

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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February 1987

PERMIT SYSTEM BEGINS FOR MACARTHUR BOULEVARD

In early February, signs reading "Except by Permit" were added to the weight restriction signs along MacArthur Boulevard.

The purpose of the permit is to manage more efficiently the protection of the aqueduct that runs under the road, according to county transportation authorities. The permit, which is placed on front and rear bumpers, will enable police to identify excepted vehicles, such as home-heating fuel trucks.

Driver of vehicles with more than four wheels or in excess of six tons gross weight will be ticketed if found on MacArthur without a permit. According to Lt. Richard Williams of the Bethesda District Police Station, the charge will be "failing to obey an official sign." Fines could range from \$40 to as much as \$1 per pound above the weight limit.

Repairs to the underground conduits are costly, says Harry Ways of the Army Corps of Engineers, which maintains the aqueduct. Last year they amounted to \$1.5 million.

Permit applications are available at the County Transportation Engineering Division, 11th floor, 101 Monroe (Continued on page 5)

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING TO HEAR REPRESENTATIVE OF CONG. MORELLA

Mary Brown, a staff member in the office of Representative Constance B. Morella, our 8th District Congressman, will speak at the February meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association. The meeting, open to all Cabin John residents, will take place on Tuesday, February 24, at 8 pm at the Clara Barton School.

Among the major topics to be addressed by Ms. Brown is the problem of aircraft noise. This perennial issue lies before the new Airport Authority which runs National and Dulles Airports, as well as before the FAA. Many efforts have been made over the years to reduce the noise level for Cabin John and other riverbank residents but the level of discomfort still remains high.

Other items to be discussed at the February 24 meeting include any other issues which citizens wish to raise with Congr. Morella's representative, as well as local issues such as the utilization of the Clara Barton school building (including the future of the 3-and-4-year-old school) and the problems created by dogs running loose in Cabin John in violation of the law. CJCA President Tevy Schlafman also invites ideas for the proposed Cabin John Music Festival this spring.

AFTER THREE YEARS IN TOWN, "WE LIKE BEING PART OF CABIN JOHN," SAYS CO-OP

By Barbara Goodno

Monday afternoon at the Bethesda Co-op is considered quiet, at least in terms of the number of customers. In all other respects, it is a hub of activity. The work room hosts a non-stop cheese cutting and packaging operation, and the office is the site for the weekly staff meeting.

Unlike the typical business staff meeting, however, all 16 members of the organization participate in the decision-making process. Unusual perhaps, but the Co-op has never claimed to be a typical business.

Three years ago the Bethesda Co-op moved from its downtown Bethesda location to its present site in Cabin John. The move created a great deal of risk; the space was much smaller and some of the previously offered community (Continued on page 3)

Meet Your Neighbors

By Judy Bekelman

DOCTORS OF CABIN JOHN

Many physicians live in Cabin John and their various specialities, taken together, provide head-to-toe medical care.

Dr. Adrian Dixon, 81st Street, has commuted to Baltimore for more than 10 years to her general practice with the Constant Care Medical Center. She treats mostly poor and elderly patients with Medicare and Medicaid. After receiving her MD from Tufts Medical School, Dr. Dixon interned at DC General Hospital and was also a resident in pathology at the VA Hospital.

An ophthalmic surgeon with Eye Associates of Washington DC, Dr. Paul Gavaris' speciality is plastic surgery, including tumors of the eyes, blind eyes, and other cosmetic medical needs. In addition to his practice, he teaches his speciality at several Washington area hospitals and is a clinical professor at Georgetown University. Dr. Gavaris lives on Carlynn Drive.

Dr. Salman Kazmi and Dr. Rumana Kazmi, of Carlynn Court, are both physicians with different specialities. He is a urologist and she is a pediatrician. Husband and wife, they met in medical school at the Medical College of Dhaka in Bangladesh. His practice for 12 years has been with the Group Health Association in Washington, while she has practiced general pediatrics for 8 years with another woman near the Washington Hospital Center. In addition to their active lives in medicine, which Salman Kazmi says comes from a shared view about the importance of helping the sick, the Kazmis devoted the past two years to serving the Bannockburn Elementary School PTA as co-presidents.

Dr. Ronald Kurstin, also of Carlynn Drive, is a general surgeon with offices in Washington and Bethesda. His practice includes oncologic surgery; he also teaches at GWU Medical School where he received his MD. He also studied peptic ulcer surgery at Leeds Royal Infirmary and spent three years in Germany as an army physician.

Dr. Neil Ravin, 80th Place, practices internal medicine with a speciality in endocrinology. His office is in Chevy Chase and he also teaches at Georgetown University. Although he specializes in hormonal deficiencies and diseases, he also has a clinical interest in calcium and osteoporosis. His wife, Claudia, is a nurse midwife.

Yet another Carlynn Drive resident is Dr. Reinhardt Schindler who received his MD in Switzerland and completed his residency at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. With offices in Camp

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CLARA BARTON CENTER OPENS DESIGN COMPETITION

A \$100 prize will be given to the winner of the design competition just announced by the Clara Barton Center for Children. The design will be used initially on T-shirts, but is expected to have other applications as well.

According to the Center's announcement, the design should "evoke the positive, nurturing feeling of the Center, child care in general, or may focus upon some wonderful quality unique to childhood."

Deadline for submitting the design is March 20. It must be limited to a maximum of three colors and should be submitted on illustration board or paper no smaller than 8 x 10 inches.

To submit entries, or information, contact Judy Nygren, Dir, Clara Barton Center, 320-4565.

NEW DATE FOR MAY FAIR

The Clara Barton Center May Fair will take place on Saturday, May 9, featuring sales of clothing, toys, arts and crafts, and food. Information from the Center at 320-4565 or from Kate Grinberg, 229-9611.

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(CO-OP continued from page 1)
activities, such as the cafe and bookstore, had to be discontinued. Many Co-op members were worried about how the Cabin John community would accept them and the store.

"Our accountant advised us to expect a 20% loss in business," said Barbara Neuwirth, a long-time Co-op member, as she meticulously measured, cut, wrapped, weighed and priced aromatic cheese. This loss never occurred. "Instead," said Neuwirth, "we saw a 20% increase in business."

"When we moved here we were quite concerned about our acceptance in the community. We weren't sure our customers would understand our way of doing business. Would they mind weighing, marking, and bagging? Would they understand our bulk foods system?"

After three years, what does the Co-op think of Cabin John? According to Neuwirth, "We think Cabin John is wonderful!"

Robert Ashton replaced Neuwirth as the cheese cutter when she was called to the front of the store. Ashton has been with the Co-op eight years. His work there has enabled him to pursue his other occupation as an artist.

Ashton said that customer suggestions are welcome. "We have suggestion forms in the front of the store."

When a customer requests a particular product, several conditions must be met before it will be carried. Ashton explained that the product must be free of chemical additives, pesticides, and herbicides. Another consideration is the country of origin. "We're pretty political. We won't buy products from countries that violate human rights," Ashton said.

"We carry very few fruits during the winter season because most come from Chile. Right now we're boycotting these products."

Ashton was summoned to the meeting and called for someone to continue in the cheese cutting task. As he departed, he explained the reason for the non-stop cheese cutting and packaging operation -- cheese sales are 25% of the Co-op's business. (The store carries over 100 varieties of imported cheese and 50 varieties of domestic.)

Peter Rubacky, a five-year resident of Cabin John, brought in a large block of Swiss cheese. "Working here is great, but I'm surprised more people from Cabin John don't volunteer," he said. "We have a lot of activities, not just working in the store. We have a monthly publication, for example, and we need writers."

Elaine Brown, of Great Falls, Va., works

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THE ORIGINS OF THE 3-&-4 YEAR OLD SCHOOL

(The future of Cabin John's Three-and-Four-Year-Old School is again under discussion and questions have been raised about its past. Susan Ingraham and Diane Leatherman have put together a history from which the following has been extracted.)

The Cabin John pre-school grew out of the integration of the Montgomery County Public Schools in the early 1960s. Some of the black students in Cabin John who had come out of the segregated elementary school were having a hard time in the integrated junior high. To help them, a number of Cabin John residents started a Home Study Program that provided tutoring. From this experience emerged the conviction that more than catch-up tutoring was needed; disadvantaged children should be helped even before they started school.

The pre-school, originally staffed entirely by volunteers, started in 1963, two years before the federally-funded Headstart program began. After the first year a professional teacher was employed, although parents and volunteers continued to contribute much time and money. Funds were raised by chicken dinners that eventually led to the now famous Cabin John crab feast. Several local churches also provided funds and space, until the school finally settled in Clara Barton in 1969.

Around the Town with Barbara Martin

THE RUNNING OF THE PINEWOOD DERBY

On a snowy day in January, local Cub Scouts and their support teams gathered to test their customized, hand-crafted vehicles in the annual Pinewood Derby elimination race.

Twenty-six boys, aged 7 to 11, entered their cars. Of these, 17 were our own locals: Nick Amoroso, Ty Bookman, Jason Burke, Harry Dixon, Chris Hunter, Matt Keefe, Randy Mazzi, Nat Meo, Brent Morgan, Paul Robinson, Michael Rothkoff, J.P. Simon, Noah Stckton, Taylor Watson, Jeremy Walsh, Kiran Yarid, and Ravi Yarid.

Requirements are that the car shall be made of wood, weigh no more than 5 ounces, use the standard-issue black plastic wheels, and be crafted by the Cub. (The last regulation is rather casually interpreted so that some family members -- usually dads -- can assist to whatever degree their consciences dictate.)

Bill Keefe and Pat Burke were the top officials. "It's because I have the loudest voice," Bill claims. Protocol for the racing is clearly set out. Each car has four runs. Racing in the A, B, C, and D runs, a car is assigned to a different one of the four lanes each time, to prevent any possible structural lane advantage.

The event was held at St. Bartholemew's Catholic Church. Even on a day when it took courage and skill to negotiate the icy roads, the parking lot was full. And so was the Fellowship Hall. Besides the Cubs, there were mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, neighbors, and at least one 40-year-old male with no Cub Scout connections who declared, "I loved Pinewood Derbies when I was a kid and I've never quit."

The atmosphere was lively and noisy and friendly. Somebody's sister was doing a one-hand cartwheel on the stage, two kids were playing Mary Had A Little Lamb on the piano, a toddler with a bottle kept trying to climb onto the track, and a proud father was videotaping the whole thing. One of the monitors was sternly admonishing entrants not to add weights after the car had been officially registered and weighed in.

The Cubs were cooperative and orderly -- as orderly as 8-year-olds get -- and seemed a lot more laid back than some of the parents.

The track itself is 40 feet long and operates entirely by gravity, the start being about 4' off the ground. Cars straddle a raised plank so that they don't run into each other, and the finish line is a foam-rubber wall.

Siblings and other relatives had their own race, and David Amoroso took third place in that event.

After all the preliminary eliminations, the final victories went to Danny King, first place, Taylor Watson, second, Ravi Yarid, third, and Harry Dixon, honorable mention. The top three winners will now compete in the District championship races on March 21.

In addition to speed, cars were judged on other attributes. Five Cabin John Cubs swept the field in the five special categories. J. P. Simon's car was judged most humorous; Noah Stckton's, best crafted; Jason Burke's, most inventive use of materials; Randy Mazzi's, most natural; and Ty Bookman's, most imaginative.

The races took an hour and a half, but the work of organizing the event and designing, crafting, and decorating the cars represented many days and nights of agony and ecstasy.

Jason Burke is 9 years old. This was his first Pinewood Derby because it's his first year in Cubs. He told me about the steps involved in creating a race car. "You get a Pinewood kit that has a block of wood, nails, and four wheels. Anything else you have to provide. We cut a slanted piece off the front and used that to make fins for the back.

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(DERBY continued from page 4)

After everything is cut and glued or nailed and when the glue is dry, then you can paint. My car was red, white, and grey, so I had three painting times with waiting in between for each color to dry. Then we put the wheels on. You want to get the car to weigh exactly 5 ounces, because the heavier it is, the faster it goes. My car was under 5 ounces, so we glued on pennies to bring up the weight."

When the day of the derby comes, each car is weighed on a balancing scale. Jason's car, which he named "The Piranha," was a bit too heavy, so on the spot his dad drilled a hole to reduce the amount of wood and bring it down to the required weight.

Jason got a little help like most of the boys. "My dad did some carpenter work, but I did all the painting and putting on the wheels. I guess it took about 7 or 8 hours altogether."

How was he feeling on the big day? "Well, I was a little anxious. It's fun to make the cars and race them, but it's kind of nervous to see who wins and who doesn't." Is the atmosphere pretty competitive? "Well, yes and no," says Jason. "Cub Scouts are friendly and you don't want to be mean to your friends and hope they don't win, but you would like to win yourself. We wouldn't fight about it; I mean, we're all one pack."

Jason, son of pack leader Pat Burke, took the opportunity to put in a plug for Cubs. "More kids should join the Cubs and see how much fun it is. If you're not sure, just try it out."

As a first-time entrant, Jason tasted sweet success. His car did not place in the racing, but took the prize for the most inventive use of materials. (Prizes were awarded by three judges who were no relation to any entered competitor and who did not know which car belonged to whom.) "I would have had a good time even if I didn't win anything. I just wanted to see how the thing works." Will he do it again? Jason nodded, "I have a feeling I will."

(CO-OP continued from page 3)

four hours each week. She has been a volunteer for three years, the longest the Co-op has had a single volunteer. Her reasons? "I like working in the pleasant surroundings. It's a nice working atmosphere." Brown points out that in addition to enjoying the work, she receives a 20% discount. Anyone interested in volunteering can attend one of the orientation sessions held twice monthly.

As cheese processing continued, Rubacky was joined by Elliott (who claims he is known so well that his last name is unnecessary). Elliott, a nine-year Co-op member, said Cabin John residents were the only customers during the recent snowstorms, many of them for the first time. "We never had that kind of business during a storm in Bethesda." Staples such as milk, bread, eggs, and cheese were the biggest selling items.

According to Elliott, being part of the Cabin John community is a good feeling. "We like being part of Cabin John."

(DOCTORS continued from page 2)

Springs and Silver Spring, Dr. Schindler is a surgeon who specializes in retinal diseases such as macula degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. He also teaches at Georgetown University.

(PERMITS, from page 1)

Street, Rockville (251-2190), with final approval given by the Army. Processing of applications takes four to six weeks, although an emergency procedure is available.

Cabin John residents are reminded that the permit program does not apply to the Union Arch bridge; weight restrictions remain fixed at 3 tons, and no waivers will be granted.

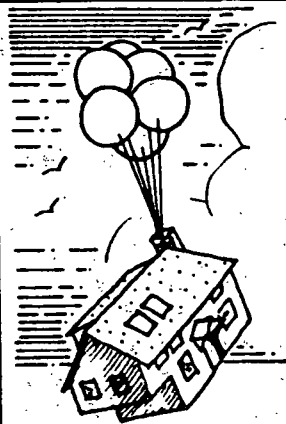
--Barbara Goodno

New Staff Member

Barbara Goodno of 81st Street has joined Barbara Martin and Judy Bekelman as a regular writer/reporter for the Village News. Welcome!

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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HOUSE WANTED TO BUY: In Cabin John. I was raised in the area and am looking to purchase a reasonably priced home. Terms negotiable and settlement date negotiable. Please call Michael Orden at 229-7823.

* * *

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WANTED: Climbing apparatus for one-year old. 229-7412.

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