

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 23, Number 7

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

March 1990

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

MEETING SET FOR MARCH 27

An up-date on the MacArthur Square zoning variance issue, and follow-up discussion of community programs for the newly renovated Clara Barton building, will be highlights of the next Cabin John Citizens Association meeting, to which all are welcome. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, at the Clara Barton building.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

IN CABIN JOHN.....

Rummage Sale Announced:

Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, are the dates for the spring Rummage Sale of the Cabin John United Methodist Church. Donations are now being accepted for the sale every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.....The Church has planned special services during Easter Week to which all are invited. On Maundy Thursday, April 12, the choir will sing at 7:30 p.m., followed by communion. On Easter Sunday, April 15, in addition to the regular 11 a.m. service, there will be a sunrise service at 6 a.m., followed by a light breakfast for all taking part.

Wild Bird Center Plans

Photo Show: On Wednesday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m., the first of a series of wildlife photo and slide exhibitions will be held by the Cabin John Wild Bird Center. The show will take

place across the street from the Center at the Cabin John United Methodist Church. Three nationally known wildlife photographers will be present to show their work and discuss their techniques.... Especially for children and camera buffs, the Center will feature Ranger Bill Trautman on Saturday, April 14, from noon to 4 p.m. Trautman, a wildlife rehabilitator, will bring animals he has repaired but which were too badly injured to survive in the wild. Two vultures, two hawks, two ducks, an owl, and a snake, a turtle, and other reptiles are expected.

Seedlings to be Given

Away: Trees absorb carbon dioxide and thus help reduce its build-up in the atmosphere, one of the causes of "global warming." To encourage more tree planting, the Bethesda Co-op at MacArthur Square next month will provide its customers with about 1000 free seedlings, half pines and half hardwoods. When the baby trees arrive from the Maryland State Forestry Service, volunteers will be needed to put them into containers. To volunteer, please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the Co-op.

Annual MAYFAIR Date

Set by Clara Barton Center: Saturday, May 19 (raindate May 20) has been announced as the date of the second MAYFAIR extravaganza put on by the Clara Barton Center for Children.

CITIZENS OPPOSE NEW

BUILDING IN SHOPPING CENTER

By an overwhelming vote, the February 27 meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association voted to oppose the request of the owners of the MacArthur Square shopping center to secure zoning variances so that they can construct a new commercial retail/office building in the northeast corner of their property, where the dumpsters are now located.

The owners, Michael Garrett and Bob Smith, who purchased the shopping center about a year ago, spoke at the meeting and described their plans for a 16,000 square foot two-story building. They needed variances of the zoning regulations since a structure of that size could not be built without them. The owners declared, however, that if the variances were not secured, they would be able to build a 10,000 square foot building without special approval. Bob Wilkoff, head of the CJCA Land Use Committee, said that his committee did not see how this could be done, given the need for more parking spaces.

The variance hearing was originally set for March 7, but was postponed when Garrett and Smith applied for a fourth variance, in addition to three requested earlier. The new hearing is set for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, in the
(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Davidson Hearing Room of the Werner County Council Building, 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville, and many Cabin Johners are expected to attend. (You can check at 217-6600 to make sure that the hearing--on Case #A-2847--is still on.)

Letters may also be sent to Judith Heimann, Chair of the Board of Appeals, at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville 20850.

Following the Citizens Association meeting, several Cabin John residents, headed by Jeri Metz (320-2417) and Cathy Nelson (229-5282), circulated petitions against the variances, producing immediately 340 signatures. They are continuing to organize opposition and urging a very large turn-out at the April 11 hearing.



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Let's Talk!

Eleanor

COMMUNITY CENTER BEGINS OPERATIONS AS RECREATION PROGRAMS FOR SPRING, SUMMER ARE ANNOUNCED

County recreation officials met with a large turn-out of Cabin Johners at the Citizens Association February 27 meeting, and three committees were set up to start planning for the utilization of the newly renovated Clara Barton Center.

One committee, on program, is headed by Vince Burke, a Recreation Department staff member, who will shortly take over as full-time manager of the Center. Already several offerings have been announced (see separate box). In addition, two pool tables and a table tennis table are expected to arrive soon.

Another committee will deal with the usage of the grounds surrounding the building. In this connection, Taffy Kingscott, president of the Citizens Association, has written to the Department of Parks of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission urging that a suitable play area be set up for children from toddlers thru school age.

While enthusiastically welcoming the new opportunities for all age groups which the Center can provide, the February citizens meeting took cognizance of the fact that for immediate neighbors the new facility could cause

discomfort if a "good neighbor" policy on parking were not observed.

A third committee will plan an opening ceremony for the building this spring.

HERE ARE FIRST REC PROGRAMS AT CLARA BARTON

(To take part in any of these programs, just show up at the first session. Or you may register in advance by calling the Recreation Department at 217-6880.)

1. Fitness Unlimited (aerobic exercise class), Tues, Thurs, 6:15-7:15, \$52 for 18 one-hour sessions. Starts 3/27.

2. Karate, Wed, Youth Class (age 5-13), 7:00-8:00, \$33 first family member, \$21 each additional family member); Adult Class (14 and up), 8:00-9:30, \$44.50 first family member, \$26.50 each additional family member. Starts 3/28.

3. Ballroom Dance, Tues, two sections, 7:30-8:30 and 8:30-9:30. Eight one-hour classes, \$39.50 per couple. Starts 4/10. (There will also be a Saturday evening dance program, 7 to 10, but the cost is not yet fixed. Starts 3/31.)



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(301) 229-7923

Letter to the Editor

IN OPPOSITION TO MORE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Cabin John community responded quickly and with concern when it learned about plans for another commercial building at MacArthur Square. With the variance hearing postponed until April 11, there is time to clarify the issues and build our opposition.

The existing office/retail building was built in 1979..The 137 parking spaces in the lot now correspond exactly to the number of spaces required for the square footage of the existing building in its C-1 zoning use. The purpose of C-1 zoning is to provide locations for convenience shopping which have a neighborhood orientation..Offices are permitted..provided they do not occupy more than 50% of the total floor area. At present the building is 30% retail. The offices do not serve the neighborhood.

The upcoming hearing addresses a series of variances requested by the owners. Since the original building was constructed, the County has changed its zoning regulations so as to increase the separation between residential and commercial properties (called "set-backs"). The purpose of the variances is to allow Garrett and Smith to keep the borders of the parking lot and the proposed new building closer to the surrounding residential properties than is now allowed. The reason that this is important to them is that if they obey the current rules for set-backs they will not have the required amount of parking space to build as large a building as they are proposing. In essence, Garrett and Smith need the variances to build their new building.

[In their letter to zoning Board of Appeals, the developers are asking for four variances so that they may build a 16,000square foot retail/office building. Their letter states that they] "do not propose to change the size or configuration of the existing parking lot to accomodate its intended expansion."

It seems ill-conceived, if not redundant, to undertake another commercial building at MacArthur Square when there exist serious problems with the original building, its parking lots, and the dangerous access to Seven Locks Road....Cabin John is a small, diverse, semi-rural community. The fragility of our road system cannot sustain heavy traffic. Neither should the sense of community which we have sustained be swallowed and our identity lost as we become just another pitstop along the commuter trail. Isolated by the river, the bridge and woods, the spirit in Cabin John is a paradox of friendly neighborliness paired with "live and let live" tolerance. This is our turf, our homes,our streets. To protect them we must be alert to and act on any new development..With 340 signatures on 244 petitions and letters all opposing the variances, we have raised a resounding voice against further exploitation by developers. Thank you all.

-- Jeri Metz



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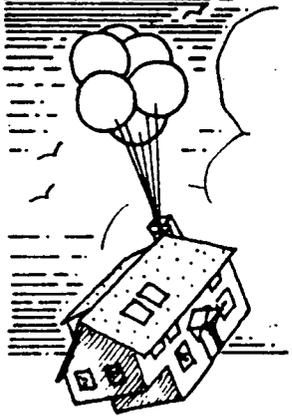


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MARBLE FAMILY LEAVING HIGH'S

The sign on the milk case at High's announces the end of an era: "As of March 28, the Marble family will no longer be managing this High's store. We would like to say Thank You to all our loyal customers, neighbors and friends. Since we came here in 1968, we have seen many changes. We've seen this area grow. We've watched area children become adults. And most happily we have had our lives enriched by our experience. Thanks from the Marble family--June, Jean, Tim, Jack."

After 22 years, the Marble family is leaving. Since Southland bought out High's chain three years ago, that parent company has instituted many changes in the operation, changes that Tim Marble has not always agreed with. And now he has decided to leave the store where he has worked since he was 15 (and managed since 1981), the store his father took over in 1968, turning it into a neighborhood community hub--a combination convenience store and early-morning gathering place, a friendly and dependable constant in an area of change. Tim's mother, June, will be leaving too, although sister Jean will continue on the midnight shift.

Tim's plans are to take his family for a vacation in Florida and begin looking for a new job when he returns. Brother Jack, proprietor of Good Guys Pizza next door, has asked Tim to work with him, and Tim is considering that option. We wish Tim and his family good fortune and Godspeed. Glen Echo will not be the same without them.

-- Barbara Martin

UP AND DOWN

MACARTHUR BOULEVARD....

Kindergarten Round Up:

Bannockburn Elementary School will hold its annual Kindergarten Round Up on Monday, April 23. If you have or know of someone entering kindergarten in September 1990, please call the school office at 320-6555 to make an appointment.

Union Arch Bridge Lot

Under Study: The County Council has appointed a task force to look into the use by vendors of the dirt lot on the Glen Echo side of the one-lane Union Arch bridge. The group is headed by Betty Ann Krahnke, a former member of the Planning Commission.

Glen Echo Park News:

The Glen Echo Park Foundation (whose Executive Director, Diane Leatherman, is a long-time Cabin John resident) has received a \$1000 grant from the County to paint and fix up the Bumper Car Pavilion, the site of the first bumper cars in any amusement park in the United States... The first of a series of dance benefits to raise funds for the restoration of the Spanish Ballroom will take place on Saturday evening, March 31, starting at 8:30 p.m., with two Cajun bands performing. Tickets: \$8. Details from the Foundation, 320-2330.... A pictorial history of the Park is in preparation for publication in time for the Park's Centennial Celebration in 1991.

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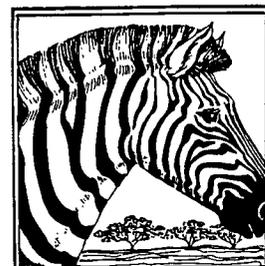
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1990 CABIN JOHN DIRECTORY

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Cabin John Directory

New

Change

Keep

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
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Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Skills or services to be listed in the directory _____

Do you want to place a display ad? _____

Enclose a donation _____ and/or membership fee for Citizens Assoc. _____

Individual \$7.00 Family \$10.00

Send to CJCA, Box 31, Cabin John, Maryland 20818

THE VILLAGE NEWS

is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to every household in Cabin John. Others may suscribe 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, April 15.

Volunteers for this issue:

Editor: Andy Rice

Design: Cherry Doyle

Business Manager: Clare Amoruso

Production: Dan Blum

Mailing: Barbara and Reed Martin

CLASSIFIED

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: 10 a.m., Saturday, April 14, 1990. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check payable to "Village News" with ad.)

FOR SALE: Pair 4-poster twin beds. Maple. \$35. 229-0651.

FOR RENT: Beach house, Dewey DE. Ocean block (no streets to cross). Sleeps 10-12, large screened porch, washer/dryer, AC, heat. Bikes, BBQ, inflatable rafts, beach toys. Weekly rates: May \$500, June \$700, July \$1000, Aug \$1100, Sept \$700, Oct \$500. Families only; no pets. Martin 229-3482.

VERY NICE, RESPONSIBLE FAMILY wishes to rent, or rent with purchase option, a house in Cabin John or Glen Echo this spring or summer. Call 320-2781 eves./wknds.

FOR SALE: Vacant lot, corner 79th Place and Spring Road. \$200,000. Call Stephanie, 206-734-7136.

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

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