

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 22, Number 8

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

April 1989

JUSTIN BEKELMAN NAMED TO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governor William Donald Schaefer has appointed Justin Bekelman, 15, of River Trail Court, to be the student member of the Maryland State Board of Education. Justin was nominated for the position in a student election at a statewide convention of the Maryland Association of Student Councils. His appointment has been confirmed by the Maryland Senate.

As a student member of the Board, Justin will meet with students throughout the state and spend two days each month in Baltimore, participating in discussions and introducing proposals in the board's monthly meetings. Although he cannot vote, Justin said his goal is "to make the adults on the board act with the student, not just for the student."

Justin attends Walt Whitman High School where he has been president of the sophomore and freshmen classes, a peer counsellor, active in student groups combatting drugs and alcoholism, and heads the school-wide fundraising drive for homeless families.

An honor student, he will represent Maryland at the national science fair to be held at West Point in May. He is the son of Judy and Alan Bekelman.

NEXT CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Tuesday, April 25, at 8 p.m. will be the time of the next meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association. The meeting will be held in the community hall of the Cabin John United Methodist Church at 77th Street and MacArthur.

A major item on the agenda will be community concern with recent outbreaks of violence at the Assemblies of God Full Gospel Washington Church at 6523 78th Street. The church, which has an almost entirely Korean congregation, has been beset by internal feuding which culminated in a decision several weeks ago to discharge the present pastor. The congregational vote was split, however, and since then the dispute has resulted in actual fighting on several occasions. Police have been called in substantial numbers and, as this issue of The Village News was going to press, it was reported that two persons were injured severely enough in fighting on April 14 to require being taken to the hospital.

Residents of the area are distraught. Earlier they had complained about church members parking improperly on private property when the church parking lot overflowed, and the church had attempted to remedy the situation by vanpooling its member from Sunday parking at the MacArthur Square shopping center.

There is some talk of seeking a temporary injunction to prohibit gatherings at the church if the unrestrained violence continues. As far as is known, no member of the congregation lives in Cabin John; the majority, it is believed, are residents of Virginia. (Continued on page 2)

METHODIST CHURCH ANNOUNCES ACTIVITIES DURING MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE

The Cabin John United Methodist Church at 77th and MacArthur Boulevard has announced a Community Yard Sale to be held on Saturday, May 20, 1989, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Space may be rented at \$15. For information, please call 229-8233.

For those wishing to donate clean, usable clothing and household items, the church community building will be open on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until noon to accept donations.

The Yard Sale will also feature food. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until Saturday, June 3.

The Church has also announced that its vacation Bible School will be held this year from Monday, June 26, through Friday, June 30, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

SCHOOL NEWS OF INTEREST TO CABIN JOHNERS..

¶ The annual May Fair of Bannockburn Elementary School will take place on Sunday, May 7, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the school grounds, 6520 Dalroy Lane. Featured are games, a plant sale, a raffle, a sale of "gently used items" and an international cafe.

¶ Bannockburn Elementary School will also be holding its annual Kindergarten Round-Up for children who will be 5 years old by December 31. Children and their parents are invited to the school on Thursday, May 11, and Friday, May 12. Please call the school office at 320-6555 to set up an appointment.

¶ Next month the Montgomery County Council is expected to vote on whether to build a new Walt Whitman High School or to renovate the existing structure. A straw vote at the end of a recent Council working session indicated that a substantial majority of Council members appeared to favor a new building.

¶ David Amoruso, a second grade student at Bannockburn Elementary School, and his brother Nicholas, a fourth grader, have both won third place prizes in the Montgomery County Public Schools Film Festival, David for his photograph titled "My Grandfather and his Sons" and Nick for his photo, "My Grandfather at Work." The photos were displayed at the Public School offices in March. The Amorusos live on Arden Road.

"PESTICIDE PANIC" BRINGS SURGE OF BUSINESS TO CO-OP

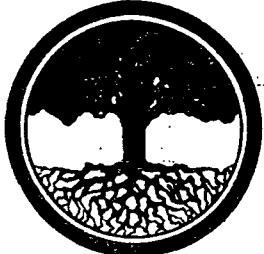
Newspaper headlines and TV stories in March about the danger of pesticides on apples and grapes brought a surge of business to the Bethesda Co-op in Cabin John's MacArthur Plaza shopping center.

Consumers seeking organically grown foods produced an increase in business during the month of 20% or more. Saturday, March 11, was the biggest sales day in the Co-op's history.

The Co-op notes that about half of its produce is organic and many other items feature organic ingredients. "Organic" means grown without synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides, harvested and stored without irradiation or fumigants, and processed without additives.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION... (Continued from page 1)

At the March meeting of the Citizens Association, the group considered and voted to oppose a pending application to divide a lot at 7652 Tomlinson Avenue to permit construction of another dwelling. The vote was specific to this property on the grounds that subdividing was incompatible with the immediate setting of the surrounding properties.



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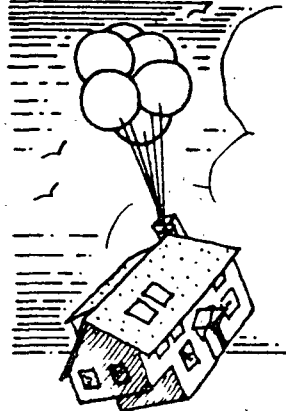
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FROM TAVERN TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS... THE CHANGING FACE OF MACARTHUR PLAZA

By Kathleen McManus

The business complex located at 7945 MacArthur Boulevard, once the site of Tuohey's Grocery and Tuohey's Tavern and more recently known as MacArthur Square, was purchased a short time ago by Garrett & Smith, Incorporated, a real estate development firm. The new owners of MacArthur Plaza (as it is now called) are Robert Calhoun Smith, Jr., and Michael R. Garrett. Both men come from families who have had an interest in architecture and construction for generations. Mr. Smith, whose father is on the Board of the American Institute of Architects, is a Glen Echo resident whose commitment to upgrading the building was voiced several times during our recent conversation. Mr. Garrett, one of the original partners in the PortAmerica project near the Wilson Bridge, shares his colleague's intentions to make MacArthur Plaza a "first-class business facility."

Since its construction around 1981, the building has housed a variety of retail and business concerns. Along with the more visible tenants like the Maximum Savings Bank, the Bethesda Co-op and the Post Office, MacArthur Plaza accommodates businesses who specialize in everything from telecommunications to decorating with preserved trees and plants.

Long-time Cabin John residents who remember buying a loaf of bread at Tuohey's Grocery in the 1920s or enjoying a brew at Tuohey's Tavern in the 1930s, may be surprised to learn that the site now houses the Asociacion de Senoras del BID, a women's organization which is associated with the Inter-American Development Bank. The organization helps Spanish-speaking diplomats and new residents with housing and resettlement in the Washington area.

Other tenants in the building include Hometron USA, Inc., a Delaware corporation that provides "state-of-the-art automation and control systems to homeowners and builders in the Washington, DC, area." Combining two different businesses under one roof, Dawn Spain owns and operates Compu-Phone, Inc., which sells business and home telephone systems, and Natural Decor, providing offices with preserved, maintenance-free eucalyptus plants and trees.

The upper floor of MacArthur Plaza is home to TRACOR, Inc., an engineering and consulting firm which deals with the federal government and enjoys its location within a short distance of the David Taylor Model Basin, where much of its work is carried out.

Occupying the space next to TRACOR is TAB Products Company. TAB was founded 38 years ago as a manufacturer of computer punch cards. Currently, TAB manufactures and markets systems furniture for both private industry and the federal government. Like many of the other occupants of the building, the 20 employees who work for TAB find Cabin John to be an ideal location with easy access to the metropolitan area via the Beltway, I-270 and I-95. Also located on the upper level of the building, JTE, Inc., owned by J. Thomas Elmore, employs a staff of eight who are kept busy marketing earth retention and noise abatement systems, similar to those seen along I-270 which are designed to act as buffers between noisy commuter traffic and the adjacent residential areas.

Nestled between the Bethesda Co-op and Compu-Phone, Inc., is Cable & Wireless Communications, Inc., formerly known as TDX. Its locked door and blackened windows give the space the appearance of being unoccupied. Far from being empty, the office space houses computer and telecommunications equipment which acts as a backup-system for the company's main office in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Cable & Wireless Communications operates as a relay station for processing long distance telephone calls. The windows facing MacArthur Boulevard were blackened to protect the sensitive equipment inside from the damaging rays of the sun. The company's locked door and lack of identifying information on the exterior are intentional. Not being a retail concern, the company has no reason to advertise its location in the complex.

Tenants of MacArthur Plaza, along with residents who patronize businesses in the complex, will be happy to learn that Garrett & Smith intend to repair and resurface the parking lot which services the building. Mr. Smith blames the lot's current state of decay on truck traffic which uses the property as a by-pass to weight-restricted MacArthur Boulevard. Messrs. Smith and Garrett intend to install height restrictors at the 79th Street entrance to the lot to prevent such traffic in the future. (Continued on page 5)



UPDATE ON THE "LAST CLARA BARTON CLASS" STORY

The 46th--and last--person from the 1974 graduating class has been located.

Susan Saghatoleslami lives in Aspen, Colorado. She runs a catering service and teaches snowboarding.

CORRECTED ANNOUNCEMENT

A phone number got left out of a story in last month's Village News, so we are repeating the item now:

A non-sexist playgroup for 4-and-5-year-olds will be held on Saturday mornings in Seven Locks Park (next to Palisades Pool). Free play and/or simple games are initially proposed; other suggestions are welcome. Call Sylvie or David Palumbo-Liu at 229-1529 for further information.

OF COMMUNITY INTEREST....

The Department of Animal Control and Humane Treatment of Montgomery County will provide free rabies shots for dogs at Walt Whitman High School from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 15. Dogs must be licensed to receive the shots. For licensing information, call 279-1095.

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MORE HISTORY OF CABIN JOHN....

(Editor's note: in the November 1988 issue we presented a story of where the name Cabin John came from. In this issue we extract sections of "A Brief History of Cabin John" written in 1947 by Edith Martin Armstrong.)

"...At the entrance to the community is the Cabin John Bridge, once the second-largest single-span bridge in the world. The actual work on the bridge, officially named Union Arch, was begun in 1857 and completed in 1864. It was erected to carry the 9-foot diameter conduit across Cabin John Gorge...

"Conduit Road (re-named during World War II as MacArthur Boulevard) was developed as a result of the construction of the water supply

conduit. The only other road to Great Falls was River Road, a narrow dirt road almost impassable in winter and spring. Branching from River Road was Seven Locks Road, the only access to Cabin John, Consequently when the conduit was completed, the farmers nearby soon began to use the smooth clay surface over the conduit as a roadway...

"During the 1920s, it was necessary for those who drove by automobile into Washington to obtain a District of Columbia license as well as a Maryland one. Because Conduit Road was government property, the people of Washington could drive on it without securing a Maryland tag, provided they did not

leave it. This resulted in frequent controversies with persons who had misjudged the width of the government property...

"Near Cabin John Bridge, on the river side of the road, stood the famous Cabin John Bridge Hotel. It had 40 rambling rooms and was the scene of gay parties and a favorite gathering place of diplomats, cabinet members, Congressmen, and social leaders. Speaker Joe Cannon held all his social functions there... No dancing was allowed in the hotel, and no one was ever allowed to remain overnight, no matter what his predicament..."


(More on the history of this famed Cabin John landmark--which burned down in 1931--in later issues of The Village News.)

(Continued from page 3)

With an improvement budget of \$100,000, the company plans to construct a new entrance to the upper floor suites, further develop the landscape with trees and shrubs and make general repairs to the building. Although the building seems full, Mr. Smith said MacArthur Plaza currently has 1,900 square feet of vacant office space. Anyone interested in obtaining information about rentals can contact him at 827-4010.

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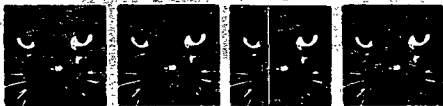
is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to every household in Cabin John. Others may subscribe for \$5 a year.

Please send news, ads, letters, subscriptions, etc., to The Village News, P.O. Box 164, Cabin John MD, 20818.

The next deadline is 12 noon, Saturday, May 13, 1989.

Volunteers for this issue are:

Editor: Andy Rice
Design: Cherry Doyle
Business Manager: Clare Amoruso
Production: Dan Blum
Mailing: Reed and Barbara Martin

**CLASSIFIED**

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: 12 noon, Saturday, May 13, 1989. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check payable to "Village News," with ad.)

RUGS FOR SALE, 15 x 18 bright multicolor and 10 x 14 rust shag. Reasonable. Giveaway 9 x 11 gold shag. Call 229-4469.

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT: Ocean block - Dewey, Delaware. Two blocks south of Rehoboth. Sleeps eight, large screened porch. Families/ no pets. Call the Martins at 229-3482.

TYPING/WORD PROCESSING: Experienced, good references. Call Jennifer, 229-9121.

LANDSCAPING/LAWN CARE: Complete lawn care and maintenance. Call Grizzly Landscaping & Lawn Service for affordable rates, professional service and free estimates, 320-5438!!!

BEACH HOUSE RENTAL: on canal in South Bethany, 1½ blocks from ocean. Three bedrooms, two baths, two decks. Sleeps eight. Call the Amorusos at 320-2685.

WANTED: small steam engines, hot air motors, old model airplane engines, tetherline model boats & race cars. Also interested in homemade & commercial pulse and turbine model jet engines. Reed Martin, 229-3482.

WANTED - A place for Angie Parlin and her daughter Nicole to house-sit the first two weeks in July. They are old Cabin Johners currently living in Geneva who want to visit "home" this summer. Call Cappie Morgan, 320-3269.

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