

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 25 No. 6

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

February 1992

## Citizens Association to Meet February 25

The regular "fourth-tuesday" meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association will take place on Tuesday, February 25, at 8 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center. All community members are welcome.

Items on the agenda include:

1. An invitation has been extended to Debbie Moran, the owner of the Blue Bayou in the MacArthur Plaza shopping center, to speak at the meeting about the cafe's plans.

At last month's meeting, there was an overwhelming vote in opposition to a liquor license being issued for the new establishment. This opposition is being mobilized by residents who live in the neighborhood of the shopping center for presentation at a public hearing regarding the liquor permit. The hearing will be held by the County Government on March 5.

Informal soundings of community sentiment suggest that considerable difference of opinion exists as to whether a license should be issued.

2. Greg Bassett, director of the Clara Barton Center, has asked that a Community Advisory Board be created for the Center. The citizen body would help the Department of Recreation in developing programs and activities in the building, and would also assist in raising funds to provide equipment -- such as a VCR - which is beyond the budget of the financially strapped county government.

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## Tuesday Night-- Be There

by Lauren Forestell

Cabin John occupies a unique position to Washington which is not just geographic. The folks who have lived here all or most of their lives have seen many changes to their community: more traffic, a shopping center, and several new houses. The main reason the new folks chose Cabin John was not because of the house, or the school district, or the proximity to shopping, but because Cabin John just looked like a place they'd like to call home.

Trouble is, lots of the relative newcomers still don't even know their neighbors down the street. If we all don't work at it, our little town may become "the classic suburb....less a community than an agglomeration of houses, shops, and offices connected to one another by cars, not by the fabric of human life," in the words of the winter edition of the Wilson Quarterly. Don't know about you, but I don't want Cabin John to just become another suburban neighborhood.

If you want to be a real part of the community, the Cabin John Citizen's Association is a perfect place to start. Active members of the CJCA have fought countless battles over the years, to preserve the atmosphere we know and love. Recent successes include bringing a recreation center to the old Clara Barton School, and having the barriers erected on the bike path to protect bus riders and pedestrians from commuters who used it as a second lane. Because of the many clashes with developers and others who have wanted to use Cabin John as a convenient place to expand a business, the Cabin John Citizen's Association has come to be known by the Montgomery County government as feisty and vocal.

Improving neighborhood safety and fighting elements that threaten the community's health is hard work but the rewards are community spirit and the satisfaction of battles won. Working side by side, you get to know and care about your neighbors. Take your place in the community -- help to make Cabin John the small town you want it to be. Bring your ideas and energy to the monthly meetings. See you there.

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## Zoning Appeal Denied

On January 31 the Montgomery County Board of Appeals turned down the appeal of the Cabin John Citizens Association to stop construction of the new commercial building at the northeast corner of the MacArthur Plaza shopping Center.

The Association argued that the county should not have issued a building permit for the new structure because it was not set back far enough from Seven Locks Road. The case involved both an interpretation of the somewhat ambiguous language in the County Zoning Code and a disagreement on the procedures and facts utilized in the case. The Board of Appeals decided that the County Department of Environmental Protection, which issued the permit, had acted "reasonably," both in its interpretation of the code and in the methodology and data used in figuring the required setback.

In accordance with the permit's requirement, the building, (now virtually completed) is set back 22 feet from the edge of Seven Locks Road right-of-way, considerably closer to the road than the Citizen's Association believed it should be set.

The case was the culmination of a long effort by the CJCA to limit the size and location of the new building. Previously, the community had been successful in reducing the planned dimensions of the structure.

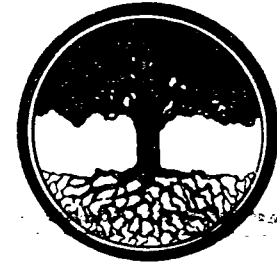
Association President Taffy Kingscott and Land Use Chairman Bob Wilkoff spoke on behalf of the CJCA at the Appeals Board hearing on November 19, and nearby property owners Charles and Thelma Shawen and Jeri Metz also testified. The builder, Michael Garrett, although not a direct

party to the case, spoke at the hearing in support of the 22-foot setback.

The Board's decision was unanimous, although one of its members, William Green, said that he concurred only because the difference in footage was so small. He sensed, he said, that the real issue was citizen frustration with having the building constructed at all, and "the setback controversy is the peg on which they wish to hang their case."

## Oooooo, Baby, Baby

Can't ever find a baby-sitter? Cabin John's baby sitting co-op may be just what you need. It operates on a point system, with the acting Secretary as the coordinator. If you need a sitter, you contact the Secretary who arranges one for you. In return you will be expected to sit at some other time. Each member serves as a secretary for a month. The chairman is the main coordinator who maintains membership lists, distributes rules to new members, schedules rotation of the secretarial responsibilities, etc. Currently there are about 18 members. If it sounds like a good arrangement to you, contact Marie Rojas for more information at 229-7803.



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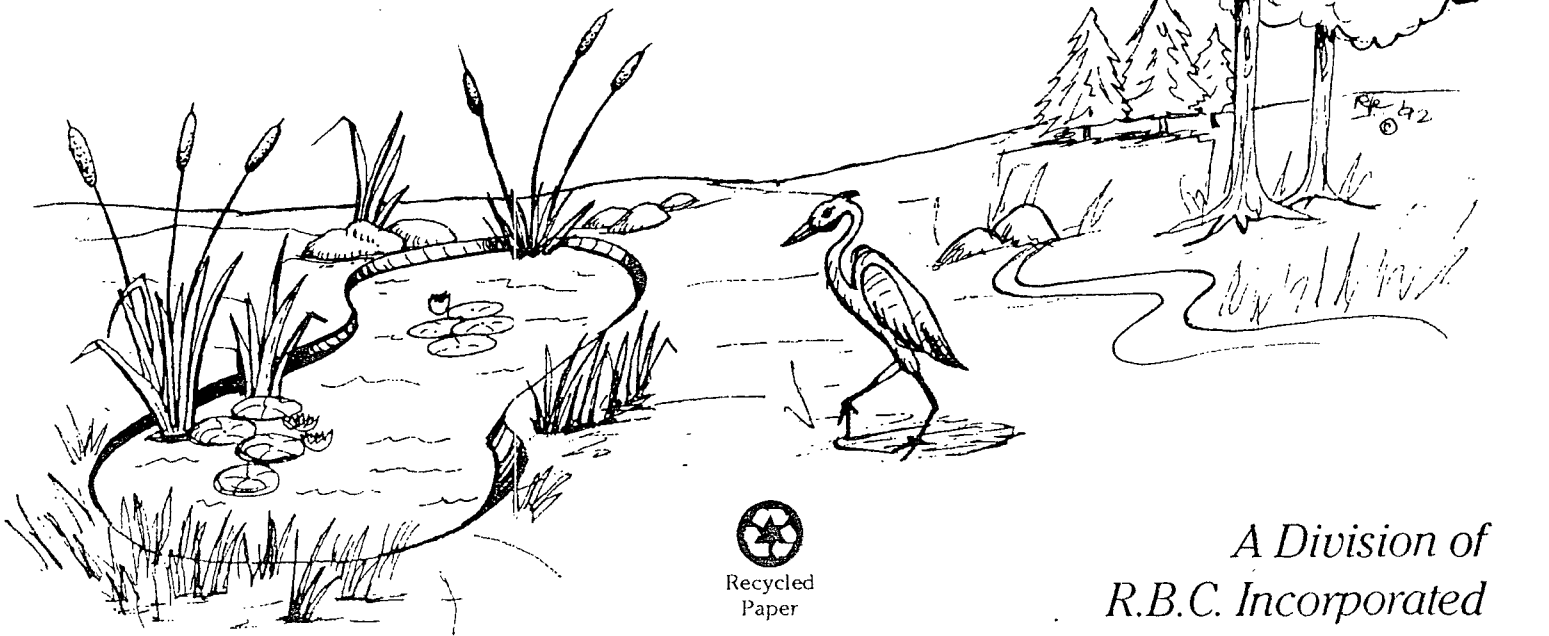
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## Union Arch Repairs Continue

Once again the date for the completion of repairs on the one-lane Union Arch Bridge has been push forward. According to Dave MacGregor of the Corps of Engineers, the bridge is now expected to re-open on a full-time basis by the end of February.

The original completion date was January 17, and ever since then the Buenos Aires Construction Co., the contractor for the project, has been penalized for each day the work remained unfinished. MacGregor said the penalties were about \$10,000.

## Beware Of Strangers

The February issue of The Echo reported that several residents had suspicious visitors last month. In one case a well-dressed woman and two men claimed to be checking on security systems in town. When asked, they could provide no credentials. A similar group who said they were Jehovah's Witnesses could produce no credentials. Several teenagers selling candy said they were fund raising for a high school in northeast Washington, but a call to the principal revealed that no such program was in progress.

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 per year.

Please send news, ads, letters and subscriptions to

The VILLAGE NEWS  
P.O. Box 164,  
Cabin John, MD 20818.

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS 10 A.M., SATURDAY MARCH 15.

## CABIN JOHN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9:45 Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 Worship (child care provided)  
7:00 Youth Fellowship (grades 6-12)

Fellowship time after worship service

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