

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 21, Number 6 **SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND**

February 1988

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CABIN JOHN...

Many Cabin Johners have offices or run a business from their homes. Now the County is considering changes to the laws governing home offices. A zoning variance may be required and in some cases (specifically doctors and lawyers at this point) home offices may be banned.

A Citizens Association committee has been set up to monitor this process and to develop a community consensus. The committee would like to hear from people who have (or contemplate) home offices and are concerned about the pending proposals. Committee members to contact are: Tom Manion (229-7000), Betsy Lawrence (229-6706), and Bob Wilkoff (229-2003).

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The County Seniormobile will be making its monthly visit to Cabin John on Wednesday, March 2, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the MacArthur Square Shopping Center. The Seniormobile provides "one-stop" service for senior citizens who seek advice on legal, social security, housing, or other problems. A nurse is in attendance to do blood pressure testing and health consultations.

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Cabin John has been in the news lately! The February issue of the  
(Continued on page 2)

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN CABIN JOHN TO BE TOPIC AT MARCH 22 CITIZENS MEETING

Are there historic and archeological sites in Cabin John that need to be marked for preservation in the re-doing of the Cabin John portion of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan?

This question will be the topic for discussion at the March 22 meeting of the Citizens Association, starting at 8 p.m. at the Clara Barton School.

Gwen Marcus of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission will be one of the speakers; there will also be a representative of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.

They will discuss what structures are already on the locational atlas and which may be eligible for nomination. The impact of historic designation on the community and on property owners will also be discussed.

If you have a possible nomination, try to bring a photograph and any informa-

tion on the date a structure was built, early house plans or drawings, etc.

In addition, there will be a unique aerial photo displayed that shows what Cabin John looked like in 1929. This photo, from the National Archives, is one of the earliest commercial aerial photos and shows Cabin John from the river to what is now Saunders Lane and from Lock 12 (Beltway) to 76th Street. This was the end of the agricultural era, and the photo shows the old orchards on Persimmon Tree Road and the pastures along Seven Locks Road.

Another topic for discussion at the March 22 meeting is the cellular one antenna and building at the water tower site.

## THE GYPSY MOTH CATERPILLAR IS COMING!

Hundreds of caterpillar egg masses have already been found in our neighborhood. When the caterpillars emerge this spring, they will feed on leaves and kill many of our trees.

Two important meetings on this threat are now scheduled, both to be held in the Carderock Springs Clubhouse at the end of Hamilton Springs Court. The first will be held on Thursday, February 25, at 8 p.m. Professionals  
(Continued on page 5)

## CABIN JOHN NEWS....

(Continued from page 1)  
Bethesda Co-op News has a most interesting piece by Gloria McKinney about the community history of black residents of Cabin John. The February 10 issue of Potomac Almanac contains a story about our historic bridge, the Union Arch.

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Newcomers in Cabin John should call the Martins at 229-3482 for a copy of the Cabin John Directory. In addition to listing all residents, it has a valuable "Skills and Services" section. (And if you've lost your original copy, you probably can get a replacement copy from the Martins.)

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The Clara Barton Center is looking for people aged 16 to over 60 who enjoy children to work with school-aged children three to five afternoons a week. No experience is necessary. If interested, call 320-4565 or 229-0805 to discuss hours and salary.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Post Office: Friendly and Helpful

Thanks for the nice piece by Barbara Goodno on the Cabin John Post Office and Postmistress Shirley Shuler in the January issue of The Village News.

How about a follow-up sometime with some profiles of the others who work there?

We are blessed, not only to have such a convenient facility, but also to have people there with such a friendly and helpful attitude.

--James W. Plumb

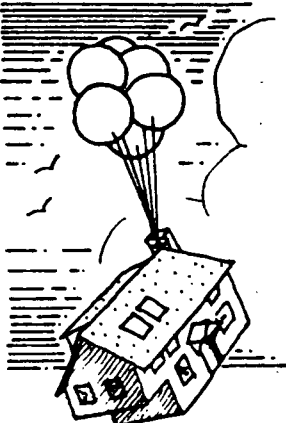
## A Plea to the Community

Clara Barton Day Care Center pays for the dumpster in front of the Clara Barton building. We rent a dumpster that is sufficient in size to accommodate a week of garbage from the Center and the 3 & 4 Year Old School. That's all it holds.

In addition, the Poor Boy Co, who services the dumpster does not pick up solid refuse other than bagged garbage; i.e., they do not take Christmas trees, mattresses, automobile exhaust systems. When people from the community leave their garbage and, even worse, their solid refuse in or beside our dumpster, it creates a) an eyesore, b) a danger, and c) an unsanitary situation. What are we to do now with the mattress, the broken mirror, and the exhaust system lying in front of our building?

Please, please do not use our dumpster and, particularly, do not leave your large refuse here. It isn't fair to the families using the building and it isn't fair to the residents of 75th Street. Thank you.

--Clara Barton Day Care Center




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The People of Cabin John**FOUR ENTERPRISING WOMEN**

By Barbara Martin

Four women, three from Cabin John and one from Glen Echo, are making a dream come true. They have created and developed their own company, a venture that gives them the challenging, professional work they want--and on their own terms.

It started in 1985 when an acquaintance asked Cappie Morgan if she would do a small writing project with a short deadline. Cappie agreed, started working on it at home, then discovered it was more than she could do alone in the given time. She turned to her friend, Marie Keefe, and together they finished the assignment and found they had enjoyed working together on something of high quality that they were paid for.

The writing job was well received and they were asked to take on another project, this one involving interviewing as well as writing. When this job became a long-range one, "We decided we needed help," recalls Marie, "and we asked two friends to join us." The friends were Fran Patch and Margaret Dyke. "We became excited about working together, pleased with the way we were able to blend and support each other's work."

By the time the project was finished, an idea had taken hold: formation of a working arrangement that would fulfill many of the women's needs. "We had several basic things in common," says Fran. "Our kids were in school, so we had some free time during the day. We had all worked in the past in varying professional capacities and were hungry to get back into that stimulating environment. We did not want to work fulltime, but wanted to reserve time to nurture and enjoy our active families. We were all involved in school and community programs and wanted to continue that."

"And probably the most important thing of all," adds Cappie, "from

our years of working together in volunteer projects--organizing and running everything from the Cabin John 3-and-4-year-old school's rummage sale to scouting programs to activities at Bannockburn, Pyle, and Whitman--we trusted and respected each other's competence and reliability."

Margaret takes up the story. "We saw that we could offer a special service. Suppose an organization wants a survey taken, or needs a subject researched and summarized, or has a number of papers that must be pulled together into a cohesive document. But the organizations doesn't have available people who can be pulled away from their regular jobs and doesn't want the expense of putting more people on their staff. They can hire us to do just one job."

It's an arrangement that has many advantages to the agency or business. And what about the advantages for the four partners? They are unanimous in their enthusiasm. "It's perfect for us. We can work mostly at home, and at hours that fit into our lives. We always have the energy and support that comes from working with capable colleagues. And we're getting paid respectable fees."

Their company is "Counterparts," a name with a double meaning. To the world, Counterparts suggests that this company can enter an organization for a limited time and purpose, and act as matching co-workers with the staff. But there is another, heartwarming significance to the name. These four women share and augment each other's family needs and chores. If Margaret has an appointment with a client on the afternoon when her daughter has an appointment with the orthodontist, Cappie may be the one to take her. If Fran is typing away on a report that's due tomorrow, Marie will bring a casserole dinner for the Patch family. "In a very real sense, we stand in for each other in whatever way will make the work proceed. We really are each other's counterparts."

There are no solo performers

here. Although a project may be portioned out into individual responsibilities, the partners regularly check with each other for advice and feedback. They meet periodically, "not on a set schedule, but whenever we have something to talk about." "We are especially careful to represent ourselves to a client as a team. When we go for an initial meeting, typically there will be two of us. And even though one woman will be primary liaison on a project, we keep emphasizing that any of us can be contacted. So if someone can't get the first one of us on the phone, they'll call another one."

What kinds of projects are undertaken by Counterparts? In their two and a half years of operation, the partners have consolidated data from a nationwide survey and turned out a book on migrant health; that project took two years. But they have also done an information search for a school that was finding its own data collection efforts unproductive; that job took one day. They conducted interviews with 40 women for a university study on stress, and they edited articles on crime prevention among the elderly.

"We've tackled a great variety of jobs. Some were really new to us, and we had to figure out how to do them. We've discovered that we don't need to be experts in any given field. We research, we process, and then we write in a way that can be readily understood by the general user, not just an elite group. We like to think we bring an intelligent outside perspective to a project. But in the process we learn a lot about the subject we're working with--that's a personal bonus. You won't see Counterparts' name on any report or book or project. That's not the way we work. The credit goes to the client; they own the finished product."

I asked how their families react to having a serious working woman in the house. "My son knows now that Mom is not to be interrupted when she is hunched over a typewriter with that hard-working expression on her

face," says Fran. "My children have become accurate and reliable at taking messages for me," adds Cappie. "My family is appreciative of what my working means to our life because my earnings go to tangible improvements and special purchases," Margaret says. Marie laughs, "After I had been doing this for a while, one of my sons sat down and asked me earnestly what it is that I do for a living." All four agreed "When you hear your kids bragging to their friends about their mother's work, you know they have a real respect for what you're doing."

There has been little grouching about Momma being busy. All four families are used to strong participation in outside activities. The women set a fine example for their children in showing their continued support of their schools and communities even though they are also working for money.

The partners have different work style preferences. One sets aside about 4 hours a day for Counterparts, but another does nothing for a week and then works two consecutive 12-hour days. "With this unique structure, we can do it, we can choose our best times for working."

The four Counterparts are clearly delighted with what they have formed for themselves. "A lot of people told us we couldn't be working colleagues and stay friends. But actually as the business has grown, so have our appreciation and affection for each other. We are all strong women, not only strong in our abilities but quite definite in our opinions; it is exhilarating finding consensus and forging new directions." Some people also predicted they would fail without a leader. Counterparts is a company of four peers. They take turns being manager for specific projects, and each meeting has a designated leader and a set agenda. But the responsibilities and the rewards are equal.

This company, born and raised right herein Cabin John, is a tribute to the four enterprising women who made it happen.

### CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT PLAN REVISIONS

Cabin John's input into the current process of revising the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan was discussed at the Citizens Association meeting on January 26, and the Working Committee was asked to assemble the community views into a single document for submission to the County planning authorities. There seemed to be agreement on several points:

- 1) Cabin John residents have a deep concern about the steadily growing traffic going through the community;
- 2) Cabin Johners do not want any rezoning that might permit higher population density; and
- 3) the community wants to preserve the wooded, narrow street nature of the town.

Another area of concern is protecting historic and archeological sites. These will be considered at the next Citizens Association meeting on March 22 (see separate story).



### CATERPILLARS.....

(Continued from page 1)

from the Montgomery County Gypsy Moth Integrated Pest Management Program will explain how the caterpillar can be controlled. Action must be taken by the end of March if the control program is to be effective during the growing season.

A second meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23, also at 8 p.m. at the same place. County representatives will be there to sell the burlap and sticky tape needed to band trees to protect them from the pest.

You will need to check your trees in advance to know the total amount of burlap and tape you should buy. Trees most often attacked (in order of caterpillar preference) are: all oaks (their favorite food), box elder, alders, birches (paper and gray), tamarack, sweet gum, apple (including ornamental varieties), hawthorn, aspens (bigtooth and quaking), willows, American basswood, and maples.

To figure what you need, measure the circumference of each tree you wish to band at chest level. The total of these measurements is what you will need of both burlap and tape. Burlap will cost about 25¢ for every six feet and tape about \$2 per 50-foot roll.

For more information about the meetings, call Jay Stedman at 229-6302.

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**THE VILLAGE NEWS**

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Barbara Martin, and friends.

If you'd like to lend a hand in any capacity, call Andy Rice at 229-3503.

**CLASSIFIED**

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: Saturday, March 12. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to the line). Please send check, payable to "Village News," with ad.)

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