

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 24, Number 1

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

August 1990

NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY...

...Cabin John was saddened during the summer by the death by drowning of Robert Keefe, eldest son of Bill and Marie Keefe, long active in community affairs. The family has asked that any donations in his memory be sent to Bethesda Youth Services (7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John 20818).

...Another loss to the community was Cephias Patch, who also died during the summer. Patch had been a long-time treasurer of the Citizens Association.

...The Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department is in the midst of its annual fundraising campaign. During 1989, 2,785 emergencies were answered by the Department in the area it serves, from Tuckerman Lane to MacArthur Boulevard, and from Wilson Lane to Seneca Road. Contributions may be sent to it at P.O. Box 41, Cabin John 20818.

...Cabin John's well publicized trash snafu, when the community went from June 28 to the week of July 9 without any trash pick-up, has resulted in the establishment of a complaint phone number that citizens can use at night and on weekends if their trash is not being collected. It is 217-1050.

...There's a new sign in the MacArthur Square shopping center: Columbia First Bank has taken over Maximum Savings Bank.

CLARA BARTON DEDICATION, CRAB FEAST COMBINE

TO MAKE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, GALA COMMUNITY DAY

The biggest community day in Cabin John's recent history will be celebrated on Saturday, September 15.

Festivities will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Clara Barton Recreation Center with a program of folk music entertainment. At one o'clock the official ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled, with participation by County officials. And at 1:30 there will be an opportunity to tour the renovated building.

At 2 o'clock the food will start being served at Cabin John's famed annual "Crab and Chicken Feast," while at the same time the Recreation Department will offer a program of games suitable for all ages (kids, youth, adults, and even seniors). The games will go on until 4 p.m.

The Crab Feast, however, will be going full swing until 6 p.m. In addition to the steamed crabs and grilled chicken, the Feast features a traditional array of vegetables cooked Maryland style and a Bake Sale of home baked goods.

Ticket sellers are now going their rounds in Cabin John. Tickets

bought in advance cost \$5.50 for either the crab or chicken dinner (with 3 vegetables) or \$6.50 for a crab lover's special of 6 crabs only. (Tickets bought at the door will be \$1 more.) If a ticket seller doesn't reach you and you want to buy tickets in advance, call Diane Leatherman (229-7412 home, 320-2330 work).

It takes many volunteers to put on a big event of this kind, and newcomers to Cabin John have found volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know the community into which they have moved. If you'd like to help cook the chicken, or take a half hour on the serving line, or help out in many other ways, call Taffy Kingscott (after August 26) to find out what is needed. Her number is 229-8135.

APPEALS BOARD REJECTS MacARTHUR SQUARE VARIANCES

By a unanimous vote on August 2, the Montgomery County Board of Appeals rejected the application of Garrett & Smith, Inc., owner of the MacArthur Square shopping center, for four zoning variances which would have permitted them to build a 15,000 square foot office and retail

building on the northwest corner of the property.

The Cabin John community, through the Cabin John Citizens Association, had vigorously opposed the requested waivers, and many citizens had testified or been present at the two

(Continued on page 6)

A LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF CABIN JOHN

I would like to comment on the recent decision by the Montgomery County Board of Appeals to deny the variances requested for MacArthur Square.

The decision was resoundingly in our favor. We should be very pleased, and also very appreciative of the sensitivity the Board showed to the unique nature of our community. Their opinion ultimately recognized that the hardship incurred by this expansion would be borne by the neighbors and community, not the developers.

I called the Board's Executive Secretary to express our appreciation, and I was so gratified by her comments that I thought I should share them with you. To paraphrase, she said the community did an excellent job in its presentation. The many community members at the two hearings demonstrated the deep concern felt about this proposal. Our presentations were concise, rational, stayed within the jurisdiction of the Board, did not raise extraneous issues and, even though many people spoke, were not redundant. All in all, the community was organized, prepared and united. We had done our homework.

These comments are a reflection on the long hours of hard work put in by many fellow Cabin Johners. We owe great thanks to all those who contributed to this effort. I would especially like to recognize Geri Metz, Phil Fox, Cathy Nelson, the Shawens, the Shaws, Karen and Pat Burke, David Murphy and our land use chairman, Bob Wilkoff, for their substantial contributions.

The issue may not be fully resolved, as Garrett and Smith have the option of appealing the decision to the Montgomery County Circuit Court. I am strongly encouraged, however, by the success of our efforts to date, and look forward to working with each of you as we move ahead. We certainly have reason to celebrate at the Crab Feast this year!

Taffy Kingscott, President
Cabin John Citizens Association

BETHESDA YOUTH SERVICES TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

On Friday, September 14, Bethesda Youth Services will hold an "Open House" at its facilities in the Clara Barton building. The highlight of the afternoon will be a workshop by Bette Ann Weinstein on "Substance Abuse in Youth: Is It Acting Out or Addiction?"

The workshop will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and, while reservations are not required, seating is limited and it will be helpful if those

planning to attend pre-register. To pre-register, please call 229-1347.

From 4 to 6 p.m. there will be program demonstrations and opportunities to talk with BYS professional staff about their prevention programs and their work with youth and their families.

Street-side parking may be necessary for the event, if the parking lot cannot accommodate all the cars, and BYS staff expressed hope that neighbors would understand that this is a special occasion.

METHODIST CHURCH ANNOUNCES ACTIVITIES FOR COMING MONTHS

J. David Roberts, new pastor of the Cabin John United Methodist Church, has announced that the Sunday schedule for the church, beginning on September 9, will be Sunday School for children and adults at 9:45 a.m., followed by worship at 11:00.

Later in the month, on Saturday, September 29, there will be a community dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. In October will come the annual rummage sale, and towards Christmas the annual holiday bazaar. Crafters interested in displaying items for sale at the bazaar may contact Jean Maggio at 229-6301 (she also has information on the rummage sale).

Pastor Roberts speaks Spanish as well as English and may be reached at 229-8233.



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The People of Cabin John

THE BURKE BUNCH: CLOSER BY THE DOZEN

By Barbara Martin

The Burke clan--seven cousins, four parents, and three grandparents--live the kind of family life you thought existed only in Hometown, Kansas. They see each other three or four nights a week, often in connection with swimming, soccer, baseball or Scout activities. They go together to the Cabin John Methodist Church. They are in and out of each others' houses. They work together on construction projects. They take vacations together. They call on each other for help of any kind. They are each others' best friends.

Dennis and Blakely Burke started it all in Cabin John, when in 1977 they bought a house at Seven Locks and MacArthur. Blakely had grown up in Bethesda, Dennis in Potomac. Six years ago, Dennis's brother, Pat, came back to Montgomery County from New Hampshire with his wife, Karen, and their sons. They moved into a house on 79th Street, across from the entrance to the shopping center. "It was a good house, good location, and the most important thing is that it was so close to Dennis and Blakely," says Pat.

Right away the Burkes plunged into the swimming and diving program at Palisades, with the kids taking lessons and joining the teams. Dennis and Karen have served as judges, Blakely as record-keeper. Dennis and Blakely are Palisades' diving team representatives for the county. All but the youngest cousin are now swimming and diving for Palisades, with Kevin winning county and state diving honors and competing in the National Junior Olympics in Arizona in August. In the county swimming and diving competitions this summer, the announcer good-naturedly complained that he was getting overwhelmed with Burkes.

School administrations, too, sometimes have had difficulty identifying which Burke kids are siblings, which are cousins. At one time there were six of the cousins at Bannockburn; this fall with 4½-year-old Jennifer starting kindergarten, there will be four at Bannockburn, three at Pyle.

At church, the Burke cousins serve as crucifers, most of the cast of the Christmas pageant, the entire children's choir, and about 70% of the Sunday School.

(continued on the next page)

CABIN JOHN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:00 - 10:45 Sunday School:
Pre-school to adult

11:00 - 12:00 Church Service
Coffee hour after 11:00 service

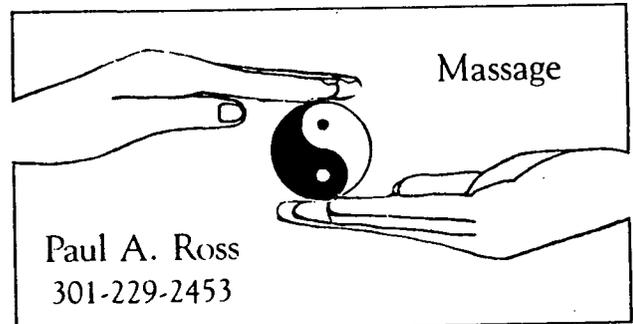
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The grandparents have become part of the Cabin John clan. When Pat, a general contractor, needed help in his business, he and Karen persuaded her parents to move here from Kansas City, and now Karen's dad is Pat's right-hand colleague. Blakely's mother lives part of the time with Blakely and Dennis.

Dennis is a mason--a master brick-layer--and built the house they now live in on Seven Locks Road at the entrance to the pool. During the construction, Pat was very much on the scene. And when Pat and Karen put a major addition onto their house, "Dennis was the first person I called whenever I needed help." PJ pipes up, "When they were building the deck, I walked off the end and broke my arm."

The brothers and sisters-in-law agree that "it's wonderful to have someone so close that you can ask to help you out, without feeling the slightest hesitation." Both families name each other as "second to be called" on their children's school records, and those times have come. "It's been handy," Blakely observes, "when we've had to sign a hospital treatment permission. Because we have the right name, they don't question us."

Dennis and Blakely's children are: Kelly, 12; Kevin, 11; Brian, 9. Pat and Karen's children are: Jason, 13; Jeffrey, 9; PJ, 8; and Jennifer, 4½. Jennifer, adopted from Korea three years ago, is the pet of the other six kids. Kelly, especially, was delighted to have another girl added to the five boys.

The clan sometimes vacations together. This month when Dennis and Blakely found at the last minute that they couldn't get away on a planned New England trip, Karen and Pat took off with all seven kids. I asked the cousins if they get tired of being together so much. They shook their heads in unison. "They enjoy each other," Pat said. "They're best friends."

Besides swimming and diving, other sports claim the Burkes' attention. For the baseball team, Pat is an assistant coach, Karen is scorekeeper. Pat and Blakely have been Scout leaders and all the boys are involved in Scouting.

Karen Burke is on the staff of the Clara Barton Center and helps with the

paperwork for Pat's contracting business. Blakely is office manager for a law firm. "All four of us have jobs, but things go pretty smoothly because our parents are here and because we're able to fill in for each other," Blakely comments. "It's a comfortable feeling; there's always somebody to turn to."

The cousins feel entirely at home in both houses, and both sets of parents are comfortable supervising their nieces and nephews. Aunts and uncles are called by their first names, but along with the easy affection there is no lack of respect. Karen remarks, "We treat them all alike--standard procedure. I think they obey their aunt and uncle perhaps even better than their parents." Both families are agreed on philosophy and practices of family living.

From the senior members to the youngest, this is a family that considers it natural and joyful to be together in all the endeavors of their lives. And in 1990, in metropolitan Washington DC, isn't that a pleasure to see?

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FALL SEASON STARTS SOON AT CLARA BARTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Recreation Department programs at Clara Barton Center for fall 1990 include the following:

Ballroom Dancing for Adults, starts Tuesday, 9/18, beginners at 7:30, intermediate at 8:30;

Getting Started on the Dance Floor (with Herb Fredericksen), begins Saturday, 9/22, at 1:30;

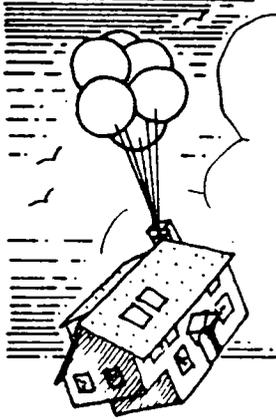
Fitness Unlimited (aerobics), starts Tuesday, 9/13, 6:15;

"Trim 'n' Terrific," fitness program, starts Tuesday, 9/13, 9:00 a.m.;

"Ellen's Aerobics Plus," begins Monday, 9/17, 9:30 a.m. (babysitting available);

Karate, Ages 6 to 13, begins Wednesday, 9/26, 7:00; ages 14 up, begins Wednesday, 9/26, 8:00.

For fuller information about instructors and costs, contact the Recreation Department at 217-6880, or drop in at the Clara Barton Center.



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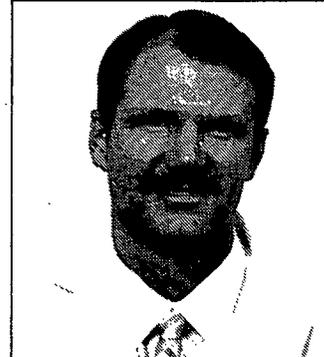
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(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: 10 a.m., Saturday, September 15, 1990. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check payable to "Village News" with ad.)

NEED A SITTER? Two teens ready to work for you. Call 229-0815.

PROFESSIONAL male seeks place to live in immediate Cabin John area. Looking to move in by 12/1. Will do house sitting. References available upon request. Call Chris Hoge, 301-820-4424.

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

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT, Dewey, Del. Located on ocean block--no streets to cross. Large screened front porch, washer/drier, heat, TV, sleeps 10. Families only ; no pets. \$500 week, available mid-September through mid-November. Martin, 229-3482.

(Continued from page 1)
public hearings, or had signed petitions.

The Board's opinion noted that the owners would still have the option of constructing a smaller building on the site, and could detect no serious hardship to them by denying the variances. By contrast, granting the variances would not be in accordance with the spirit of the county Master Plan for the area and would have an aggravating effect on the already dangerous traffic situation.

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, Sept 15.

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