

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 19, Number 3 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

November 1985

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE OLD FIREHOUSE? PLENTY!

Who could have turned a 1930's fire station into a modern office complex that retains its original charm?

The architectural and engineering challenge of the former Cabin John Fire Station on MacArthur Boulevard has become the accomplishment and home of an architectural and engineering firm -- GMR, Ltd.

GMR's principals, Elliot Gitlin, President; Howard Rosenberg, Executive Vice President; and Silvia V. Maceyras, architect, have converted the cavernous interior of the fire station that once housed hook-and-ladder trucks into 12 offices, a spacious drafting room and a four-room suite rented to Oosterbaan Associates, P.C., engineering and geotechnic consultants. Some of the firm's 20 employees are already at work in the new offices while the renovation is being completed.

"We moved the firm from Gaithersburg because we liked the environment of Cabin John, the people and the natural surroundings. We
(Continued on page 5)

A Neighbor Will Come Calling

Watch for a neighborhood visitor in November, probably the week of November 10. He or she will come calling to:

1) ask for your cooperation in providing information for the Cabin John Directory to be published in early 1986. What is needed from each household are names of each resident and the phone number. Only by asking at each house and apartment can the information be complete and accurate. The Directory is useful for all of us in Cabin John, so your cooperation in providing the basic information will be much appreciated.

2) invite payment of 1985-86 dues to the Cabin John Citizens Association. Dues are only \$5 a year (or \$3 for an individual).

3) offer you a chance to buy a Cabin John T-shirt for yourself or as a gift. Any shirt purchased at the same time you pay Citizens Association dues will cost only \$5 per shirt! Sales support the Village News; if you don't buy a shirt, you can make a contribution to support the paper.

Thanks for your cooperation.

ROUND-UP OF LOCAL NEWS...

Clara Barton school building: As previously announced, the County has decided that Clara Barton will be devoted entirely to day care facilities for children and elderly. In the meantime, major repairs on the furnace in the older wing will require the temporary closing of that part of the building. This means that the currently operating Clara Barton Center will have to relocate elsewhere (in the newer wing of the building, it is hoped) as will the 3-and-4-Year-Old School and Seven Locks Press.

Rummage Sale coming up: On Thursday-Saturday, October 24-26, the Cabin John United Methodist Church will hold its rummage sale at 7700 MacArthur Blvd. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.



ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

A new election for officers of the Cabin John Citizens Association was held at its September 24 meeting. Elected for 1985-86 were:

President: Wanda Veraska
Vice Presidents: David Johnston and George Stockton
Secretaries: Arleen Dwyer, Kay Kemp and Janet Newell
Treasurer: George Lichtblau

INTRODUCING YOUR NEIGHBORS

With this issue, we begin presenting capsule news about your neighbors in Cabin John. Many residents work independently, running businesses that range from consulting to construction and related trades. Others are writers, artisans, teachers, space engineers, and many, many other things. So far as we know, the community does not have a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker ...or does it?

Diane Lee, Riverside Drive, was the research director for the Governor's Task Force on Teen Pregnancy which recently completed its report and recommendations.

Susan Vogt, 76th Street, is Director of the Asbestos Action Program of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Elaine Tama, 78th Street, recently passed the CPA exam and is planning to get her license soon.

Reed Martin, 79th Street, has joined the Smithsonian Institution's "Model Shop" where models and displays for the museums are designed and built.

Judy Bekelman, River Trail Lane, has been appointed a Commissioner of Health Planning for Montgomery County by County Executive Gilchrist.

Drop us a note at P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818, about yourself or your neighbor (nothing will be printed without permission) and watch this space for more about your Cabin John neighbors.

LETTER FROM THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Membership in the Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) is the biggest bargain in town. Through the Association, you can learn what's happening in the community. What's the status of a proposed sewage treatment plant at Avenel Farms? When will the County build our new community center? How many houses will be built on that lot next door? You can learn about these issues and help determine their outcome through the Citizens Association.

To continue our work we need your
 * time
 * money

We have purposely kept CJCA membership low so that everyone can participate. If you can afford to give more, please do. Every dollar counts.

We have lots of challenging projects to work on this year. Be a Community Booster! Let's see a lot of Cabin John T-shirts at future Association meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 22, at 8 p.m., at the Clara Barton School.

The agenda will include:

1. Plans for dues collection
2. Reports on housing developments and on the planned community recreation center
3. Possible CJCA office
4. December holiday party

-- Wanda Veraska
 229-5029

RIDE-ON Route 32 Schedule

Weekdays only

Cabin John to Bethesda Bethesda to Cabin John

Naval Research & Development Center	MacArthur Blvd. & Persimmon Tree Rd	Wilson Lane & Whittier Blvd.	Bethesda Metro Station	Bethesda Metro Station	Wilson Lane & Whittier Blvd.	MacArthur Blvd. & Persimmon Tree Rd	Naval Research & Development Center
6:36	6:40	6:47	6:54	6:10	6:16	6:23	6:29
7:06	7:11	7:19	7:26	6:40	6:46	6:53	6:59
7:36	7:41	7:49	7:57	7:10	7:17	7:26	7:32
8:06	8:11	8:19	8:27	7:40	7:48	7:57	8:03
8:36	8:40	8:47	8:55	8:10	8:18	8:27	8:33
9:06	9:10	9:17	9:24	8:40	8:47	8:55	9:01
3:16	3:20	3:27	3:34	3:50	3:56	4:03	4:08
3:46	3:50	3:57	4:05	4:20	4:27	4:36	4:41
4:16	4:20	4:27	4:35	4:50	4:57	5:06	5:11
4:46	4:50	4:58	5:06	5:20	5:28	5:38	5:43
5:16	5:20	5:28	5:36	5:50	5:58	6:08	--
5:48	5:52	6:00	6:08	6:20	6:27	6:36	--
--	6:20	6:28	6:36	6:50	6:56	7:05	--
--	6:50	6:57	7:04	7:20	7:26	7:33	--
--	7:20	7:25	7:32	7:50	7:56	8:03	--

The People of Cabin John

KAY AND RAY KEMP: FOR KIDS

By Barbara Martin

Every neighborhood should have a family like the Kemps. And, say Kay and Ray Kemp, every family should have a neighborhood like theirs.

As a young couple with a toddler, the Kemps moved to Arden Road because they found it "the ideal place to live." The Clara Barton School was right around the corner, the athletic field directly behind their backyard, and the woods with the creek running through it was just at the end of the road.

"I knew about Cabin John," Ray remembers, "because I used to come here fishing in the Potomac. And Arden Road was great. The house -- a prefab -- wasn't too much; everything was glued together. But the location was perfect."

"And we've never changed our minds about that," Kay agrees. "Our three boys have grown up camping in these woods, fishing and swimming in the creek." The creek area at the end of Arden Road is an extension of the Kemp's home. "Just about every night in the summer we go down to the creek. We take the dogs, our radio, books, a picnic supper. We swim in the creek, we fish. The water is wonderful; it's clean enough for sunfish and bass. Sometimes we see deer and signs of wild turkeys."

The Kemp boys are John, 19; Tom, 15; and Brian, 13. All three are interested in the outdoors and in athletics. John played football and soccer, Tom has been involved in just about every sport there is, and Brian is an expert skateboarder and softball pitcher. The Kemps have always encouraged their boys in sports, both informal neighborhood games on the Clara Barton field, and school and county teams. "Sports are great for kids. Healthy boys are going to be active; it's their nature. So let them get out there using all that energy and enthusiasm in sports."

Ray and Kay have been faithful and interested supporters. They have provided transportation and moral support. "We always want to be there, rooting for the team, cheering for our sons. It's not a burden; we like to do things with them. Many days there have been three events to cover, but we've managed."

The Kemps see the sports interests of their sons as having a value in learning responsibility and the lesson of "If you want it, work for it." Both the younger boys are interested in bow-hunting and that equipment is expensive. "We don't buy it for them; they cut lawns and work at the Good and Quick and earn the money."

Many home improvements and additions have come about in the 16 years the Kemps have been on Arden Road. Ray built a two-level deck, partly with the lumber from the old carriage house of the Bobinger Hotel. "After the hotel burned down, the carriage house was a residence right by the tennis courts, and then a few years ago they decided to tear it down. So I asked for the wood and got it; these railing posts on the deck are what's left of the Bobbinger carriage house."

The boys have helped with all the projects. A few years ago they put on a new roof. Kay was the supply manager, taking orders and picking up needed materials, and Ray and the boys were the workmen. Other young neighborhood friends helped too. Kay smiles. "We almost always have more than three boys around. We're right next to the ball-field, so our house is a convenient bathroom, lunchroom, telephone. Extra boys for meals are standard."

The Kemps have a loving and optimistic attitude toward kids in general and Cabin John kids in particular. And the town knows it. Besides their open-door policy for half the boys in town, the Kemps have been called upon countless times to step into a troubled situation, often connected with problems on the school property. When the Clara Barton school building became the St. Andrews school, there was friction between the "private school" kids and the "original" kids. "Naturally the Cabin John boys felt they owned the field,"

Ray recalls, "and the two groups were not very friendly to each other." Working with the St. Andrews' physical education director, Ray organized a Cabin John team and scheduled games. "Instead of fighting, they were competing on the field, and it seemed to take care of everyone's frustrations."

"With the athletic field right behind us, we hear everything and know just about everything that goes on there. Sure we get involved." Ray estimates he spends about 5 hours a week playing different sports with the neighborhood kids. As a result, all the boys in town know Mr. Kemp, respect him, and come to him for help.

Though most of his involvement is informal -- a couple of hours refereeing a pickup softball game -- Ray spent three years as an MSI soccer coach, when their son Tom was in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Community interests have focused on recreation facilities, and the Kemps have been a valuable source of information, influence, and advice in all Cabin John plans and programs having to do with structures and use of the Clara Barton building, the planned Recreation Center, and the athletic field. In addition, they have been involved in the Seven Locks Road project and every possible town activity -- PTA, Crab Feast, holiday party, and Citizens Association. Kay has been assistant director of the Three-and-Four-Year-Old Program under Annette Davis, and last year ran the entire operation.

The Kemps met when Kay was a student at Frostburg College, Ray's hometown. Ray was her blind date on a turkey hunt. Continuing in the same tradition, the family spends their vacations camping. "We've camped from Canada to Florida, and next year we're planning to go West." The boys love their family trips and will set aside all other plans to go along. "They're all three big camping fans. From the time they were little, they would take a pup tent and go camping down by the creek, or along the towpath.

The boys have a strong sense of ownership about the canal. When a section of the canal wall gave way early

this fall, draining some sections of the waterway, the Kemp boys and some friends spent many hours throwing fish to the next lock where water still remained, and carrying turtles to the river.

Several years ago the Kemps bought a lot in West Virginia and built a cabin. The boys helped with the building. "It was a good experience for them," Kay says. "They learned a lot about building and the discipline of careful, systematic workmanship. We don't go there much any more; we all have so many interests here and all the boys have things they're involved in on weekends. That's more important."

From their West Virginia cabin and their work on home projects, the young Kemps have become adept at building and repairing. They helped their dad with building a deck and a dormer room, and with remodeling the rec room and kitchen. A 9x12 shed in the backyard, a "clubhouse" constructed by the neighborhood boys, is sturdy and attractive. Their skill at things mechanical has developed from working with Ray on the family's cars and on their go-carts. "They're helpful with homemaking, too," Kay adds. "They can do some cooking and cleaning up." Tom and Brian are a bit young to be thinking of careers, but John is at Montgomery College taking courses in wildlife management.

For years the family traveled to Baltimore to a Lutheran church that had been Kay's childhood church. When that congregation disbanded, the Kemps established dual membership in this area. They are a part of Trinity Lutheran on Old Georgetown Road and also a part of the Cabin John Methodist Church where Ray sings in the choir. "I think a community church should be supported, and our kids go both places."

Many parents do a fine job with their own youngsters, but few are as generous and good to the extended neighborhood young population. "We're a soft touch," says Kay. But anyone who knows them can testify that it's much more than that. The Kemps believe in youngsters, they believe in their town and neighborhood, and they put their faith into action. Many young people in Cabin John have better lives because of Kay and Ray.

(Continued from page 1)

were also intrigued by the architectural potential of converting the firehouse. We're very pleased to be here," Gitlin said.

While the exterior of the building is recognizable as the old firehouse, complete with a newly set cornerstone marked "Cabin John Vol. Fire Department est. 1930," the interior has been transformed. Dramatic walls of glass and greenery have replaced the great doors of the firehouse. Offices radiate from a center hall foyer, decorated in soft greys and mauves. Tiled floor, carpeted stairs, and a small countertop kitchen complete the ground floor.

On the second floor, the ceiling has been opened with the original beams and supporting struts showing through, adding light and airiness to the drafting room. Large decorative fans hang from the beams to assist in ventilation, although the building has also been fully airconditioned. A loft, overlooking the room from one end, will eventually be used for conferences. Yet to come will be landscaping and new shrubbery on the parking lot.

"The firehouse had appealing structural features which we have emphasized in the conversion. The only surprise was the absence of a fireman's pole which had been part of the original firehouse but removed in later years."

The firm is now recruiting architects and draftsmen, and Cabin John residents with those skills are encouraged to apply.

-- J. Bekelman

HOUSES FOR SALE

According to Cindy Offterdinger (897-8048 or 951-0313), the following properties in Cabin John are currently for sale:

- 2 Froude Circle, rambler, 2br, 1ba, \$84,900
- 2 McKay Circle, rambler, 2br, 1ba, \$79,950
- 6477 Wishbone Terrace, townhouse, 4br, 2½ba, \$244,000
- 6502 76th St., colonial, 5br, 3½ba, \$259,000
- 6408 78th St., rambler, 3br, 2ba, \$162,500
- 6507 78th St., rambler, 5br, 2ba, \$135,000
- 6608 80th Pl., Capa Cod, 5br, 3½ + ½ba, \$179,000

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THE VILLAGE NEWS

is published monthly except in summer. Our address: P.O. Box 164, Cabin John, MD 20818. Free to Cabin John residents; \$5/yr to others.

Volunteer staff for this issue: Judy Bekelman, Cherry Doyle, Judy Duffield, Susan Gelb, Kay Kemp (and the mailing team) and Andy Rice

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page	\$40
2/3 page	30
1/2 page	25
1/3 page	15
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1/12 page	6



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CLASSIFIED

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

I NEED A BABY-SITTER for a 2½-year-old child in my home in Cabin John. I need someone who will be available in the daytime for the first two or three weeks of January. Times are flexible before or after this period. I will pay well for the right person. Call Deborah at 320-4145 or 320-4055.

* * * *
PERMANENT, PART-TIME position available at Fishermen's Marketing Company in Glen Echo Center. Contact Ann Marie at 320-2526.

* * * *
PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER wanted for business located in Cabin John. Hours flexible. Average 15 hr/week. Call Jack or Lynn at 229-8831.

* * * *
WHY YOGA? Mind, body, breath, precious instruments at our disposal. Learn to work with them in a harmonious and systematic way. Become skillful in handling your internal states so that you may overcome stress at its roots. Sad as it is, the stressful world is here to stay. How we react to it becomes our responsibility and it is here that we can exercise control. How? This is where we make use of yogic techniques that have been proven to work for thousands and thousands of years. "But Yoga is for the East," you might say, and I say that Yoga is for the human being and the human being is universal. Try it and find out. For all of you in Cabin John I am your neighbor. Take advantage of having a branch of the Himalayan Institute of Yoga Science so close to you. For more information call Ileana DeGeyndt at 320-2065. Classes: Tuesday A.M., Thursday A.M., Wednesday afternoon, Thursday P.M. I would like to start a class of Gentle Yoga for the elderly, the very stiff or those with a physical disability. If interested, please call.

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