

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 19, Number 5 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

January 1986

NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY.....

The Senior Mobile is now visiting Cabin John. Its next visit will be on Thursday, February 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. It will be parked at the MacArthur Square shopping center.

The Senior Mobile is staffed by specialists on problems of senior citizens. It has county experts who deal with problems of housing, social security, legal aid and health. All senior citizens are most welcome to come and discuss these matters. For further information, call the County Department of Elder Affairs, 468-4443.

The Clara Barton Center has two part-time jobs available: a clerical job at \$5 an hour for about 5 hours a week and a job for an experienced bookkeeper at \$10 an hour. To apply, call the Center at 320-4565.

Want a free house? A small three-bedroom house on Persimmon Tree Road just south of the Beltway is being offered free to anyone who will move it. Built in 1887, the house needs repairs but is basically sound. Deadline for moving is February 28, since the site is being prepared

1986 Directory in Production:

DO WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION?

Have you given information about your family for the 1986 Cabin John Directory? Some of you were missed when a neighbor came to your block and may not have mailed in a form. Here is a second chance. The information wanted for the Directory is:

Names of all in your household
Address
Telephone number

If you have not yet given this information, please call Diane Lee (229-8224) or Barbara Martin (229-3482).

Also, would anyone in your household like to be listed in the Skills and Services section? If you are a typist, house painter, baby-sitter, etc., and are available for hire to members of this community, we would like to list you in the Skills and Services section of the Directory. There is no charge for this listing. It is for the mutual benefit of Cabin Johners who need services and those who want to supply them.

When the Directory is ready (in the spring?), every household will receive a free copy, compliments of the Citizens Association.

Don't put it off; please call now with information for the Directory.

for a new development. For further details, call Eileen McGuckian, Montgomery Preservation, Inc., 762-0096.

The new Wild Bird Center at 77th and MacArthur will hold an Open House for Cabin John residents on Sunday, February 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any Cabin John resident making a purchase that day will get a 10% discount, says George Petrides, owner of the new establishment.

If you're not getting the Village News, or know anyone who isn't, please call Reed Martin at 229-3482. Every household in Cabin John is supposed to receive a copy free.

The Citizens Association needs a Recording Secretary and also a storage place for signs and records. If you can offer help, please contact the president, Wanda Veraska, at 229-5029.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

I was delighted with the response to my letter in October's issue of the Village News regarding astronomy. It is encouraging to know that so many of you are interested!

Right now there is excitement about the return appearance of comet Halley. We will learn much more about the famous comet and the origins of our solar system when space probes from Japan, the USSR, and Europe intercept it for data on its out-bound journey in March.

However, there is another very important event adding to the excitement: the encounter of the Voyager 2 spacecraft with the green planet Uranus this month. And the wonder of Voyager 2 is that, after its encounter with planet Neptune in 1989, it will eventually depart our solar system thus embarking on a new adventure through space on into the next century and possibly beyond....

Myriam Omori
Seven Locks
Road

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO CABIN JOHN RESIDENTS.....

A report on the current status of 22 development projects in Cabin John will be one of the major items at the next meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association to be held on January 28, at 8 p.m. in the Art Room of the Clara Barton School. (See elsewhere in this issue of the Village News for a list of the projects.)

All residents of Cabin John are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Here are some other topics to be covered:

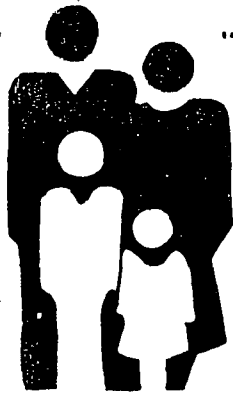
1. What to do about replacing the burned down recreation center? Last year community action resulted in County approval of \$180,000 for rebuilding. Construction bids on the job, however, have far exceeded this amount. County officials have indicated that up to \$250,000 might be made available. Betsey Cheney and Judie Mopsik are investigating the possibility of combining the renovation of Clara Barton School (now in progress) with replacing the Rec Cen-

ter, and will report at the meeting.

2. An up-date on the community canvass which has produced information for the new Cabin John Directory, as well as contributions to the Citizens Association and the Village News.

3. MacArthur Boulevard problems: missing street signs, better protection for the bike path, etc.

Anyone who wants to bring up any other topic is welcome to do so.



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The People of Cabin John

A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE CANAL

By Barbara Martin

It was the Potomac River that drew John Chandler to this area in the first place -- 40 years ago. "We came to Washington from Connecticut and lived temporarily in the city. Then we discovered the Potomac River and the C&O Canal, and began spending our weekends along the towpath and the river shore. We also enjoyed the free concerts that used to be given from the floating stage -- the Watergate Barge. You would sit on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and the band played right out on the river. I had been in the Navy, and as a boy had learned to canoe during Maine vacations. We decided we wanted to live near the Potomac."

John and his wife, B, looked at houses along the canal and river but found prices too high. After living in Glen Echo Heights for several years, they bought an acre lot on Persimmon Tree Road and built there, "near the water but in a relatively inexpensive area." Their two sons and two daughters were introduced early to the pleasures of the river area. "The kids played there, swam, fished, canoed, hiked -- what kids normally do if they have such an opportunity."

At first John's love of the canal area was a personal thing, for himself and his family. "I did some painting, too," he recalls, "scenes along the canal and river." Then in 1954 came Justice Douglas's famous walk. The Maryland Highway Department and the Washington Post were pushing for an interstate highway along the river from Washington through Cumberland and on to Pittsburgh. Douglas and other preservationists opposed this, insisting that the natural beauty and the peace of the canal area would be totally destroyed. After the Post published a strong endorsement of the highway proposal, Justice Douglas challenged the editors to hike the towpath with him

from Cumberland to Georgetown. Two editors accepted the challenge, others joined in, the hike was completed, the Post reversed its position, and public pressure for the restoration and preservation of the Canal-Potomac River area gathered strong support.

It was at this point that John Chandler became interested in working for the Canal in a formal way. He came to know and respect Grant Conway, a man who supported the Douglas initiative and "almost single-handedly saw to it that the dream became reality." Conway, a former president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, was an organizer of the C&O Canal Association which succeeded in getting the C&O declared a National Historical Park in 1971. The Association continues to press for protection and preservation of the Canal, to facilitate its use as a refuge from the city -- a place close to the natural environment. John was an early member of the Association, served for many years on the Board, and was its president in 1981-82.

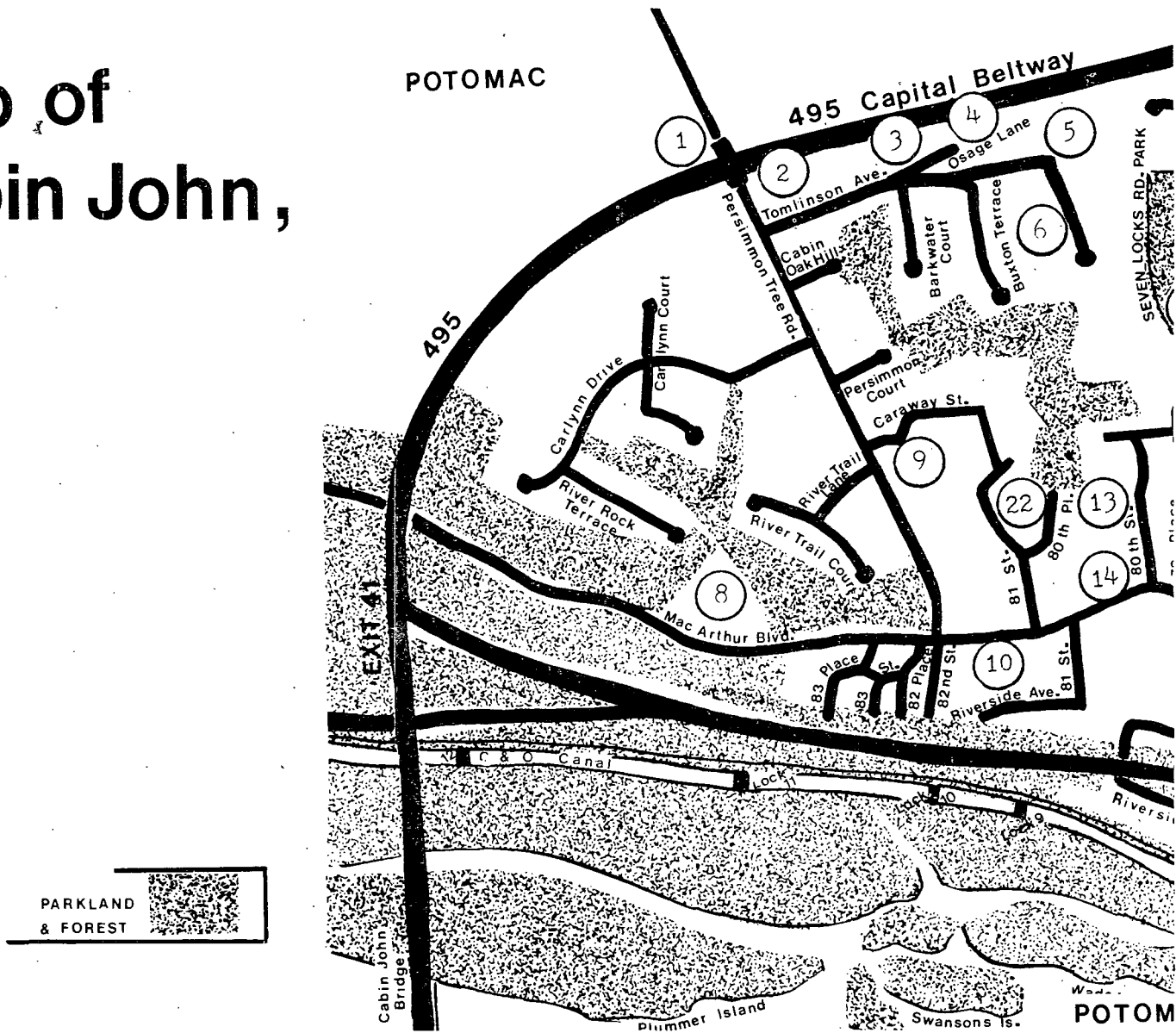
The early goals are now largely met, but the maintenance responsibility continues. The Association acts in an advisory capacity to the National Park Service, and encourages its members and the public to help in volunteer work. "We do cleanup projects on a regular basis," John explains. "We organize work parties to clean out weeds from the lock enclosures, and when the big storms hit -- Agnes in 1972 and the recent one in November 1985 -- we moved in to do what we could. Recently, at Brookmont, the Lock 5 area was badly eroded; 15 or 20 of us hauled and spread 5 tons of topsoil to restore it."

The Association also sponsors walks and hikes. Every spring there is a day-long Douglas Memorial Walk, and every October there is a Heritage walk which emphasizes the history and geology of the region. Each of these events ends in a festive dinner.

The Canal Association has over 300 members, most from the Washington area, others from Western Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. A few live

(Continued on page 6)

Map of Cabin John, Md.



WHERE ARE THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CABIN JOHN?

That is the question most frequently asked of the Land Use Committee. To answer that question, see the map showing all the developments currently being monitored. Development, per se, is not opposed. If a person owns property, he or she has the legal right to develop it. However, that development must conform to building codes and to both the Bethesda/Chevy Chase and Cabin John Master Plans. These plans take into account that this is an environmentally sensitive area which must be protected. Guidelines for tree retention, water drainage, soil erosion, traffic safety, noise and air pollution, and historical preservation are given. These plans call for no industrial zone and no additional commercial space. All new housing is to be either single family dwellings on 1/5 to 1/2 acre lots or townhouses (only possible on 10 acre or greater tracts). Projects proposed are screened to see if they conform with all these factors.

Betsy Lawrence 229-6706
 Bob Wilkoff 229-8536
 Land Use Committee Chairmen
 Cabin John Citizens Association



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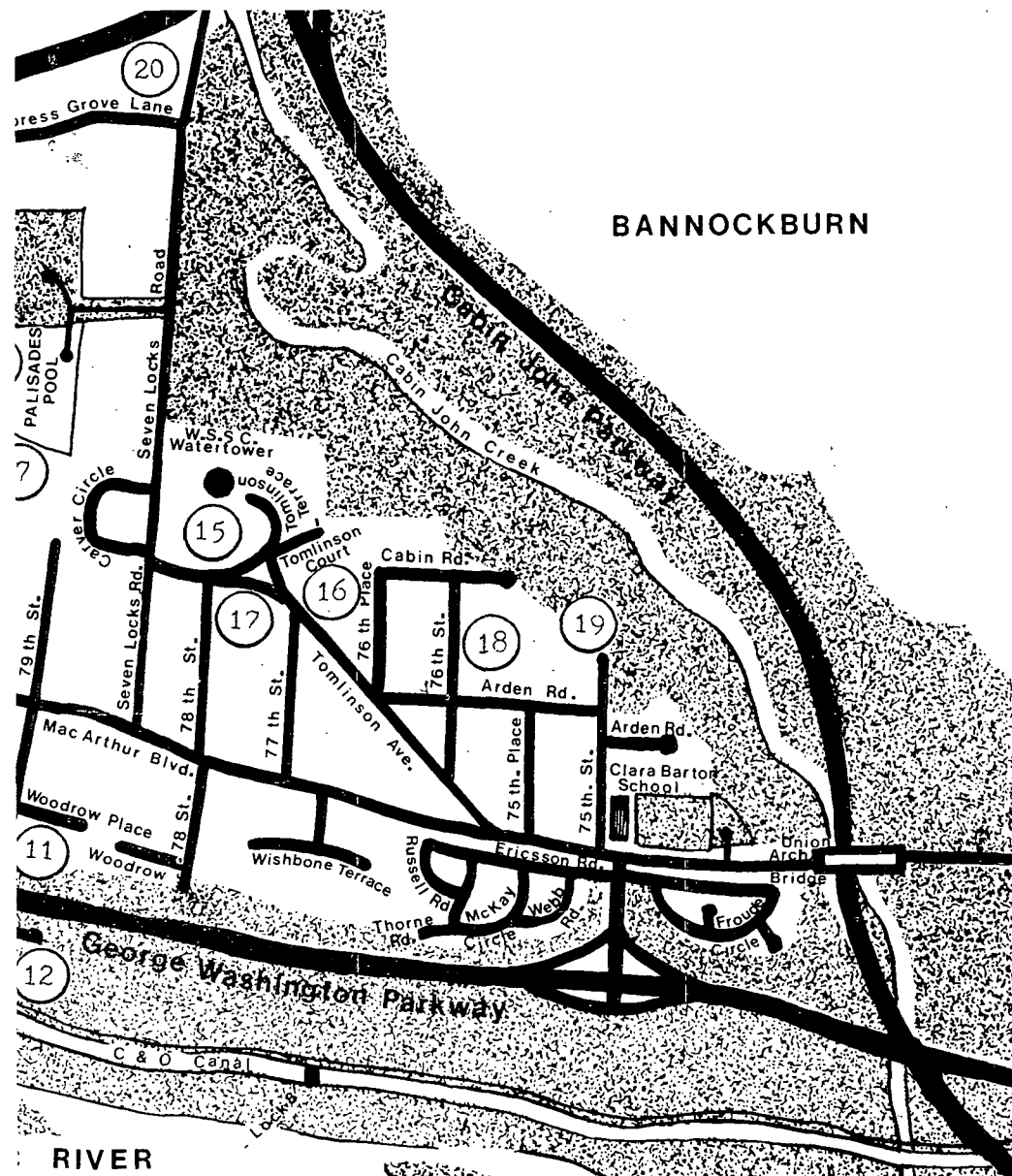
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RIVER

1. 850 houses- Avenel- construction under way; golf course (sewer plant proposal delayed 20 years)
2. 7 houses- Persimmon Tree and Tomlinson- spring groundbreaking
3. 5 houses- Osage Lane- spring groundbreaking
4. 2 houses- Osage Lane- date unknown
5. 8 houses- Endicott Court- Kennedy Tract- date unknown
6. 20 houses- Endicott Court- almost completed
7. 10 houses- Seven Locks Estates East- spring groundbreaking
8. 16 houses- Lemm Tract- Road easement drainage issues to be settled prior to construction
9. 1 house- Persimmon Tree & Caraway- denied by County for technical reasons
10. 1.78 acres- Rixey Tract- subdivision plan temporarily withdrawn
11. 3 houses - 79th Street- completed
12. 2 houses(?) - Riverside Drive - under construction
13. 3 houses - 80th Street - slated for construction
14. 1 house - 80th Street - under construction
15. 22 houses - Tomlinson Avenue - under construction
16. 3 houses - Tomlinson Avenue - under construction
17. 1 house - Tomlinson Avenue - approved
18. 1 house - 76th Street - completed
19. 1 house - 75th Street - completed
20. Cypress Grove Lane - completed
21. Swimming pool - Tennis Bubble -- denied -- use not permitted by County on residential zoning
22. 1 house - 80th Place - completed

(Continued from page 3)
in distant parts of the US, sending back their loyal support and concern. All officers and workers are volunteers, including a professional geologist who lectures at the October walks.

It costs just \$10 for an annual membership, and out of its modest budget the Association provides such support as a stipend for a summer intern who studies some aspect of the Canal history. The official address, to join or to get more information, is C&O Canal Association, Box 66, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

The Chandlers enjoy canoeing, and John has raced in several of the Canoe Cruisers annual races from Great Falls to Sycamore Island. Like all experienced canoeists, he is respectful of the water. "The Potomac River is dangerous, too dangerous for swimming, certainly. Every year there are many drownings, most of them caused by foolhardiness or ignorance of the area. I guess it will always be a problem because the Potomac is so attractive, so deceptively beautiful."

Besides his family and the Canal Association, John's work has been a major focus in his life. After World War II, when he served as a Naval officer, John managed a scrap-metal yard in Connecticut, then came to Washington to work as an accountant for UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. After some graduate work in economics at American University, he joined the Labor Department as an economist, later heading the BLS Division of Foreign Labor Statistics. His job was to compare US economic performance with that of other countries. His concerns were unemployment, wages and benefits, productivity, price levels, unionization, and industrial disputes. In the 1950s, he served as a Government advisor to tripartite wage committees in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, helping to set special minimum wages for those areas.

Since his retirement in 1979, John has given more time to the Canal Association and is currently Treasurer and one of its senior ad-

visors. He also volunteers once a week for the Wilderness Society, working on that organization's membership program. He deliberately parks 2 miles away from the Society's office "because I love to walk."

In the past 10 years, he has hiked the towpath from end to end three times, twice as a part of a camping expedition with the Canal Association and once by himself. The Association's end-to-end hikes are held every 5 years and take about 2 weeks. "We cover 12-18 miles a day and usually 40 or so people complete it. The next end-to-end hike will be in 1989."

All four Chandler offspring are outdoor enthusiasts. One son is a carpenter in Maine, who sails and climbs mountains. Another son runs a halfway house in Michigan and vacations by biking in distant areas such as Canada's Northwest Territory. A daughter is training to become an agricultural extension agent in an Ohio farming community, and a second daughter teaches school in a remote logging area in Idaho. Even their seven grandchildren are being introduced to camping and other outdoor activities. John and B have a vacation home in Maine's Southwest Harbor, near Acadia Park, the only National Park in the Northeast. "Every summer we try to cruise on our sailboat for a couple of weeks along the Maine coast."

The Chandlers are devoted to the Cabin John area; they would only leave to resettle in the wide-open spaces. If the love affair with the Canal has lasted 40 years, it is likely to last forever.

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NEWS FROM NEAR-BY.....

Bannockburn residents are concerned about the serious gypsy moth infestation which appeared there last summer. State inspectors found an average of 375 gypsy moth egg masses per acre, 50% higher than the "critical" level. The Bannockburn Civic Association is planning a major anti-moth campaign....

Most of the C&O Canal towpath remains closed as a result of damage from last November's flooding, but a 5½ mile section from Lock 8 at Cabin John up river has been re-opened to public use. The total cost of repairing Park lands damaged by the flood has been estimated at about \$12 million....

HOUSES FOR SALE

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

- 19 Ericsson Rd., rambler, 2br, 1 ba, \$79,900
- 2 Froude Circle, rambler, 2 br, 1 ba, \$79,900
- 7509 MacArthur Blvd., colonial, 5 br, 1½ ba, \$200,000
- 3 McKay Circle, rambler, 3 br, 1 ba, \$94,500
- 8115 Riverside Ave, colonial, 7 br, 2½ ba, \$300,000
- 6714 Tomlinson Terrace, colonial, 3 br, 2½ ba, \$280,000
- 6432 Wishbone Terrace, townhouse, 3 br, 3½ ba, \$280,000
- 6519 75th Pl., Cape Cod, 3 br, 2½ ba, \$166,400
- 6616 81st St., bungalow, 3 br, 1½ ba, \$125,000

INTRODUCING YOUR NEIGHBORS.....

By Judy Bekelman

From landscaping to roofing, from brickwork to electrical services, Cabin John residents represent enough skills in the building trades to construct a house from the bottom up or even an entire neighborhood. Many Cabin John people own or manage businesses in construction or related trades and the list of services they offer could fill an entire directory.

Dennis Burke, MacArthur Blvd., of Burke and Shomper Masonry, is a bricklayer for large commercial projects as well as small jobs. Wayne Frazee, 76th Pl., is another bricklayer who has also done stonework in the past and currently works on homes. Ed Busi, Jr., McKay Circle, works as a mason on residences for Millstone Associates.

Walter Dillow, Webb Rd., owns Walt's Roofing and Gutters which was rated as reasonable in cost by Washington Consumer Checkbook recently.

Steve Eckert, Wishbone Terrace, trusted himself enough to move into one of the homes he helped plan as Executive Vice President of Porten Sullivan, the builder-developer for the townhouses of MacArthur Park. David Edmonston, 81st St., provides a variety of large-scale remodeling as well as small-job repair services, including carpentry, cabinetwork, tile and cement work. He also built his own house in Cabin John two years ago and is making plans to open a general construction company soon.

Theodore Hahn, 80th St., is a semi-retired home builder whose construction company, HANCO, has built several homes in Cabin John. His son, Mike Hahn, 80th St., is also a general contractor whose company, Hahn Construction, specializes in remodeling, including kitchen renovations. Steven Hoppel, Webb Rd., is assistant superintendent for painting and decorating of houses for W.C. and A.N. Miller Company.

David Johnston, who lives on Riverside Drive and is vice president of the Cabin John Citizens Association, is president of Lightworks, a design-build company that specializes in remodeling. Mr. Johnston also has particular experience in passive solar additions.

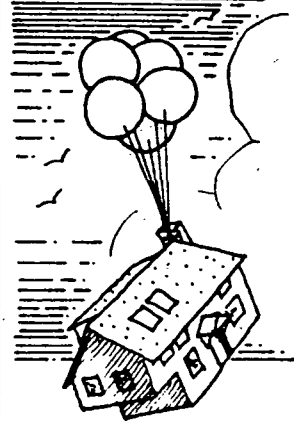
Pat Lee, Riverside Dr., is a master electrician and manager of Linthicum Electrical Services which serves residential, commercial and industrial structures throughout the metropolitan area. Pat is available to respond to calls from neighbors as well.

(Continued on page 8)

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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(Continued from page 7)

Mario Tama, 78th St., formerly construction supervisor at the David Taylor Model Basin, is now directing construction of new dormitories at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. Mark Willcher, Arden Rd., is president of a landscape, design and construction company which specializes in residential and small construction. His work on gardens and decks is evident on several homes in Cabin John.

If you would like your work in a building trade to be included in a future issue of the Village News, please let us know. Coming up in the next issue.....the artists of Cabin John.

Volunteer staff for this issue include Cherry Doyle, Judy Duffield, Susan

Gelb, Reed Martin, Andy Rice, and others who help with addressing and mailing.

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