

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 18, Number 3 SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

November 1984

## CROSSWALKS FOR MacARTHUR BOULEVARD

Cabin John has finally been granted two crosswalks on MacArthur Blvd. During the past two years, two children have been struck by cars near Union Arch Bridge and there has been at least one bicycle/car accident at MacArthur and the Parkway access road. Many of us trying to cross MacArthur on foot have had close calls or had to wait while long lines of commuter traffic whizzed past.

Although the Citizens Association requested several crosswalks which were not approved, the Division of Traffic Engineering has approved pedestrian crosswalks at each end of the bridge. This means painted crosswalks, pedestrian-activated buttons on the lights, and sidewalks from the lights to the entrance of the rec center and the shrimp truck parking area.

Of course no crosswalk will save lives if it isn't used. We urge you to show your children the safe way to cross MacArthur and to go the few extra feet to make a safe crossing yourself.

Our attempts to obtain crosswalks and signs have been hampered by unreported accidents. If you are struck by a car (even if not seriously injured), please report it to the police. Only in this way can the county locate unsafe areas.

--Marian Purtell

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(If you want your event listed in this calendar, please call Laura Feldbaum, 229-8825. The next deadline is November 16. The calendar is open to all community-related groups.)

Tuesday, October 23 Cabin John Citizens Association meeting, 8 p.m., Clara Barton/Washington International School. (See story this issue.)

Sunday, October 28 Bethesda Co-op General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 7945 MacArthur Blvd.

Saturday, November 3 Gibson Grove Church will be taking a trip to Pennsylvania Dutch country. All are welcome. Please call 229-7105.

Sunday, November 4 Folk concerts, co-sponsored by Bethesda Co-op and National Park Service, resume at Glen Echo Park. Every Sunday, 2:30 p.m., in Arcade Classrooms. Nov. 4 Sprouts of Grass; Nov. 11 Flora Moulton; Nov. 18 Ken Perlman. \$4.00.

Monday, November 12 CJ Citizens Association Executive Committee meeting, 8 p.m., home of Betsy Lawrence, 7629 Cabin Road.

AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6!

## GOODBYE TO THE FIREMEN

Last weekend if you were driving by the Firehouse you might have seen Mary Morgal, Jane Hunter and other members of the Fire Department's Auxiliary sorting through piles of trophies and other memorabilia collected through the years, in preparation for the move to the new firehouse on River Road.

Chief Bo Money expects the trucks and men to move to the new station "in a week or two". He stressed that Cabin John residents will receive just as much fire protection as they always have.

Chief Money also said that the fate of the present firehouse is still uncertain. --Susan Vogt



## THE WAY CABIN JOHN WAS

Want to learn a bit about Cabin John's history and support the Village News at the same time? The News has reprinted two fascinating glimpses back in time. The publications are:

\*A Brief History of Cabin John Park by Edith Armstrong, first published in 1947; and  
\*The Story of Cabin John, a transcript of a PTA meeting in 1957 featuring reminiscences by half a dozen oldtimers.

(Continued on page 4)

## The People of Cabin John

### ALEXIS GELB'S PLACE IN THE SUN

By Barbara Martin

One of the two winning designs in the 1984 Cabin John T-shirt contest came from the creative talent of Ms. Alexis Gelb of Arden Road. Alexis is eight, and very clear about things.

When I met to talk with her, she was dressed in coordinated pink and purples. Purple T-shirt, striped grey and purple pants, purple sox, pink running shoes. And purple earrings. "That's one of the things I'd like to do when I'm grown -- design jewelry. I also want to design stuffed animals, not make them but design them."

We sat in her backyard, at the picnic table where she was making a play area out of sawdust for her pet caterpillars. "I like art class," she told me. "We have art every Friday at school. We draw and paint and make things out of clay; I like all those things."

"I do gymnastics at school too. I can do a handstand to a bridge and a roundoff from a high balance beam." Cartwheels? "Oh, cartwheels are easy." She ran over to the lawn and demonstrated cartwheels and a handstand to a bridge. When the Olympics were telecast, she watched Mary Lou Retton. "I want to be like her; I'd like to be in the Olympics."

The "Place in the Sun" design was not her first prize-winning piece. When Alexis was three, she won a white ribbon -- third prize -- in an art contest. The design that now graces T-shirts all around town (in blue, white, grey, cream, and tan) was actually the second version she did. "The first one said 'Cabin John is my place' and that was good, but then I thought of 'place in the sun,' and I liked that better, so that's the one I sent in."

She did it with felt-pen markers, and the result is a cheerful representation of sun and flowers in bright yellow, green and red. "I like to use markers and tempera paints."



The Gelbs moved to Cabin John when Alexis was a baby. She attended the four-year-old program at Clara Barton. "That was Mrs. Davis. We did a lot of art there." Now she's in the third grade at Bannockburn, where brother Danny, 10, is also a student. John, her father, works for AID, and Susan, her mother, has been Business Manager of the Village News for six years. The fifth member of the family is Reggie, a super-friendly Welsh Corgi puppy.

What else interests Alexis? Soccer: "I play at school and on a field in back of my house." Fishing: "My Dad and I go down to the creek. We haven't caught anything yet, but our neighbor caught a big bass, and we're going to keep trying." Gardening: "I help my mother with the flowers. And in our vegetable garden I grew three canteoupes this summer." Cabbage patch kinds: "I have two dolls, a girl and a baby." Stuffed animals: "I collect them." Cindy Lauper's music: "I watch her on Solid Gold. She's punk, you know. I'm going to be punk for Halloween, with purple hair."

Does she want to get married and have a family when she grows up? "No. I don't know. Maybe." She looks uninterested. Would she want to move out of Cabin John. A definite no. "This is a good place to live. Well, we went to Barbados and Florida on vacation; I might want to live there. But I really like Cabin John."

Alexis Gelb is bright and happy in her place in the sun.

**THE VILLAGE NEWS**

**LETTER FROM THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Our next Cabin John Citizens Association meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 23, at 8 p.m. at the Washington International/Clara Barton School. Here's what we'll be discussing:

- \* More land development updates
- \* MacArthur Boulevard update (note the story on safety crosswalks in this News)
- \* Report on a meeting held on October 16 with Western Area Recreation Area Advisory Board on plans for the new recreation center (a questionnaire on community wishes will be circulated next month)
- \* Vote on Beltway expansion alternatives. (The State Highway Administration is proposing widening the Beltway between River Road and Route 193 in Virginia. Our views on whether this should be done, and, if so, whether the widening should be towards the inside or the outside of the Beltway, are being sought.)
- \* Recommendation to leave dues at current level but make all individuals in Cabin John automatic voting members of the Citizens Assoc.

A final note: The holiday season is approaching and we need a chairman for the Christmas/Hanukkah party. Call me at 229-6706 if you have a suggestion for chairman or wish to volunteer to work on this community party.

Betsy Lawrence, Ph.D.  
President, CJCA

**HOUSES FOR SALE**

Residents of Cabin John are often asked if they know of houses available in the community. As a convenience, the Village News lists below the houses known to be for sale as of October 13:

\* 6505 Persimmon Tree Road, colonial, 5 BR, 2½ BA, \$159,000.

- \* 8 Webb Road, rambler, 2 BR, 1 BA, \$79,990.
- \* 6505 76th St, two level contemporary, 3 BR, 2½ BA, \$174,900.
- \* 6509 78th St, contemporary colonial, 3 BR, 2½ BA, \$159,900.
- \* 6508 79th St, Cape Cod, 4 BR, 2 BA, \$113,900. (Information contributed by Cindy Offterdinger, 897-8048 or 654-3222.)

MacArthur Park

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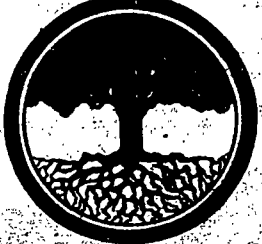
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(Continued from page 1)

Each booklet costs \$2 and will be on sale at the October 23 Citizens Association meeting and at the polls on Election Day. (Or you can order one or both by mail, at \$3 each, by sending a check to the Village News, P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818.)

(Don't forget that Cabin John T-shirts at \$9 each are now on sale at the Bethesda Co-op, the Quick Food Shop, and the Glen Echo Pharmacy, or may be order from Barbara Martin at 229-3482.)



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## CLASSIFIED

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: Nov. 16, 1984. The rate is 50¢ per line.)

FOR SALE: Picnic table, metal desk, sofa bed, bookcases, baby items, etc. Very reasonable prices. 320-5850.

\* \* \* \*

PIANO LESSONS: Experienced teacher. Music degree, performing experience. Certified member Maryland Music Teachers Association. Call 229-7882.

\* \* \* \*

HOUSE FOR RENT. 2-bedroom, newly remodelled. Adults only, no pets. \$700 a month. 229-3482.

\* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \*

HOUSE FOR SALE, 6503 81st St., 3 bedrooms, \$128,500. 229-8825.

\* \* \* \*

FOR SALE: 1974 Valiant in good condition. Party selling will donate proceeds of sale to Clara Barton Center for Children. For information call 320-4565.

\* \* \* \*

TYPING SERVICES. Call Jennifer, 229-9121.

## THE VILLAGE NEWS

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