Committee" shall act as a clearing house for ideas for the plan and a steering committee for planning activity. Each element of the plan shall be approved by this committee to make certain conflicts between subcommittees are solved. The membership of each committee shall have only one requirement, the person shall live or own land in Cabin John. Any citizen may be on as many or few committees as desired. There shall be no limit to size of any subcommittee. As many or as few members of the community shall be given an opportunity to be in the planning process as the community shall provide.

During the planning period, it is envisioned that a Department of Community Development planner shall spend time in the Cabin John community at a site office. Such an office would provide an ongoing contact point in the community and improve citizen access to the planning process.

HOMEMAKERS CHRISTMAS MEETING

Cabin John Homemakers Club is a group of women who enjoy cooking, handcrafts, and the skills and arts of creating and maintaining a home. They meet once a month for lunch and a program focused on one of their many concerns. Any interested women are invited to call JoAnn Whittaker at 220-8809

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT LIBRARY

The Little Falls Library on Massachusetts Avenue will feature this month two events of special delight for children. On Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10:30-11:00, "Voyage of the Wee Red Cap" will be presented at Story Hour. This is especially suited to ages 5-9. Then on Wednesday, Dec 29, at 10:30, there will be a Beatrix Potter Hour with a special story teller. "The Tailor of Gloucester" will be featured.

DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT MEETING

The upcoming primary will be reviewed at Judy Toth's home on the evening of Wednesday, January 12. All voters are welcome to attend. 8 p.m. is the time, address is 6611 80th Place.

New Neighbors

Leonard and Irene Redicke have moved to the upper part of Tomlinson Ave. with their children David, Leslie, and Chris.

Walter Snowden has recently joined his wife and two daughters after completing his State Department tour in Thailand.

WELCOME TO BOTH SETS OF NEW NEIGHBORS

Every month some people report not having received the Village News. At times teen-agers have been seen removing papers from the mailboxes. There are always a stack of extra papers left at the Quick Food Shop and at the Post Office so get an extra copy there, if you need one.

CJPCA HEARS CANAL SUPT

At the November 23 meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association, the main speaker was David Richie, superintendent of the GW Memorial Parkway and the C&O Canal. Mr. Richie spoke of plans for the development of Glen Echo as a cultural center. Adventure Theatre has signed a contract to be resident dramatic group at Glen Echo, and negotiations are now being made with a ballet group to be resident dance company. An architect is making plans to renovate existing buildings and to convert one building into an artists' center where lessons could be given and exhibitions staged. The future of the swimming pool is not certain, but there is very little chance that it will be open next summer.

Mr. Richie took suggestions and comments regarding the canal and the parkway, mentioning that the National Park system is actively courting public use and enjoyment of the parks and is sponsoring planned programs to enhance the attractiveness of Washington area parks. "Summer in the Parks" is one example. The Canal authorities welcome on-site education for children and would be glad to cooperate with the school or any community organizations in planning such activities. In answer to a question about the Pollinger tract, Mr. Richie said that the Federal government can condemn an easement to prevent high-rise construction, but did not give an opinion as to whether this would be possible in the Pollinger situation.

Charles Carothers, who has recently moved to the rammed-earth house on 75th Street, and who is Asst. Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Marine Resources with Dept of the Interior, talked to us about the Federal government's programs of conservation and responsible development of natural resources. He said the era of the environmentalists is here and that citizens' groups are influencing government action.

The business of the meeting included a report from the president, James Craig, that the Executive Committee had accepted the proposal drawn up by Mr. Thomas Brown of the county Office of Community Development, as a working plan subject to modification by the community. (This plan is reproduced elsewhere in this paper under the heading PROPOSED PLANNING PROGRAM IN CABIN JOHN.) A series of local area meetings will be held to give in-depth results of the survey and to encourage active participation in the committee process for formulating our Cabin John plan. Mr. Craig further reported that the Executive Committee had written to the County Council opposing that group's proposed low/moderate income housing legislation as written, while endorsing the concept of more low/moderate income housing in the county in principle.

The membership committee, under the direction of Diane Heflin, is working on the selection of block chairmen to cover the total community, to stimulate attendance at meetings and to keep citizens informed about community concerns.

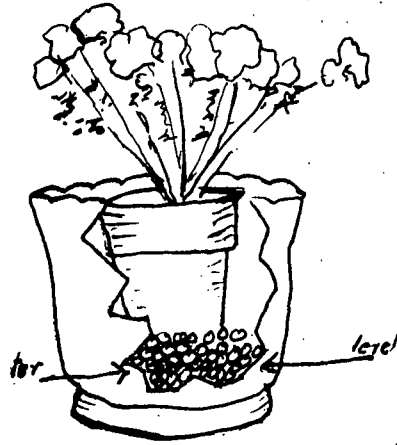
A Thank-You to the Citizens Association

I would like to thank the members of the Cabin John Citizens Association, who at their October meeting, passed the hat and collected \$21.00 for our community school program. The money will be used to help pay our teacher whose salary must be paid by the parents, so you can see every penny helps. Ella Fisher
Chairman

DECEMBER GARDENS By Theresa P. Jessup

There are no blooms outdoors typical of this month of December but indoors we have poinsettias, cyclamens, kalanchoes, Christmas cactus, and some bulbs. In this month of holiday festivities and gift giving you will want to consider the plants you are giving and the care to take of those you receive.

Most house plants require humidity. This can be provided for poinsettias, cy-



clamens and gardenias by placing the pot inside a jardiniere that has 3 or 4 inches of pebbles in the bottom. The pot should sit on pebbles with water kept in the bottom of the jardiniere almost at the top of the pebbles. As this water slowly evaporates it main-

tains a humid, healthy atmosphere around the plant.

American holly, *Ilex opaca*, and English holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, are popular Christmas gifts - with their bright red berries - and can be kept throughout the winter if not overwatered and are given only two or three hours of sunlight a day. Choose a spot in the house where the atmosphere is humid and the temperature doesn't go above 68-70°. When danger of frost is over plant them outside as a permanent part of the landscape.

If you receive a live Christmas tree -- a spruce or balsam, carefully dug with a tight ball of soil firmly wrapped in burlap, it need not be abandoned when the holidays are over. Prepare a hole in advance, working in humus and covering it with 8 or 10 inches of leaves held in place by boards or chicken wire to protect the soil from freezing. After the tree has served its purpose indoors remove the leaves, dig out the soil and plant the tree at the same depth it stood before. Back fill it carefully being sure there are no air pockets. To ensure that the tree grows straight it should be guyed and it might be wise to erect a burlap protection on the windward side.

Suggestions --

With lawns dormant you should keep off the grass as much as possible. Above all, avoid walking over the same part continuously and wearing a path across it. If heavy traffic is necessary, walk on a bridge of boards.

Be sure to bring in some potting soil before it freezes hard. Don't be satisfied with ordinary potting soil. Mix good loam with leaf mold and sand. Add lime, if necessary, and a good slow-acting fertilizer.

Our Cabin John Zip Code is 20731. Since our mail is delivered by the West Bethesda carriers, we all got a post card listing their zip code as ours. However the real Cabin John Zip Code is 20731.

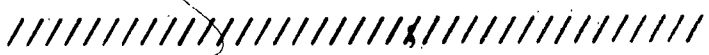
Recipe Corner

This is a good cake to make at Christmas or any holiday.
Mrs. Alfred Whittaker

Black Walnut Cake

- 3/4 lb. butter
- 1 lb. Con. Sugar xxxx
Cream until light
- 6 eggs - beat 2 eggs at a time for 5 minutes
- 1 lb. flour
- 1 pt. black walnuts (chopped)
- 4 T brandy (Peach)
- 1 T vanilla
- 3/4 lb. raisins

Bake for 30 minutes at 250°, then bake for 2 hours at 275°.



WANT ADS

WANTED: Good used playpen or port-acrib Call 229-6305

FOR SALE: Puppies, mixed breed. 3 males 1 female, 10 weeks old, shots and wormed. Puppies will weigh about 40 lbs when adult. Will be happy to hold until Christmas. \$5.00 Call 229-6312 evenings and weekends.

Babysitting
Mrs. Hufnagel, licensed, 80¢ per hour day and night. 3 Vassar Circle Glen Echo.

CORN FRITTERS

Ella Fisher

- 1 cup sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 egg, separated
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup cream style canned corn fat for deep frying

Heat the fat to 365 or 370.

Sift flour, measure and sift again with the baking powder, salt and pepper. Beat the egg yolk with milk, mix with corn and turn into dry ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Beat the egg white stiff and fold in.

Dip a tablespoon into fat to grease it, then carefully lower 1 teaspoon of batter at a time into the hot fat. Cook the fritters until brown. Fry several at a time, so long as they don't touch each other. Drain on thick paper towels. Coat with 10x sugar. Serve hot.

VILLAGE NEWS STAFF

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- Barbara Clark, features 229-6431
- Janet Hutchinson, news 229-6144
- Frances Kandle 229-3208
- Dana Cable recipes 229-3830
- Mary McCusker
- Theresa Jessup, gardening
- Morris Fradin, special articles

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