

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 23, Number 3

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

October 1989

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING TO CONSIDER REVISED MASTER PLAN

Important hearings on the revised Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan will be held on October 30 by the Montgomery County Council. If the Cabin John community wants to make its views known on the changes proposed in the plan, then is the time to do it.

Consequently, the Citizens Association meeting on Tuesday, October 24 (8 p.m. at the Cabin John United Methodist Church, 77th and MacArthur) will be largely devoted to considering and taking positions on the new proposals. There are many which affect Cabin John to a greater or lesser extent, including zoning along MacArthur Boulevard, the designation of MacArthur as a "scenic route", and others. The facts will be presented at the meeting; it's up to you to bring your judgement on them!

Another item of business will be follow-up on the decision taken at the September 26 meeting to undertake a Cabin John beautification effort during 1989-90. Some County funds are available to help in this project. Robert Randall of Riverside Avenue (229-2007) is already exploring the possibility of erecting Cabin John identification signs at the entrances to the town.

A DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORY IN NEEDED!

It's time for a new Cabin John Directory to be assembled and produced ---and the first order of business is to find one or more people who will take on overall responsibility for this important community service. There are a lot of people who are willing to work on the project as gatherers of data, computer inputters, ad solicitors, etc., etc., but we need one, two, or three people in charge. If you're at all interested, please give Citizens Association president Taffy Kingscott a call at 229-8135. Check it out! Why not?

PERSONAL NEWS ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN

¶ Donnie Cable, a native Cabin Johner, is the proud father of a baby boy. Patrick Douglas Cable was born 9/28/89 at 2:50 p.m., weighing 9 lbs., 11 oz. Donnie is married to Suzanne Wise, who grew up in Bethesda. Both parents graduated from Walt Whitman High School.

¶ Elizabeth Kytile of 81st Street, author of the bestselling Willie Mae, has just had her latest book released as a mass market paperback. Originally published in hard cover by Cabin John's

Seven Locks Press; The Voices of Robby Wilde, a compassionate true story of a young man suffering from schizophrenia, is now available in local bookstores under the Pocket Book imprint.

¶ The David Schindel/Kate Becker family have moved from 80th Street to an older home in Bethesda which they plan to fix up. David was the leader last year in making sure that Cabin John community views were reflected in developing plans for the renovation of the Clara

Barton school building.

¶ Apologies to Dennis and Blakely Burke of Seven Locks Road. In the story in last month's issue about the Crab Feast, we forgot to mention that they ran hoses from their house and provided all the water needed for the festivities.

¶ Not really personal news, but did you know that the downtown Grand Hyatt Hotel has a Cabin John Room for private parties?

**NEWS OF
CABIN JOHN CHURCHES**

* It was a great moment on Sunday, October 15, at 4 p.m. when a mortgage burning service was held at the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church on Seven Locks Road. An anonymous donor had given \$12,000 to retire the balance of the church's mortgage. Bishop J. Clinton Hoggard was the speaker at the afternoon ceremonies which culminated five days of special events, including a Saturday night banquet under the chairmanship of Mrs. Margaret Coleman of Carver Road.

The previous Sunday, October 8, had been the church's annual Lay Sunday directed by Frank D. McKinney, president of the Lay Council, and active Cabin John community leader. Mrs. Roberta H. Batey was the guest speaker.

* At the Cabin John United Methodist Church

(77th and MacArthur), the new church hymnal will be dedicated at the regular 11 a.m. service on October 22. At the end of the week, on Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, the church will hold its annual fall rummage sale.

Contributed items for the sale may be brought to the church every day from 9 a.m. to noon during the week of October 23, or phone 229-8233 to arrange another delivery time. The sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

**WHAT'S GOING ON
IN CABIN JOHN.....**

* The Wild Bird Center on MacArthur Boulevard at 77th Street held a "Binocular Showdown" on October 14. Many brands of binoculars were set up outside the Center so that bird watchers (and anyone else) could sample the variety of equipment available.

* The Bethesda Coop in the shopping center has announced a series of Thursday evening

cooking classes, beginning on October 26 with "Curry Creations" taught by Robert Ashton and continuing through December 7. The classes will be held in the Bannockburn Clubhouse from 6:30 to 8:30. Pre-registration at \$15 per class (meal included) should be carried out at the store. For information, call 320-2530. The proceeds will benefit Bethesda Coop Child Care.

UP AND DOWN

MACARTHUR BOULEVARD.....

* According to a story in the Potomac Gazette, Congresswoman Constance Morella "has good vibes" about her proposal to rename the Maryland George Washington Parkway as the Clara Barton Parkway. The Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has approved the measure, which will eliminate confusion with the same-named parkway on the Virginia side.

The Montgomery County Council has endorsed the change as have other state and federal officials. The only direct cost of the proposal would be the \$40,000 needed to alter the parkway's signs.

ATTENTION CABIN JOHNERS!

The Village News would like to print more news of important events in the lives of the people of Cabin John. And the best person to tell us about what's happening with you and your family is you. It's easy: just fill in the form below with news of births, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, honors, etc., etc., and drop it in the mail so that it reaches P.O. Box 164 by 10 a.m. on the Saturday closest to the 15th of the month.

To the Editor: Here's news for the next issue of The Village News:

Submitted by: _____ Phone _____

(Please mail to The Village News, P.O. Box 164, Cabin John, MD 20818.)

THE LIFE AND DEATH
OF A COMMUNITY PROJECT

By Connie Bergfors

Recently the citizens of 79th Street, 79th Place, and 80th Street lost their community-planted cherry tree which had been planted at the top of 79th Place and 79th Street in a circle designed by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation that had existed for over 50 years. In 1988, without any consultations with citizens, the streets were redesigned by the county with no circle and no tree. It is worth noting that vigilance is important to keep a community safe from unnecessary disruption of the landscape.

June 1983

Talk to Mrs. Wilson at the Department of Transportation about planting a cherry tree in the circle. She sends regulations.

Citizens decide to plant tree, contribute money and purchase 8'-10' Yoshino cherry tree from Potomac Valley Nurseries in Gaithersburg for fall planting.

October 1983

Tree is successfully planted and flowers beautifully for six years. There are no accidents. (Safety was cited as reason for removal.)

January 1989

Citizens learn that new development of Constructive Alternatives, Inc., means that the tree will be destroyed and the circle obliterated.

February 1989

Forty-two citizens from all three streets petition Mr. Robert S. McGarry, Director of Transportation, to keep the circle and the tree. Copies are sent to Sidney Kramer, County Executive; Neal Potter, Councilman; James Taylor, Engineer, Department of Transportation; John Fleming, President, Constructive Alternatives, Inc.; and John Shingleton, Supervisor, Constructive Alternatives, Inc.

On february 9 Neal Potter replies immediately with letter of support and copy to Robert McGarry.

March 1989

Robert Merryman, Chief of Engineering of Department of Transportation replies. Tree and circle cannot remain, but in a conversation with John Shingleton of Constructive Alternatives there was an agreement to move the tree "outside the roadbed and behind the curb."

I talked with Mr. Shingleton and he said it would cost citizens \$500 to move the tree. As we had already paid \$200 for it and put in much energy in planting it, that was unacceptable.

April 1989

Consult with Neal Potter.

May 1989

Neal Potter gets first-hand view of situation, writes memo to Robert McGarry agreeing with citizens that tree and circle should stay. Memo is never answered.

June 1989

Neal Potter says wait for answer.

July 1989

Constructive Alternatives wants to cut down the tree and build road. New call from Neal Potter to McGarry, who refuses to consider keeping circle.

Tree has been heavily damaged by construction trucks knocking branches off; tree couldn't survive transplanting at this time.

We suggest smaller, newer tree be planted along MacArthur Boulevard near Union Arch Bridge as replacement. John Shingleton says go ahead and write letter to John Fleming, President of Constructive Alternatives. Letter written, but as of now no answer has ever arrived.

Result: citizens are completely by-passed.

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Memories of Cabin John

WHEN CABIN JOHN NEARLY DISAPPEARED....

(As announced in our last issue, here are some excerpts from Elizabeth Kytte's Time Was: A Cabin John Memory Book, a volume of interviews with 18 old-timers which she produced for the community's bicentennial celebration in 1976. In this selection she is talking with John Jessup, who was president of the Citizens Association in 1959, about a proposal made that year by the Bogley Company to buy up all the homes in Cabin John and convert the whole "triangle" into a high rise apartment and shopping center complex.)

"...The auditorium was packed [for the special meeting of the Citizens Association]. Mr. Lebling, representing the Bogley Company, presented his proposal...Before the meeting, the realty company had solicited many of the householders...At the special meeting, citizens of the Association asked questions, expressed opinions, discussed, argued, and at the end of a long and active a meeting a vote was taken."

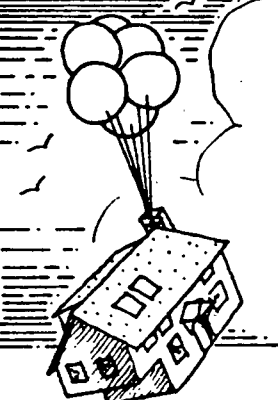
This is the gentle way Mr. Jessup described the meeting. Others remember a noisy meeting at which voices were raised, fingers shaken, and accusations flung about quite freely--a favorite accustaion being "You're keeping me from making a fortune!"

Where the "fortune" came in, Mr. Jessup is at a loss to say. "My recollection is that the offers made by the real estate company were not exceptionally high...."

"As I started to say....a vote was taken. It was not necessary to have a tally vote. A show of hands was very clearly at least seventy-five percent against the company's proposal.

"The Association thanked the company's representative for presentation of their case, and it was announced that there would be a social hour to which they were invited. A considerable number of women of the Association came up the stairs bringing cakes and soft drinks, and the meeting ended as a very pleasant social affair.

(Next month: more memories of oldtimers, covering Cabin John and the great Potomac flood of 1936.)



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* A slide show, "Glen Echo: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow?," has been produced by Lee Lawrence and narrated by John Daly. Cabin Johners will have a chance to see the show when it is presented at the November 28 meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association

by the Glen Echo Park Foundation. The Foundation also has 1990 calendars available with historic photos of the Park (\$10, plus \$1.50 postage). Call Cabin John's Diane Leatherman at the Foundation office, 320-2330, for details.

* Gypsy moth egg masses can be scraped off at this time of year. Information is available from the County gypsy moth office at 217-6991 or 840-2401.

* If you're skipped on the regular Friday newspaper collection day, the number to call is 589-4002.

 TIME TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES IN THE CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION!

Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ New member _____ Renewal member _____

Type of membership: Family is \$10 _____ Single is \$7 _____

Committee or subject of greatest interest _____

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, November 18, 1989.

Volunteers for this issue are:

Editor: Andy Rice

Design: Cherry Doyle

Business Manager: Clare Amoruso

Production: Dan Blum

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CLASSIFIED

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: 10 a.m., Saturday, November 18, 1989. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check payable to "Village News" with ad.)

For sale

PIANO. Baldwin-Hamilton upright. \$1800 delivered. Call 229-7394 after 6 or 447-1434 days.

SPECIAL SALE: Mary Kay cosmetics, 25% off retail price. Call Nancy, 320-5408.

People wanted

NEEDED: someone to split logs to fireplace size and stack. Call 229-4539.

Services offered

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