

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 21, Number 5 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

January 1988

COUNTY BUDGETS \$1.05 MILLION FOR SCHOOL RENOVATION

By David Schindel

The Montgomery County budget for fiscal year 1988-89 includes \$1,050,000 for the first phase of renovation of the Clara Barton School. The allocation will be discussed at a public hearing of the Capital Improvement Projects Board in Rockville at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 26.

According to Bennett Connelly, Director of the County's Division on Children & Youth, the Clara Barton project is the County's first priority for renovating closed schools, and there seems to be no opposition to the project. A delegation representing the Cabin John Citizens Association, the 3 and 4 Year-Old School, the Clara Barton Center, and Bethesda Youth Services will attend the meeting and appoint a spokesperson to testify for the project. Anyone wishing to attend the hearing can get further details from me at 229-5140.

Capital Improvement projects that are approved by the Board then go to the County Executive for review, and finally to the
(Continued on page 2)

PROPOSALS FOR CABIN JOHN POSITIONS ON MASTER PLAN REVISION TO BE PRESENTED JAN. 26

By David Murphy

The Working Group of the Cabin John Citizens Association concerned with the input that Cabin John wants to make in the current revision of the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Master Plan (of which the Cabin John plan is a part) will present its position papers at the next Citizens Association meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 26, at 8 p.m. at the Clara Barton School.

The Citizens Association must decide the positions it wants to take in the process of the Master Plan revision. The position papers prepared by the Working Group will cover the following points:

1) The greatest threat to our community over the long term is the ever-increasing commuter traffic using Cabin John as a daily commuter route. Cabin John will become the point of convergence of major traffic flows if no positive action is taken now. Various by-pass routes around Cabin John, improvements to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and possible regu-
(Continued on page 5)

HERE'S THE AGENDA FOR JANUARY 26 CITIZENS MEETING

Association president Maureen Willoughby has announced these items for discussion at the Cabin John Citizens Association meeting on Tuesday, January 26, at 8 p.m., at the Clara Barton School:

1. Master plan revision update (see separate story)
2. Zoning amendments now being proposed in the County with respect to in-home offices. This is an important issue for many Cabin Johners who run businesses from their homes.
3. "Brainstorming" on nominations for historic sites in Cabin John (this will be the major topic of the February meeting)
4. Any ideas on using the abandoned railroad line that cuts through our part of the County
5. Nominations for official Cabin John representation on the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Citizens Advisory Board

Volunteers for several committees and short-term jobs are needed! Come and find out where you can put your skills to work.

(Continued from page 2)
County Council for approval in May. As soon as the Council approves, bids will be solicited, and construction could begin as early as July 1.

The first phase of renovation would completely renovate the first floors of both the new and old sections of the building. The renovated rooms would accommodate the Cabin John 3 and 4 year-Old School; the three pre-school rooms and after-school program of the Clara Barton Center; counselling, meeting, and after-school activity rooms for the Bethesda Youth Services; and a kitchen, dining room, activity/exercise room, and an all-purpose room for the Cabin John community. In addition, the County has targeted one of the renovated rooms as a new infant daycare room.

If and when the second phase renovation of the old section's second floor occurs, the County hopes to establish programs for elders there, as well as expanding after-school programs and general community use of the building.

The volunteer staff for this issue is:
Editor: Andy Rice
Design: Cherry Doyle
Business Manager:
Clare Amoruso
Mailing: Reed Martin,
Barbara Martin,
and friends
Further volunteers welcome! Call Andy Rice at 229-3503.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"It's Not Our Dog!"

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Many of you have telephoned us or come to our door to express concern over a doberman who runs loose in the vicinity of our clinic, the Alpine Animal Hospital, at 78th Street and MacArthur Boulevard. It's not our dog. The dog's name is Ivan, he lives nearby, and appears friendly; but he is not our dog.

We do have several dobermans here at the hospital. Our dogs are friendly and closely confined. Our dobermans do not run loose.

We try very hard to remain welcome in this neighborhood. We seek to keep animal noises and annoyances to a minimum. We greatly appreciate the interest of those of you who have asked about the ownership of the loose doberman. We continue to encourage any questions or comments you may have. Please call us at 229-2400 or stop by. Thanks.

-- Dr. David C. Zeiler
and hospital staff

Restoring Glen Echo Park

Dear Fellow Cabin Johners,

Late in 1987 I became the Staff Director for the Glen Echo Park Foundation (at this time the entire paid staff). I am working full-time in the Foundation office which is housed temporarily in the Park Office at Glen Echo Park. Later in the year we hope to open the Foundation Office in the space which is currently an alcove next to the Shooting Gallery. The Foundation's purpose is the preservation of Glen Echo Park and to that end we are working to raise \$3 million in time for the Park's centennial in 1991. This money will be used to stabilize and renovate Park structures.

We are 1,500 members strong but are always seeking to broaden our membership base. Do YOU belong? If you have ideas or questions, please call me at the Foundation office, 320-2330--I am there during business hours--or feel free to call me at home.

-- Diane Leatherman

"People for America"

Dear Editor,

First, let me take this opportunity to thank you for the very fine coverage you gave my organization (People for America) and myself in our efforts to help the victims
(Continued on page 4)

AN INTERVIEW WITH CABIN JOHN'S POSTMASTER

By Barbara Goodno

Cabin John's post office has changed locations at least five times since it opened in about 1870, but its role in the community has essentially remained unchanged.

According to Shirley K. Shuler, the postmaster since February 1973, and part of the post office staff since 1958, the office has long been used as a gathering place for area residents.

"People come here to find out what's going on in Cabin John," she said. "The post office has always had that kind of role."

She added that the small town atmosphere is also attractive to others outside the community. Some regular customers come from Bethesda, Potomac, and the District, even though other facilities may be closer.

"They tell me they come here because they like us," Shuler said. "They like the atmosphere, the friendliness."

Shuler said the most dramatic change in Cabin John in the nearly 30 years that she has been part of the postal operation has been the population increase. Today the post office makes approximately 630 deliveries (two routes, plus post office boxes).

The staff is composed of two full-time clerks, one part-time clerk, one full-time carrier, and two part-time carriers. And Shuler wonders if it's enough.

"You do what you have to do with what you have," she said. "I'm very proud of the people here. There was only one day last year when we didn't deliver any mail, and that was because there was no delivery to us. We were here -- but there wasn't any mail to deliver."

Complaints about mail delivery made at last October's Citizens Association meeting had some basis in fact, Shuler acknowledged. "We were short of help in the summer. We

then hired two new people, but it takes a carrier a while to get to know the route. Not all mail boxes have full addresses or names on them, and some mail boxes aren't even on the same side of the house where the street address is."

She added that the carrier sorts the incoming mail and puts it in delivery order in a "case," a box specially designed for letters. Unusual addresses or addresses out of sequence can be accidentally overlooked, she said.

Shuler believes these problems have been overcome, but advises patrons to keep her apprised of any difficulties.

Some residents may have noticed that occasionally mail is delivered more than once a day. This is unusual, but occurs from time to time when there is a large volume of mail and others at the post office assist the regular carrier.

During the recent holiday rush, Shuler said there were fewer last-minute packages sent from the post office. "We serve some very busy people," she said, "but this year they mailed earlier and seemed better prepared."

The December holiday season is the post office's busiest season, Shuler said, followed closely by Valentine's Day.

"We have a large number of pre-school and school children touring the office and then sending valentines. We show them where to put the stamp and then let them see how it's processed. Most are fascinated."

Shuler is neither the first woman postmaster nor the postmaster with the longest tenure. According to research done by Cabin John resident Richard A. Silliman, the first post office opened in the 1870s, with Joseph Bobinger as the postmaster. It may have been located on the grounds of Cabin John Hotel, owned by Bobinger (where Cabin John Gardens now stands).

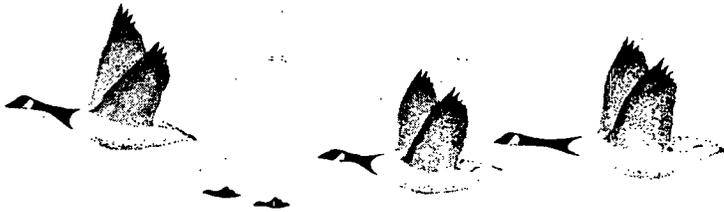
Other postmasters were Dennis Touhey, 1890-1925, with the post

(Continued on next page)

POST OFFICE (from preceding page)

office located in the Touhey General Store; Charles Scott, 1925-1936, general store; Wilbur Carper, 1936-1942, general store; Ruth Touhey Shuff, 1942-44, location not known; and Laura McKelvey, 1944-1972. The post office then was a frame addition to her house on 78th Street.

During Shuler's tenure as postmaster, the office has been in two locations. The first was the Clara Barton School until 1983 and now its present location in the MacArthur Park Shopping Center.

**USEFUL POST OFFICE INFORMATION****Window service hours:**

Monday-Friday 8:30 to 5:00
Saturday 8:00 to noon

Outgoing mail:

6:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

Incoming mail:

6:30 a.m.

Express mail service:

Available Monday through Friday if brought in before 1 p.m. and Saturday if brought in before noon. For further information, call the post office, 229-6970.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (continued)

of the flood that devastated much of West Virginia on Nov. 4-5, 1985.

Also let me thank Barbara Martin for her expertise in covering the story. A job well done has resulted in many, many donations of food, clothing, appliances, and money. Although most homes have been replaced, there is much to be done. Many families in West Va., Va., Md., and DC are in need of help. We all can help by donations of items that are in good shape and workable condition.

A young man recently called and said he wanted to help with canned goods. He did this on his own and collected over 3000 cans of which he gave me half and gave the other half to the Salvation Army.

This young man has promised to help us whenever we need help (which is pretty often). I salute Chris Bruch, who works for Tri-State Builders. What a remarkable young man! We need more like him.

My resolution for this year (1988) is to continue help wherever it is needed, with the assistance of the good people of Cabin John and surrounding areas. Happy New Year to all and many thanks.

-- Danny Harris
Director/Vice President.
People for America
229-7982

HOUSES FOR SALE
Properties currently for sale in Cabin John include the following:

31 Ericsson Road, rambler, 3 br, 1 ba, \$115,000
8200 MacArthur Blvd., bilevel, 3 br, 2½ ba, \$192,500
6513 Seven Locks Road, rambler, 2 br, 2 ba, \$179,500

HOUSES FOR RENT

7719 Tomlinson Ave., Victorian, 3 br, 1½ ba, \$1395 per mo.
6510 79th St., Sears home, 2 br, 1 ba, \$1300 per mo.

(Information from Cindy Offterdinger, 951-0313 or 897-8048)



**FIGHTING THE
GYPSY MOTH
CATERPILLAR!**

Cabin John residents are cordially invited to meeting on Thursday, February 25, on how to fight the gypsy moth caterpillar. The pest is now threatening trees throughout our area.

The meeting will be held at the Carderock Springs Clubhouse, on Hamilton Spring Court, at 8 p.m. Professionals from the Montgomery County Gypsy Moth Integrated Pest Management Program will explain how to control the caterpillar. Action must be taken by late March if the control program is to be effective during the coming growing season.

The Carderock Springs Citizens Association and the Carderock Springs Garden Club are sponsoring the event, at which refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Nancy Cathers (365-8154) or Jay Stedman (229-6302).

MASTER PLAN REVISIONS (Continued from page 1)
lation of traffic in Cabin John will be among the topics in the Working Group's report.

2) Any future development must be restricted to no greater density than is provided in the existing zoning.

3) The basic environmental and conservation principles called for in the Cabin John Community Plan of the 1970s must be adhered to. (Incidentally, the Working Group has assembled a documented record of the County's recognition of this Community Plan -- despite the statement by County staff at the November citizens meeting that the Community Plan did not have any status in the County's planning process.)

Maps and drawings will be a big part of the presentation at the January 26 meeting, so please bring your reading glasses!

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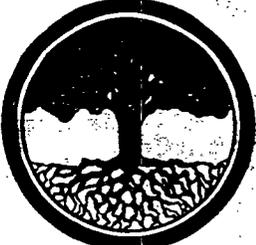
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(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: Saturday, February 13. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to the line). Please send check, payable to "Village News," with ad.)

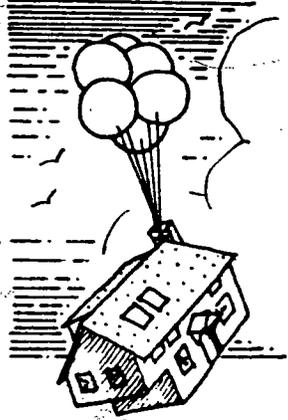
FUR COAT FOR SALE. Pastel mink, stroller length, size 12-14, worn twice. Worth \$2500, asking \$1000. Call Cabin John United Methodist Church, 229-8233.

* * *

A LOVING BABYSITTER is needed part-time for our three-month old baby. We live in Cabin John. Call 320-5475.

* * *

FOR SALE: Columbia 512K portable computer, \$500 or best offer; Dynax letter quality printer, \$100; Nagoya 12-string guitar and case, \$195; large wood office desk, \$40. 469-6109.



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**CHURCH ANNOUNCES
JANUARY EVENTS**

A community hymn sing will be held on Tuesday evening, January 26, at the Cabin John United Methodist Church, 77th and MacArthur, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Also coming up at the church is a Soup and Salad Dinner. It will take place on Saturday, January 30, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Village News
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