

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 23, Number 2

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

September 1989

## CITIZENS MEET SEPTEMBER 26

The first meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association for the 1989-90 season will take place on Tuesday, September 26, at 8 p.m. at the parish hall of the Cabin John United Methodist Church at 77th St. and MacArthur Boulevard.

The meeting is open to all residents of Cabin John and anyone can bring up an issue of community concern. If you have problems about traffic, or trash, or crime, or schools, etc., etc., etc., this is the place to present it. There is no elected local government in Cabin John, so the CJCA serves to represent the community on matters handled by the County, the Park Service, the state, etc.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Thanks from  
The Wild Bird Center

I am deeply grateful to the Cabin John Citizens Association for its successful support of the Wild Bird Center during the recent zoning review by the Planning Board. I would also like to thank the many Cabin Johners who wrote letters, came by personally to talk matters over, or testified before the Board on behalf of the Wild Bird Center. It was a harrowing experience, but the neighborly concern expressed made me proud to be a part of this community.

--George Petrides  
Proprietor

## CABIN JOHN DOES IT AGAIN!

### CROWD AT CRAB FEAST ENJOYS DELICIOUS FOOD, SOCIABILITY, AND RAISES MONEY TOO

Cabin John's annual crab and chicken feast, held this year on September 9, was another community success, according to those who attended the afternoon event of steamed crabs, broiled chicken, and succulent vegetables and salads. The final figures are not yet in, but estimates are that at least \$1000 was raised for various community projects,

The traditional party was held in Seven Locks Park, next to Palisades Pool, with families of all ages taking part. A special attraction was the children's games program.

Masterminded by Feast Coordinators Maureen Willoughby and Bob Greenberg, the event relied on the generous contributions of time by scores of volunteers to put it all together, from the daredevils who strung banners across the roadways to the seven potato peelers hard at work on Friday evening before.

Probably no-one has a complete list of everyone who donated their time, but of vegetables;

the heads of various activities deserve special thanks. They included:

Clare Amoruso, who handled the Bake Sale;

Phil Amoruso, who ran the games for kids;

Dennis and Pat Burke, who put up the signs;

Cherry Doyle, who was in charge of Cabin John T-shirt sales;

John Gelb, who organized the moving of tables and chairs;

Diane Leatherman, who ran advance ticket sales;

Tony Maggio, who took care of the beverages;

Gloria McKinney and Celeste Swedenburg, chefs extraordinaires in charge

Judie and Fred Mopsik, who, with Pat and Tom Dubos and Kathy and David Siefken, cooked all the chicken (Kathy also handled the paper products);

Susan Vogt, who purchased the crabs; and

Janie Winslow, who saw to it that the serving line was fully manned throughout the four hours.

And at the end there was Ed Kelly in charge of clean-up, and John Crook to handle all the money.

To each of you, and to your co-workers, goes a vote of thanks from your Cabin John neighbors!



## PERSONAL NEWS ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN

¶ Andy and Dottie Clark of 6622 81st Street are retiring to Venice, Florida, on November 1. Dottie worked in the Cabin John Post Office for many years before transferring to the Glen Echo Post Office from which she retired two years ago. Andy has belonged to the Cabin John Fire Department for many years. Best wishes to the Clarks in their new home!

¶ Kevin Burke of 6916 Seven Locks Road broke the County All Stars Diving Record this summer for the second year in a row for divers age 10 and under. Kevin then went on to the Maryland State All Stars Diving Meet which he also won in his age category!

Kevin is a fifth grader at Bannockburn Elementary School and is a member of the Palisades Pool diving team. Other Palisades divers who competed in the Divisional diving meets were Ross and Alex Dence of 76th Street and Kelly and Brian Burke. Congratulations to all these Cabin John divers!

¶ Cabin John's oldest resident, Irene Lena Worsham, died on August 30 at the age of 99 at her home on MacArthur Boulevard. Her daughter, Uva Cable, also of Cabin John, survives her, as do three sons, 17 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Worsham had been active in the Glen Echo Baptist Church, of which she was a charter member.



## CHURCH PLANS RUMMAGE SALE, HYMNAL DEDICATION

A round of October activities has been announced by the Cabin John United Methodist Church (77th and MacArthur). Among the highlights are a Pot Luck Supper on October 1, dedication of a new hymnal on October 22, and the annual fall rummage sale on October 27 and 28.

The Sunday, October 1, supper will start at 6:30 p.m. and those attending are asked to bring a dish. Slides on missionary activities in North Africa will be shown.

On October 10 there will be the monthly (and popular) Tuesday evening 7:30 Hymn Sing in the sanctuary, followed on October 22 by a formal service of dedication of the new United Methodist hymnal. The service starts at 11 a.m. with Dr. Larry Stookey as preacher.

The rummage sale will open on Friday, October 27 at 10 a.m. and will continue until 7 p.m., re-opening the next day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Persons wishing to contribute items for sale may bring them to the church between 9 a.m. and noon the week of October 23, or phone (229-8233) to arrange a time of delivery.

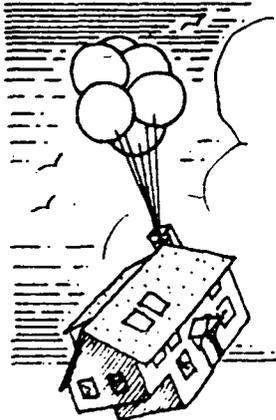
More information on any of these events is available from Rev. Walter Shropshire at 229-8233.

## MORE HISTORY OF CABIN JOHN...

[Ed. note: We continue the history of the famed Cabin John Hotel, the first part of which appeared in last April's issue. It is taken from Edith Martin Armstrong's "A Brief History of Cabin John" published in 1947. And beginning in the next issue we'll be running some excerpts from "Time Was," the Cabin John Memory Book produced by Elizabeth Kytte for the community's bicentennial celebration in 1976.]

"...The Cabin John Hotel was built by the Joseph Bobinger family. Joseph, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, came to Maryland about 1860, with his wife Rosa. After being naturalized, he became the first Postmaster of Cabin John...

"Joseph Bobinger first worked as a stone mason on the Cabin John Bridge. He had the temperament of an artist and took great pride in each stone he laid...Rosa had a re-  
(Continued on page 4)



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Sidelights on Cabin John**GONE FISHING**

By Kathleen McManus

When asked by her teacher to write about how she spent her summer vacation, my daughter's submission was short and to the point. It read, "I watched my mother fish." I must admit she was being honest.

I caught the "fishing bug" this year early in the season. It was during a 4th of July outing to a lake in Fredericksburg. I will always remember the first fish I landed. Using chicken liver for bait, I sunk my line on the bottom and sat back to wait for a bite. Within minutes, I was wrestling with a 12 pound catfish. The thrill of the fight, the wind in my hair and the sun on my back all combined to convince me that fishing was my sport.

Whether you're an experienced angler or just a youngster with a tree branch for a pole, Cabin John and its surrounding areas offer fertile grounds for fishing. The C&O Canal and the Potomac River are well stocked with catfish, carp, bass, crappie, shad, and colorful sunfish. The area of the canal between the 7th and 8th locks has been a favorite fishing spot of mine. There are flat, grassy patches at the water's edge that provide an excellent place to sit and relax while waiting for the "big" ones to bite. Children who prefer watching fish to catching them can be entertained by a wide variety of sunfish and perch which come to the surface to feed on insects. Throwing crumbs of bread into the water is a sure-fire method of attracting these colorful fish.

If shad and bass are what you're looking for, the stretch of canal called Widewater (west of Anglers Inn) is your best bet. Located near the Billy Goat Trail, Widewater is a spectacular spot. Aside from the jumping fish, it offers a chance to see an assortment of wildlife. On a recent visit I counted half a dozen long-necked cranes and herons, assorted snapping turtles, and a beaver swimming through the water.

The Potomac River is another source of fishing. There are many paths off the canal which lead to the river's edge. Due to the fact moving water and treacherous undertow, people are well advised to heed the Park Ser-



vice's warning not to wade into the river or be tempted to climb a rock for a better fishing spot. In addition, my few attempts at fishing the river have ended with my beating a hasty retreat from curious water snakes.

Once you've decided to try your hand at fishing, you'll need to decide which bait will attract the fish. In my limited experience, I've found that casting artificial lures and spinners into the canal can be an expensive proposition. Its narrow width and tree-lined banks make it difficult for the novice to cast without snagging a limb. I've invested a small fortune in sophisticated tackle only to have it hang from branches after a few casts. I can always see my favorite fishing spot from a mile away. It's the stretch of water where the old maples shimmer in the sun from all the shiny lures hanging like Christmas tree ornaments from the branches.

A few words of warning. Beware of passing strangers lugging fancy tackle and carrying fishing nets big enough to hold a 20 lb. bass. They are quick to offer advice on the best bait or pole. These helpful anglers are often long on words but short on fish. Although I've listened to them intently, I've caught my biggest fish using good old-fashioned worms and Wonder Bread.

A fishing license is required for those over the age of 16. Most local sporting goods stores have them on hand. If live bait is what you need, the Rockville Trading Post at 250 N. Washington Street in Rockville is the place to find it. Besides night crawlers and live minnows, the store carries a wide variety of fishing poles and tackle. The doors open at 7 a.m. for folks who want to start early.

The Park Service advises that the fishing season along the canal and the river can last well into the late fall. So next time you think about settling down on the couch for a few hours of mindless activity, think again. Why not grab a pole, round up the kids and head for the canal? The sound of the birds, the rustling of the leaves and the sight of the bass jumping may be enough to make you give up cable t.v. forever.

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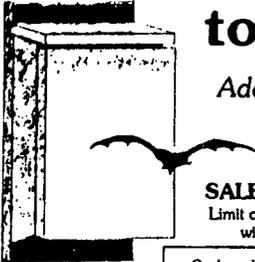
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(Continued on page 2)

freshment stand in their home near the bridge... and often served chicken dinners. Her reputation as a cook spread, and to provide space to build a hotel and expand her business, 100 acres of land were purchased in 1870.

"Shortly afterward, the Bobingers built the original frame hotel of 25 rooms, a reproduction of an old German tavern. Other rooms were gradually added...

"The completed hotel had two large banquet halls capable of accommodating one hundred guests... Besides the banquet rooms, there were private dining rooms, two lunch rooms, a music hall, two parlors, powder rooms, barber shop, a pool and billiard room, several bars, and stock rooms...

"Much of the material and furnishings came from Europe. as did the orchestra, a powerful music box, housed at the end of the music hall, in an octagonal tower... The orchestra could be heard throughout the hotel and gardens.

"The gardens were laid out with paths and contained valuable evergreens, magnolias... Cedar summer houses were scattered about the grounds... In 1910, a steel bridge was built across Cabin John Branch. It contained 500 colored lights which turned the branch into a fairy land. Near the bridge was a stand, where a 21-piece orchestra played. Sousa was there one season.

**RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES**

Cabin John residents are reminded that, in addition to the regular Friday pick-up of newspapers, the Giant store at the Westwood Shopping Center also accepts newspapers.

The Safeway store in the Little Falls Shopping Mall is one of the designated buy-back centers for aluminum cans.

For "recycling" household goods and clothing, the Montgomery County Thrift Shop, at 7125 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, accepts donations every day (except Sunday) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. If you want to consign some of your items for sale, call to make an appointment on Tuesdays from 9:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., the only hours when consignments are accepted. The shop's phone number is 654-0063.

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Additional donations: Citizens Association \_\_\_\_\_ Village News \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here  if interested in volunteering for September 1990 Crab Feast

NOTE: If annual dues are more than you can afford, please join by giving what you can. Please make check payable to "CJCA" and mail to John Crook, Treasurer, 7516 Arden Road, Cabin John, MD 20818.

**THE VILLAGE NEWS**

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 10 a.m., Saturday, October 14, 1989.

Volunteers for this issue are:

Editor: Andy Rice  
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(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: 10 a.m., Saturday, October 14, 1989. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check payable to "Village News" with ad.)

For sale

KNITTING MACHINE. PASSAP Electronic 6000. Purchased one year ago. Used one time. Telephone 229-3127.

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