

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 24, Number 5

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

January 1991

OPPOSITION MOUNTS TO CHANGE OF NAME BEING PROPOSED FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

A proposal to change the name of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department to Potomac Village Volunteer Fire Department has aroused strong opposition among some citizens in Cabin John long associated with the volunteer group.

Newer members of the department are reported to be backing the change, arguing that the change would aid in fundraising. They note too that the department no longer has a station inside the Cabin John community, but does have stations in Potomac.

Older members of the association, including the president, Frank Leizear, are opposed. Although the issue is said to be "on hold" at present, petitions are being circulated in Cabin John opposing the change.

The petitions note that the volunteer service was formed 60 years ago by Cabin John citizens to protect their community and later was extended to Potomac Village "with little assistance from the people" of that community. The original name should be retained "as a tribute to 60 years of service by citizens of the community of Cabin John."

Former Citizens Association president Betsy Lawrence has indicated that, if expanded funding is a real problem, she had little doubt but that Cabin John

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES TOP AGENDA FOR NEXT CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Three development issues will be major topics of discussion at the January meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association, to be held on the 22nd at 8 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center.

There will be an update on the proposal to construct an additional building on the MacArthur Plaza property. Recently three community members -- Jeri Metz, Jerry Shaw, and Charles Shawen -- testified at a hearing of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission regarding the transportation/traffic aspects of additional commercial development of the property, noting the dangerous access to Seven Locks Road from the property and the volume of traffic that would be generated. The matter is still pending before county authorities.

A second issue is the plan of owner George Rixey to develop residential lots on property adjacent to 82nd Street and Riverside south of MacArthur Boulevard. A public hearing on his application will be held at the end of the month. Mr. Rixey will be at the Jan 22 meeting to explain what he seeks to do.

There will also be an update on the Captain's Market property at the corner of Tomlinson and

MacArthur. The variances being sought by the owner there were a hot topic at the November CJCA meeting.

Another possible agenda item will be the 9-month closing of the Cabin John Gardens bridge over the Clara Barton Parkway. Some Cabin John residents are exploring the possibility that some kind of cross-median turn-around might enable Washington-bound cars to cut over to the east-bound lanes from the westbound lanes.

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT CABIN JOHN?

If you're a relative newcomer in Cabin John -- or even if you're an oldtimer -- and would like to know more about the community in which you've chosen to live, why not consider becoming active in the Cabin John Citizens Association? Elections come up in the spring and there's room

for some good people in officer positions and committee chairs.

Want to know more about what's involved? Taffy Kingscott, current president of the association, will be glad to enlighten you! Some evening, just pick up the phone and chat with her on 229-8135.

(Continued on page 3)

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NEWS OF INTEREST FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

.....It is reported that the City of Rockville is planning to build a 12 acre "Cabin John Lake" to control storm water run-off. The lake would submerge wetlands in the stream valley of Cabin John Creek. What effect this would have on stream flow at the lower end of the creek, near this community, is not clear.

..... The Glen Echo Heights Citizens Association is one of the active members of a Citizens' Coalition for Sidewalks which is pressing the county to build more sidewalks. (The new Capital Improvement Budget submitted by County Executive Neal Potter proposed \$1 million per year, a 67% increase over the past year, and enough to build six miles of sidewalk.) Secretary-Treasurer of the Coalition is Max Tryon, 6008 Namakagan Road, Bethesda 20816, 229-2779.

.....The National Park Service is seeking competitive proposals from individuals or groups to fill three Chautauqua Artists positions at Glen Echo Park. In return for rent-free studio space, the artists' studios are to be open to the public 30 hours a week from April 1 to November 15 and the artists are expected to present seasonal classes and demonstrations. Applications, which must be postmarked no later than February 1, will be considered in the fine arts, performing arts and the humanities. Call 301-492-6229 for further information.

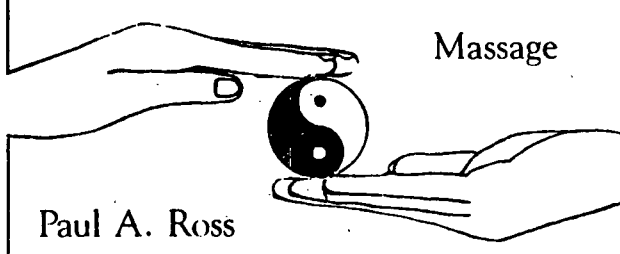
.....Free and confidential preparation of income tax returns is being offered by the Montgomery County Senior Tax Aide Program for senior citizens. Home visits can be arranged for people unable to get to the various locations around the county where the service will be offered beginning February 4. For details, call 468-4179.

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CABIN JOHN VILLAGE NEWS
1989-1990 TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Advertising	
Classified	124.25
Display ads	1,435.00
Donations	990.75*
C.J. Citizens Association Contributions	1,000.00
Subscriptions	130.00
Checking Account Interest	<u>96.01</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,776.01

EXPENDITURES

P.O. Box Rental	28.00
Labels	122.64
Printing of Village News	2,084.16
Mailing of Village News	1,056.00
Bulk Mail Permit (1990)	<u>60.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,350.80

Net Income for September 1, 1989 through August 31, 1990	425.21
Balance forwarded from August 31, 1989	<u>\$2,235.27</u>
Balance on Hand August 31, 1990	<u><u>\$2,660.48</u></u>

*Donations collected during Directory canvassing

Submitted by:

Clare Amoruso

Clare Amoruso
Business Manager

Diane Leatherman

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VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT....

(Continued from page 1)

citizens would rise to the occasion and help raise the necessary money.

Those interested in signing or circulating the petition should contact Mary Morgal at 229-4043 or Jane Hunter at 229-3930.



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TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF GLEN ECHO AND ME

By Diane Leatherman

In the early '80s a Post article began "Glen Echo is dying," leaving out how it is, over the years, constantly being reborn.... after a malaria scare, bankruptcy, a slow start and the eventual demise of early electric parks, the building (almost) of five high-rise apartments on the site, designation as "not appropriate for a national park," and (now that it is a national park) today's federal budget deficit. This year Glen Echo Park is 100 years old!

I took part in one of those rebirths. In the fall of 1984, when I had been on the National Park Service staff at Glen Echo for almost ten years, I was listening to a talk on what the private sector could accomplish. I decided to leave the Park Service and go to work for a private sector foundation devoted to raising money for Glen Echo Park.

When I moved to Cabin John in 1967 and attended my first Citizen Association meetings, I listened to talk about future plans for Glen Echo Amusement Park, one mile down MacArthur Boulevard and about to be closed. In 1891 it had been built as a National Chautauqua Assembly; citizens in the 1960's wanted a return to a cultural center. The idea intrigued me.

In the final years of the amusement park the facilities were allowed to deteriorate. In 1970 the National Park Service was handed some acreage with seasonal buildings but was not given the deed until 1976. In the interim, with a great deal of citizen involvement, cultural programs had begun at the park. When the NPS finally owned Glen Echo Park they slated it for massive construction expenditures. However, the budget deficit of the late 1980's decimated the NPS construction budget and most of the needed work was never done. In those years (and since) visitors couldn't help but notice Glen Echo Park's condition. (For some it added to the charm.)

In 1976 I knew the park well when I was hired to direct the Glen Echo Gallery as I did for the following decade. I wearied of explaining to the public why the park had not had more restoration; this is what brought me to the decision to raise money.

In 1986 the NPS helped me with my plans by announcing they were contemplating "historic leasing" for Glen Echo Park. Massive funds were needed for the buildings. The announcement caused alarm and concern in the community. What would it mean?

A meeting to "Save Glen Echo Park" held in May 1986 attracted so many people that some had to be turned away. Two television stations attended. Two committees were formed; one to delay leasing, the other to offer an alternative.

The alternative offered was a non-profit whose mission was the preservation of the park. After a year to legalize and win NPS recognition, there it was finally--the private sector foundation that I wanted to work for.

In the fall of 1987 I became the first paid staff. The newly elected volunteer chairperson set about building the governmental support she knew the Foundation needed. I had developed ideas for increasing membership and visibility. In my years as a Ranger I met many people who wanted in some way to help Glen Echo Park.

The Foundation was outrageously lucky, cutting its teeth on small grants and growing in membership. Montgomery County awarded a large grant toward a fire suppression system for the valuable old Dentzel Carousel, matched immediately by the Mercedes Benz Dealers of Greater Washington.

And, on its first try, the Foundation was awarded a \$300,000 bond by the Maryland Legislature. If matched by private monies, this goes toward restoration of the Spanish Ballroom (used by 100,000+ dancers and visitors yearly).

But there were obstacles to progress. The National Park Service eschewed opportunities to point out the existence of the group raising money for the park. When it made the front pages of both the Washington Post and New York Times after the May 1989 parking lot cave-in, it would have seemed a perfect time to point out the need for funds and the existence of a group to raise them.

In 1989 and 1990, the Maryland Humanities Council awarded funds for both a pictorial history of the park and an exhibit in honor of its centennial. The Montgomery County Commission on the Humanities awarded partial funds to produce a coloring book to tell the story of how far-sighted citizens raised \$80,000 in one month to purchase the historic carousel at the park, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded partial funding for an album to attract sponsors to establish an endowment for the carousel.

At the end of 1990 the foundation board abolished the in-house staff to go with the services of a fundraising firm. I am again a private citizen able to enjoy the pleasures of Glen Echo Park without having to worry about how to fund its restoration. It is both a heartache and a relief.

WHAT'S NEW IN CABIN JOHN...

§ Two free bicycle racing clinics under the sponsorship of the National Capital Velodrome Club will be held at the Clara Barton Community Center in the coming weeks. Scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m., the first will be on Sunday, January 27, and the second on Sunday, February 24. Details are available from the Center at 229-0010.

§ It will be spring before water is restored to the sections of the C&O Canal that lie below Cabin John, according to reports from the National Park Service. Extensive repairs are needed on account of breaks in the canal bed.

§ Thanks go to the organizers of the popular Cabin John family holiday party, held on December 16 at the Parish Hall of the United Methodist Church at 76th and MacArthur. With Taffy Kingscott as coordinator, the cast of characters included Diane Leatherman as pianist; Barbara Martin as song leader; Frank McKinney as Santa Claus; and Maureen Willoughy and Dave Murphy as story tellers. Cathy Nelson and Brian Couzens put up the tree, and the boys and girls of the Cabin John/Brookmont 3-and-4-year-old school performed several songs.

§ Retail space is available at the MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center. One new tenant expected very soon is the Proteus Bike and Fitness store.

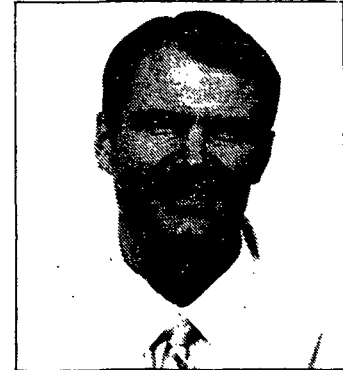
§ The Cabin John Wild Bird Center offers a program of school visits by Jo Ann Brennan who gives a 40-50 minute presentation on birds and bird feeding. She sometimes appears before other groups as well. The number to call for information is 229-3141.

(Continued on page 6)

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THE VILLAGE NEWS

is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to every Cabin John household. Others may subscribe for \$5 a year. If you're interested in advertising in the paper, get in touch with Clare Amoruso (320-2685) for rates.

News, ads, and subscriptions should be sent to The Village News, Box 164, Cabin John 20818. The next deadline is 10 a.m., Saturday, February 16, 1991.

The all-volunteer staff for this issue is:
 Editor: Andy Rice (229-3503)
 Design and Lay-out: 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, February 16, 1991. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check payable to "Village News" with ad.)

EX-CALIFORNIAN desires very much to live in Cabin John area. I would like to rent a 2-4 room cottage, in-law apartment or garage apartment. Excellent local references. Phone Eva, home 301-649-6840, office 703-620-6600, ext. 218.

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WHAT'S NEW IN CABIN JOHN...

(Continued from page 5)

Another "Binocular Show-down" is scheduled at the Wild Bird Center on Saturday, February 9, from noon to 4 p.m., with optics specialist Gary Pendleton on hand to answer questions and evaluate your old

binoculars and with a display of many brands. The Center also announced a "Bluebird Seminar" on Saturday, February 16, from noon to 4 p.m., with Lawrence Zeleny, founder of the North American Bluebird Society.

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