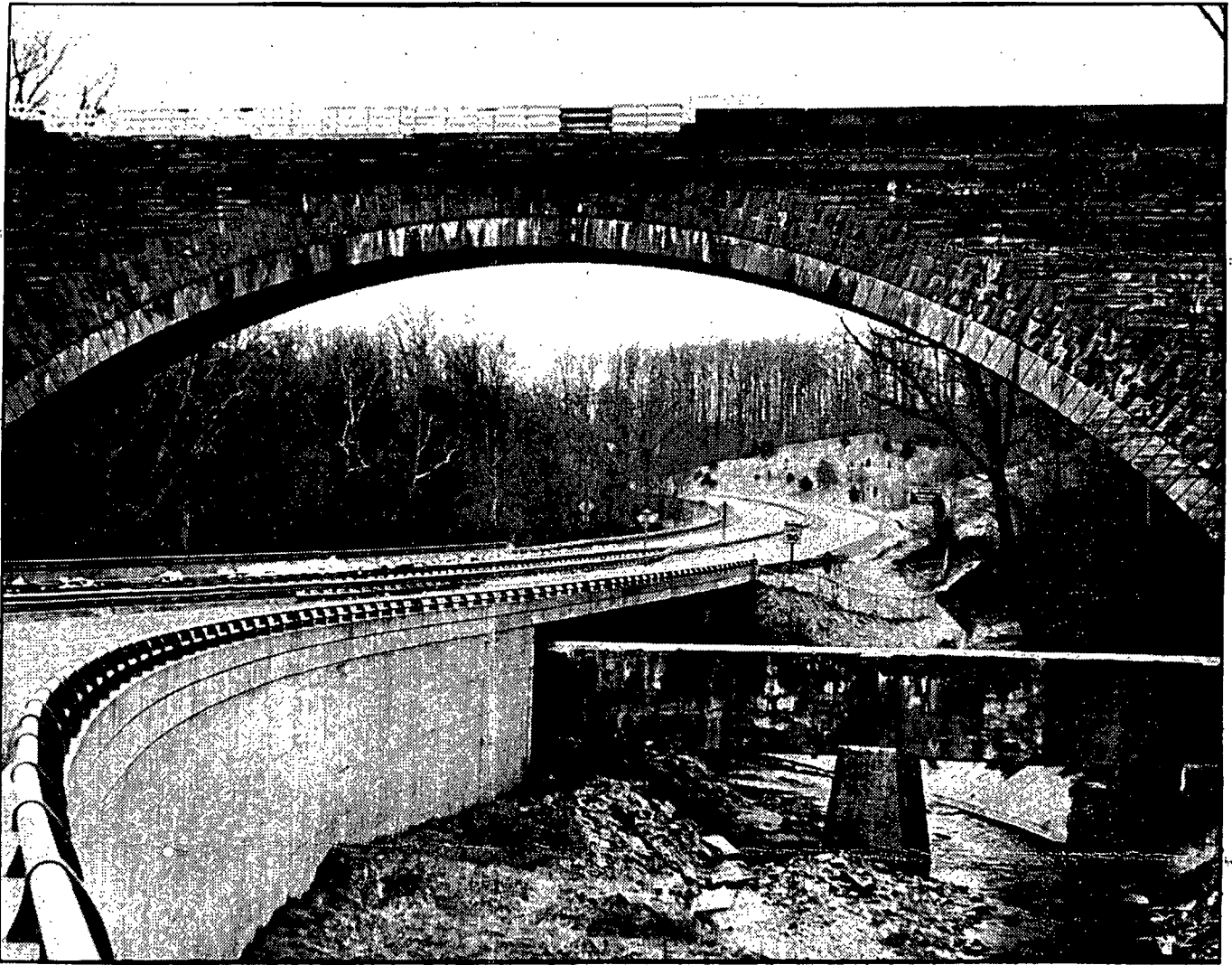


# Cabin John Village News

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MARCH, 1975



UNION ARCH BRIDGE TO BE OPEN TO PEDESTRIANS MONDAY.

Photo by Joe Silva.

The public need not lament about the Union Arch Bridge. It is true that decisions are slow in coming but it is a timeconsuming task to discover who will be financially responsible for the bridge repair and/or reconstruction. According to Harry Ways, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers who own the bridge, the District of Columbia has already spent over \$400,000 on repaving MacArthur Boulevard; repairing the bridge would entail at least another \$half-million. Said Ways, "By no stretch of the imagination should D. C. taxpayers be expected to finance the bridge's repair." Now then, should the State of Maryland pay for it? Afterall, they are responsible for the parkway beneath the bridge. Or should Montgomery County provide the funds to repair it?

The Advisory Commission on Historic Places wants to preserve the disintegrating walls which were removed after a rock fell, crashing to the road below. Preserving the walls would be an additional financial burden. The A. C. H. P. may have good intentions, but are they able to put their money where their mouth is?

Harry Ways has accepted an invitation to relate to the public the intricacies involved in repairing the bridge and to assure Cabin John residents that progress is being made for our benefit. Representatives from the offices of Senators Beall and Mathias and Representative Gude met with Mr. Ways on February 27 to discuss the future of the bridge and to explore the possible means of financing its reconstruction. The Citizens Association Meeting on March 25 will hopefully reveal more progress towards bridging the gap.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
FEBRUARY CITIZENS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Cabin John Citizens Association met on February 25, spelling out the positive action that has taken place within the community this month. Cabin John's claim to fame, the Union Arch Bridge, has been a focal point for several months. At the request of the VILLAGE NEWS, Harry Ways, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers has accepted an invitation to speak at the next Citizens Association meeting on March 25 at 8 PM. He will discuss the results of a meeting of the Corps of Engineers and state officials which took place on February 27 and bring us up to date on efforts to repair the bridge.

Cabin John promises

to be increasingly demonstrative in its aim to improve Seven Locks Road. Minda Wetzel drafted a letter, whose intent is to focus the attention of county executives and road maintenance officials on repairing the road expeditiously.

Good news for the VILLAGE NEWS... in order to insure continued professional operation of the paper, the Citizens Association has voted to donate \$100 to the NEWS from the Association treasury, to cover expenses until the NEWS's fundraising in May. Any volunteers who care to canvass the neighborhoods and join this effort should contact Cappie Morgan (or Bill White. (See Page 4)

Finally, a consumer complaint investigator from the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office appeared as guest speaker. Ms. Pensmith donated not only her time in discussing consumer self-defense, but also contributed over 500 copies of a publication called "Attorney General's Crookbook" which exposes the ways consumers get ripped off and how they can avoid rip-offs. Ms. Pensmith is the person to whom your consumer complaints should be directed and she can be reached at 474-3500.

Lastly, discussion of the recent downzoning of property along MacArthur Boulevard will take place during the March meeting of the Citizens Association. All residents who either oppose or support the downzoning are urged to be present to express their views on March 25 at 8 PM.



GREAT FALLS PARK  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Great Falls Park will begin their activities this month with a Billy Goat Trail Hike on Saturday, March 8 with everyone meeting at the Tavern Museum at 10:00 A. M.

On March 9, the National Park Idea Program will feature a slide show of 19th century painters at the Tavern Museum at 2:00 P. M.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 15th and 16th, there will be an exhibit of the Ingalls Gold Collection at the Tavern Museum at 2:00 and 3:00 P. M.

On Saturday, March 15 and 22, there will be Wildflower Walks at Great Falls with everyone meeting at the Tavern at 10:00 A. M.

On Saturday, March 29 there will be a program entitled "Men and Mules" - featuring old time slides and photographs of people along the Canal. The program is at 2:00 P. M. at the Tavern.

On Easter Sunday, March 30, there will be a Sunrise Service at 7:00 A. M. conducted by the Park Service and Potomac United Methodist Church at the Tavern Museum. There will be a breakfast for members of the congregation and their guests at the Parish.

For information on any of the park events call, 299-3613.

**THE VILLAGE NEWS**  
CONTRIBUTING STAFF

We, the staff of this issue, Doris Byrd, Janet Dence, Kathy Feild, Betsy Haas, Brooks Halota, Steve Magnuson, Cappie Morgan, Nancy Richman, Joe Silva, Beverly Sullivan, Susan Vogt, Jim Wilner and Shelly Keller, Editor.

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Editor  
THE VILLAGE NEWS  
Post Office Box 184  
Cabin John, Maryland  
20731

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## POTOMAC VALLEY HOMEMAKERS CLUB TO MEET

The Potomac Valley Homemakers Club will meet on Monday, March 10 at 11:00 AM in the Community House in Cabin John Gardens. There will be a discussion about the club making an old-fashioned quilt for the bicentennial celebration the County is planning in the fall. All community homemakers are welcome. There will also be a discussion on family life and home management, including vegetable gardening and food preparation. Call Dagny Newman (229-0755) for information.

## ANNUAL FRIENDS DAY AT GIBSON GROVE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH MARCH 23

On Sunday, March 23 at 11:00 A.M., Gibson Grove A.M.E. Zion Church will hold their annual Friends Day during the church service. All Cabin John residents are invited. For information, call Rev. Bill White at 229-5363.

## !!!NEWCOMERS!!!

Copies of the Cabin John Community Plan and the Cabin John Community Directory can be obtained by calling Cappie Morgan at 320-3269.

## LITTLE FALLS LIBRARY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PROGRAM

Little Falls Library will be having a St. Patrick's Day program on Thursday, March 13 at 4:00 P.M. for children ages 6 and up. The program will include stories and a short film as well as Irish Dancers.

In addition, the library will have two story hours for pre-schoolers this month, one on Saturday March 8 at 10:30 and another on Saturday, March 29 at 10:30 which includes a penny theater production of "The Little Red Hen."

On Wednesday, March 19 the library is having Douglas Fairbanks night and will feature "Thief of Bagdad" at 7:30 P.M.

For information on any of these events, call 320-5266.



## DASHNERS IN SPAIN

Lee and Zelma Dashner, 6501 Persimmon Tree Road, have been in Southern Spain since mid-December. They have travelled throughout the Costa de Sol and Andalusia area, and have also visited Portugal, Morocco and Gibraltar. After a stay in Madrid, Toledo and Avila they plan on returning home to Cabin John.

## PARENT-CHILD DEVELOPMENT CLASS

Parent-child development classes will be offered at Clara Barton Elementary School again this semester. Classes will meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. beginning April 9, and run for ten weeks. This is a special class for parents and pre-schoolers (2 to 4 years) to come to school together. Parents observe and assist with the children under the guidance of a trained early childhood teacher and also spend time in an adult group learning child development principles. Children will enjoy the pre-school experience along with mother, meeting new friends and trying out new activities. A registration form in the Adult Education brochure should be completed and postmarked no later than March 17. (These forms can also be obtained through Betsy Haas at 229-1982 and Cappie Morgan at 320-3269.) Tuition: \$20.00 plus a \$5.00 materials fee.

## PARENTS OF 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

Watch for the planning meeting for next year's 4 Year Old School in the early part of April. Time and place to be announced in the next Village News. Call Betsy Haas at 229-1982 for more information.

## **HAULING**

(Includes Rockville dump)  
\* \* REASONABLE \* \*  
CALL ED CLARK, 229-7311  
Weekdays, 7-8 PM  
Saturdays, 11 AM-1 PM

## **QUICK FOOD SHOP**

MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
6:30 AM to 6:00 PM

GROCERIES\*BREAKFAST\*LUNCH  
PASTRIES\*MEATS\*CARRY-OUT!

THE VILLAGE NEWS  
NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Cappie Morgan.

If there is one thing that everyone in Cabin John seems to agree on, it's the value of our VILLAGE NEWS. To date, this newsletter, assembled and edited by volunteers, has been distributed monthly to every household in Cabin John without charge. A dollar contribution per year has been requested of recipients, and -- to my knowledge -- gladly paid ... whenever we remembered to ask.

Since printing costs, along with everything else these days, have been going up, we're finding that it costs about \$60 a month to print the VILLAGE NEWS -- an amount not easily covered by our ad hoc requests for support to date.

What we DON'T want to do is to STOP DISTRIBUTING the NEWS to everyone regardless of their willingness or ability to contribute. What we DO want to do is to clarify and specify our need for support by:

1. Asking for donations immediately to cover the April and May issues. When the VILLAGE NEWS pays for its March issue, it will be scraping the bottom of the till. Special supporters are asked to step forward and help us cover the costs for the April and May issues. Checks should be made out to the VILLAGE NEWS and sent to: Mary Shaw, Treasurer, 13 Russell Rd. Cabin John, 20731.

2. Mounting a door-to-door contribution campaign in May.

We plan to have volunteers go door-to-door throughout Cabin John in May to ask personally for

contributions to the VILLAGE NEWS which we hope will put the NEWS on a firm financial footing for the next year.

You can help us by volunteering to canvass your own street; welcoming our canvassers with a contribution when, in fact, they reach your door. The tried team of Bill White (229-5363) and Cappie Morgan (320-3269) have agreed to coordinate this effort. Please call them to offer leg-work or suggestions.

THINK ABOUT WHAT  
THE VILLAGE NEWS  
MEANS TO YOU AND HOW  
YOU CAN BEST OFFER  
MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT!

OLD NEWSPAPERS  
FIND A HOME!

For those of you who are ecology-conscious, and have been looking for a place to deposit bundled and loose newspapers, there is a Dempster-Dumpster in the parking lot at Walt Whitman High School. The papers are picked up by Georgetown Junk and the money from their collection goes to Walt Whitman.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION  
CLASS

Come to Clara Barton School April 8 for a course to help parents learn specific skills that WORK -- listening skills, confronting skills, problem-solving skills. Weekly practice can improve communications between family members, resulting in a happier and calmer household. Tuition: \$10.00 for ten sessions. For additional information, please contact Dr. Pat Edmister, 279-3336

CABIN JOHN OMBUDSMAN

The collective voice of Cabin John Hollow is silent except for an occasional snoring in its sleeve. Nineteen members of the community turned out at the February Citizens Association meeting and a similar handful at the January meeting. This is evidence indicative of community lethargy. If we are to make any progress in 1975, the able bodied and able minded of Cabin John must come together to fortify the community with vocal expression at meetings and with a determination to move quickly and decisively in community affairs. Crucial issues at stake concern the Union Arch Bridge, Seven Locks Road and down-zoning along MacArthur Boulevard, not to mention the potential uses of the Clara Barton School. Solutions to our problems may be a long time in coming. But it behooves us to create answers in favor of chancing failure.

As one youth remarked at the Quick Food Shop one morning, "I don't much care for the Citizens Association. They're a bunch of self-elected members who make decisions without involving the community. Take down-zoning for instance."

Well, it can unequivocally be stated that if the community does not venture to come out of its spectator role to participate, then nothing will be gained at all. The Citizens Association Executive Committee is not self-elected -- every resident has a vote. But having it isn't worth a dime if it isn't exercised at election time this Spring.

I am suspicious. Why only 19 people. Why not 200? There is strength in numbers. Why not YOU?

Kathy Feild

# LETTERS...

## THE EFFECTS OF DOWNZONING

by Jim Wilner

Emery Corners, Kimberley, Fairway Hills ... ever hear of them? They are all communities located no more than a mile from Cabin John. There is nothing really distinctive about them, they're just bedroom communities located outside Washington.

Until recently Cabin John used to be a place with its own character and identity. MacArthur Boulevard used to be our main street. Then the Cabin John Citizens Association decided to close down all the stores on our main street and "improve" MacArthur Boulevard till it became a highway. In a very short time, we will have lost our small town identity and become just another bedroom community by the highway.

The citizens of Glen Echo rose up and petitioned the County to preserve their small stores, and the Council did. Are we too late?

Emery Corners, Kimberley, Fairway Hills, Cabin John ... ever hear of them?

## CITIZENS ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS DOWNZONING AT MARCH 25 MEETING

Downzoning of property along MacArthur Boulevard will be the topic of discussion at the Citizens Association Meeting on March 25 at Clara Barton School at 8:00 P. M.

## MORE ON DOWNZONING

The following is a letter from Charles S. Rand, Assistant County Attorney for Montgomery County to Jim Wilner. It is the Editor's belief that the information this letter sets out should be made available to the citizens of Cabin John before the Citizens Association meeting on March 25 at 8:00.

Dear Mr. Wilner:

This letter is in response to the questions which you addressed to this office:

1. If a commercial enterprise were to suffer over 50% damage by fire, would the owner be allowed to rebuild his store and continue his business?

ANSWER: No. Montgomery County Code 1972 Sec. 59-189 states:

"No building devoted to a non-conforming use shall, in the event of destruction or serious damage by fire, flood or similar cause, be reconstructed for the purpose of carrying on the non-conforming use. "Serious damage" shall be defined as damage which reduces the value of any structure by more than half its prior value."

2. Could one commercial use be allowed to continue as another commercial use which would benefit the community, even though the new use would be only slightly more intensive?

ANSWER: No. The proprietor of a non-conforming commercial enterprise may not change the nature and character of that commercial enterprise; how-

ever, he may change the enterprise to any use allowed by a more restrictive zone than the one in which his business could have been legally located.

3. Since the owners of these properties have spent money to improve properties as places of business, they will be worth less as houses. Will the County or State reimburse the owners for any loss that they incur in the sale of their stores as a single-family home?

ANSWER: No. So long as the County or State allows an owner a reasonable use of his property, there is no "taking of property" within the meaning of the fourteenth amendment for which the government must compensate the property-owner.

4. Would the owners of non-conforming commercial enterprises be allowed to physically alter the exterior of their buildings to improve their property and the quality of service to the community?

ANSWER: No. Exterior alterations may not be made, nor may any out-buildings, sheds, etc., be erected. However, the proprietors may alter the interior of their building and increase their stock-in-trade.

I hope the foregoing answers will provide some assistance to you in understanding your rights under the new zoning classification in your area.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Rand  
Assistant County Attorney  
January 22, 1975

RECEIPE OF THE MONTH

This month's receipe comes from Betsy Haas. She says that she doesn't know the origin of this receipe but she does know that it is delicious. She suggests serving it with an Easter Ham.

PINEAPPLE CASSEROLE

Preheat oven to 350° and grease a casserole dish.

- 2 eggs
- 4 slices bread, in pieces
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 3/4 C. to 1 C. miniature marshmallows
- 1-1 lb. can of crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1/4 lb. melted butter or margerine
- 1/3 C. evaporated milk (1 small can)

Beat the eggs. Add the bread, the sugar, the marshmellows and pineapple to the eggs. Mix together. Add melted butter and put in the greased casserole. Pour milk over the top. Do not cover. Bake for 1/2 hour.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Electric typewriter with legal size carriage. 6 months old. \$100 with stand. Call 229-7216 after noon.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

On March 19th at 7:30 p.m. there will be an International Dessert Buffet at the Bannockburn Elementary School. This will cap off international month at Bannockburn. with children and parents invited to sample American and foreign desserts. Some families will be serving dinner to foreign students that night and there will be return transportation provided for the students from Bannockburn School.

What is needed now are dessert providers. If you have a foreign specialty or make a great American dessert, and would be willing to make it for the International Dessert Buffet, please call Susan Vogt at 229-6479.

**glen echo park**

The next Glen Echo Park public planning meeting is at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 2nd.

**EMIL DOLEZAL**

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THANKS TO MARY ANN

After nearly two years as the editor of the Village News, Maryann Wilson has retired to the demands of a new baby boy. Being editor of the Village News is really a one-person job with never ending responsibilities. All of us owe Maryann a vote of thanks for the courteous and friendly way she printed all the Cabin John news.

ADDITIONS TO CABIN JOHN DIRECTORY

Lawrence J. Stark  
6515 78th Street  
229-6515

Daniel & Beverly Sullivan  
7800 MacArthur Blvd.  
229-7167

Shelly & Laura Keller  
7687 MacArthur Blvd.  
Apt. 2  
320-4212

The Village News is in DESPERATE NEED of a circulation manager. It is a once-a-month responsibility for getting piles of The Village News to the seven deliverers along with money to pay them. It takes about 1 hour of work per month on either Friday evening or Saturday morning. Please contact Shelly Keller at Box 184 if you can perform this responsibility.

**PIANO-VIOLIN  
STUDIO**

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9:00 AM to 5:00 PM