

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 26 No. 8

Serving the people of Cabin John and Beyond

April 1993

Pepco Cooks Cabin John

March's great snow storm of '93 may go down history books as being one of the worst in 50 years because of high winds and destruction to property but it will go down in Cabin John history as the one that fried the most appliances and electronic equipment. When I took our damaged TV, microwave, VCR and turntable to be repaired, the man at the counter remarked as he took my name, "Oh you're from Cabin John! I've had 30 or 40 items come in from your neighborhood." From talking to neighbors I discovered that at least three lost items had been not only turned off but *plugged into surge suppressors!*

But the surge that cost residents hundreds of dollars in repair and replacement costs was shrugged off by Pepco as merely the toll of the storm. "We tell all our customers that appliances and electronic equipment should be unplugged during a storm. We can't take any responsibility for your damaged appliances," I was told by a Pepco representative.

If the equipment that serves our community can't perform reasonably, it should be upgraded. Customers should be able to expect reliable power. What about the thunder storm season that is now upon us? Should we be expected to turn off our house power at the main switch each morning, on the off

please see page 6

Citizens Association Meeting April 27— *Be There!*

Don't miss the Citizens Association Meeting at the Clara Barton Center at 7:30 p.m.

This month's agenda will include recommendations by the Cabin John Traffic Safety Committee - a Town Not a Turnpike. Members will report on preliminary observations at various locations around town.

There will be CAAN (Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise) report. Volunteers are needed to represent Cabin John at the "Public Listening Session" to be held by the FAA (see below).

A nominating committee will be appointed for CJCA officers for next year.



FAA to hold "Public Listening Session"

Mounting citizen complaints about excessive aircraft noise over the Potomac River - Great Falls area have led to action by Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes and Congresswoman Morella.

The first step is a study to be accomplished by the FAA, as requested by the Congress in the DOT Appropriations Bill. Accordingly, the FAA has scheduled a community meeting for Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m to 11 p.m. at the Carderock Elementary School, 7401 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda, MD, 20817.

Written comments are also invited. Such comments must be received by May 15, 1993 in order to be included in the review. They should be addressed to:

Federal Aviation Administration
Attn: Mr. John W. Kies
AEA-530, Fitzgerald Federal Bldg.
Jamaica, NY 11430



Cabin John Bids Farewell

By Andy Rice

Frank D. McKinney, Sr.
1916 - 1993

When Frank D. McKinney, Sr., died on April 7, Cabin John lost a beloved member of the community. Since 1943 he lived here in his house on Carver Road.

Devoted to his family and to his church, as well as to his community, Frank McKinney could be counted on to give a helping hand whenever he was needed. Active in the Cabin John Citizens Association, which he served as Vice President in the 1970s and in many other capacities—he was for many years a mainstay at the September Crab Feast, for example—perhaps his most famous role was an anonymous one. For many Christmases he won the hearts of children as Santa Claus at the annual Citizens Association holiday party. He was also well known, by sight if not by name, as the custodian of the ballot box at Clara Barton Center on Election Day.

The Gibson Grove AME Zion Church was a big part of McKinney's life. Apart from keeping the grounds and building in tip-top condition, he was a trustee, a steward, president of the Lay Council, and member of the Ushers Board. And in his trusty van he made many trips with church members to conferences and programs as far away as Pittsburgh.

Brought up near Cabin John, Frank McKinney started work at the Census Bureau before finishing high school. Later he transferred to the Army Map Service where he supervised the shipping of maps all over the world before retiring in 1981. Meanwhile, he and his former wife (and still friend) Margaret McKinney Coleman raised six children and one step-child. He regularly attended the McKinney clan reunions up and down the East Coast and, at the time of his death, he had 21 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Frank McKinney was outgoing and self-reliant, and at home with people of all races and backgrounds. His good humor, his willingness to pitch in, and his commitment to the welfare of his community, his church, and his family will be sadly missed by those he left behind. He was truly a great citizen of Cabin John.

Ralph Springmann
1899 - 1993

A resident of Cabin John since 1929 and a lover of the community since his boyhood days, Ralph Springmann died on March 19 at the age of 94.

Although he and his wife Sue had no children, Ralph Springmann was in many ways a "grandfather" to all the children in his neighborhood. A great storyteller, full of tales of days on the C & O Canal, and really skilled with his hands, he and his wife (who died in 1978) kept many pets in their house on Woodrow Place, as well as collections of old tools, maps, swords, etc., which were fascinating to three generations of kids.

Springmann "discovered" Cabin John as early as 1908, at the age of 9, when he began riding the streetcar out from his home in Southwest Washington and then hiking all the way out to Great Falls along the towpath. The only boy in a family of seven children (of whom only one sister survives him), he served in World War I, then worked for the government in the Navy Department and the Army Map Service where he oversaw the production of meticulously engraved lithographic plates.

Not everyone knew that he was also an accomplished tenor saxophone and Sousaphone player. He began playing professionally in the 1920s and eventually became part of one of the bands of legendary bandleader Meyer Davis. He could recall playing at seven Inaugural balls, and during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt he was a member of the first jazz band to perform on New Year's Eve at the White House.

Just as Ralph Springmann loved Cabin John, so was he loved by all who knew him as an always helpful, warmhearted, reliable member of his community. In many ways he was the epitome of the neighborly spirit which has made Cabin John such a special place in which to live.

Petition for Safe Streets

I want my neighborhood streets to be safe.


I endorse the main points of the Cabin John Citizens Association Traffic Safety Plan, and insist that the Montgomery County Government, the National Park Service, and the Corps of Engineers cooperate with the citizens of Cabin John to restore safety. I want the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and the Clara Barton Parkway to be safe for everybody. It needs better signs, pedestrian crosswalks, and NO turning or stacking lanes.

name:

address:

Mail to Cabin John Citizens Association, P.O. box 31, Cabin John MD 20818 or bring it to the Citizens Association meeting.

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Help Fight Graffiti

Identifying spray paint-wielding vandals is getting easier. Police have been cataloging what are called "tags," the signature marks the vandals spray on their targets. They urge businesses and concerned citizens to take photos of the graffiti then remove it as soon as possible. According to John Dassoulas of the Montgomery County Police Department several tags have been matched with the kids who made them by using pictures, tips from schools, parents and other kids. Police already know about 25 vandals and where they live; all they need is to catch them in the act.

When they are caught the vandals could pay fines up to \$2500 and face up to 3 years in jail. However it is more likely that they would be made to reimburse property owners or the county for the expense of removing the graffiti and perform community service.

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Government Center Bulletin urges you to report any act of graffiti *in progress* to police by calling 911. To report graffiti on public property call the Bethesda Urban District's Maintenance Hotline at 961-1899.

Community Calendar

Thursday April 22 (10 to 7), Friday April 23 (10 - 7) and Saturday April 24 (10 - 4) the Cabin John Methodist Church is sponsoring a Rummage Sale and a Car Wash to Help the Hungry. A portion of the proceeds will go to help needy families in Cabin John and to buy food to share with the homeless through the Martha's Table soup/sandwich kitchen. Members of the church will make sandwiches here and distribute them in Washington. Those who want to help either make or distribute the sandwiches please contact Pastor David Roberts at 229-8233. The proceeds from the church youths' carwash will go to buy new toys for the church nursery.

April 25 the Cabin John Methodist Church will celebrate Native American Awareness Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

May 2. Bannockburn Elementary School's annual Mayfair, scheduled for Sunday May 2 from Noon to 4 pm at 6520 Dalroy Lane, Bethesda, will feature a Moonbounce, International Cafe, Dunk Tank, Silent Auction, Face Painting, Balloons and much more. Proceeds go to support the PTA.


May 2. Come out and celebrate Spring at the annual Bethesda-Chevy Chase Parade. The parade begins at 1 p.m. (rain or shine) on Woodmont Av. from Battery Lane to the Bethesda metro Plaza. There will be marching bands, clowns, the Trinidad and Tobago Masqueraders, Sangre Boliviana folk dancers from the Andes, floats, giant helium balloons, children's characters and more.

Saturday May 15 at 2 p.m. the Wild Bird Center will celebrate the International Migratory Bird Day with a slide show on the plight of our migrant birds. Partners in Flight is a group of conservation associations formed for the purpose of saving migrant birds, known as Neotropical migrants. This organization has produced this slide show. Many of our spring and summer bird residents such as the Wood Thrush, the Northern (Baltimore) Oriole and the Scarlet Tanager are threatened by the destruction of their woodland habitat. Learn how you can help. The show is free and open to all who are interested. Refreshments will be served after the show.

Saturday May 22 at 1 p.m. the Wild Bird Center will sponsor a bird house building workshop for children and parents. The workshop will construct houses for chickadees, wrens and bluebirds on the front lawn of the store at 1 p.m. The cost per bird house kit is \$10. For reservations call 229-3141 and plan to bring a hammer.

Sunday May 23 at 1 p.m. the Wild Bird Center will host the Zoo Show of Baltimore on the store's lawn. Specializing in children's parties with an environmental theme, Marc Cohen of the Zoo Show will give a presentation offering a glimpse into the lives of some of our world's more exotic creatures. With everything from armadillos and hedgehogs to snakes and birds of prey, the Zoo Show has surprises in store for everyone. Admission is free.

Clara Barton Center for Children at 7425 MacArthur Blvd. is offering a summer camp again this year. Children 3-5 years old may attend three, four, or five days a week - half day (8-12:30) or full day (8-6). Session I runs June 21 - July 23; Session II runs July 26 - August 19. For more information call 320-4565.



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Friday	COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY AT ANNEX	10:00 a.m.

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Cabin John United Methodist Church

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6:30 pm	Youth Fellowship (grades 6-12)

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con'd from page 1

chance that maybe there'll be a storm in the afternoon?

If you have any ideas how we can deal with the problem bring them to the next Citizens Association meeting or contact Diane Leatherman.

Free Lecture on Meditation at NIH

"Stay relaxed but keep your edge!" is the message of Marshall Zaslove, MD, who will give a free seminar titled *Meditation—An Alternative for Health and Stress Relief* on Saturday, May 1 at 8 p.m. at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD in the Lipsett Amphitheater in the Clinical Center. He will describe his personal and professional experiences with meditation and the recent findings of other medical researchers. The seminar is sponsored by Science of Spirituality, a non-profit organization that teaches the value of meditation for personal well-being, spiritual self-realization and human unity. Parking at NIH's clinical Center is free on weekends.

MODERN CHIROPRACTIC CARE IS GENTLE AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT for back and neck pain, headaches, arm and leg pain, much more. Children welcome! Unsure if I can help? Call and ask! Dr. Steven E. Clark 301/926-1500

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BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT. Dewey, ocean block, sleeps-10. Washer, dryer, heat, a/c, large screened porch, all beach equipment, bikes. Families only; no pets. Friday to Friday. Weekly rates: May \$500, June \$700, (short week June 13-18 \$500), July \$1000, August \$1100, Sept \$700, Oct \$500. Martin 229-3482.

SUMMER COMPANION WANTED for 9 year old girl. Excellent student wanted for afternoons from end of school thru mid-August. Work on your tan while you swim at Palisades pool each afternoon with her! Call evenings 320-4903.

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MOW YOUR LAWN. Call reliable Cabin John student to have your lawn cut. Contact Nick Amoruso. 320-2685.

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER in the Cabin John area: Ellen Eule, L.C.S.W., B.C.D. Practice includes children, adolescents, adults, couples. Please call 320-0032

GAS GRILL w/tank for sale. \$30. 229-0933. Leave message.

FOR SALE Small, white, 3-burner efficiency stove and antique pot-belly wood stove with chrome. \$75 each. Call Brad 320-5244.

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Display Ads for One Issue:

Up to 2 1/2" x 3"	\$15.00
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up to 3 1/2" x 7 1/2" or 2 1/2" x 10" strip	\$35.00
up to 5" x 7 1/2"	\$50.00
2/3 page	\$65.00
Full Page	\$80.00

Advertisers who prepay for 10 issues receive a 20% discount; for example, a \$15.00 ad would be \$150, less \$30, or ... \$120.00.

The classified ad rate is ten cents per word. To place an ad call Clare Amoruso at 320-2685.

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 May 15, 1993.

Volunteers for this issue:

Editor: Lauren Forestell
Contributing Editors:

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Diane Leatherman

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Business Manager:
Clare Amoruso

Production: Dan Blum

Mailing: Barbara and Reed Martin

WANTED:

Aspiring young journalist to cover local news in Cabin John. If you have energy, imagination, curiosity and an interest in your community call me: Lauren Forestell, 320-4903.

Briefly noted . . .

The Montgomery County department of Fire and Rescue Services, with the Montgomery County Medical Society and others is sponsoring a mass Citizen CPR Training Day on Saturday May 22. For more information call Assistant Chief Mary Beth Michos at 217-2099.

• • •

Holy Cross Adult Day Care Center has begun an education series which is free and open to the public on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Resource Institute at 9805 Dameron Dr. in Silver Spring. For more information call 905-1878. May's topic is "Adapting and Maintaining the Home" Tips for Enhanced Livability and Reduced Hassles" and June's topic is "Organizing Your Bills."

• • •

Montgomery County's Women's Fair, Saturday, May 15th from 8-5 at Montgomery College in Rockville will have workshops, exhibits, child care. Pre-registration is \$10, \$15 at the door. For information call 977-3425 or 949-2055

• • •

As part of Montgomery County's Beautification Program for April, any private citizen who has any refuse that is too large to move from non-commercial property can call 217-2159 to arrange to have it picked up and taken to the County Transfer Station.



GLEN ECHO PARK SCENE

Adventure Theater is presenting **The Red Shoes** from April 24 through May 23, weekends at 1:30 and 3:30. Tickets are \$4.50. For more information call 320-5331.

The Puppet Company is presenting **Beauty and the Beast** from April 21 through May 30, every Wednesday and Thursday, 10 & 11:30 a.m., and Saturday and Sundays 11 a.m., 1 & 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4. For more information call 320-6668.

The Young Americans of Washington, a song and dance ensemble, will present a program of Broadway musical favorites at Glen Echo Park on May 1. The performance will be held in the Spanish Ballroom at 4 p.m.

Drawing Instructor Sought for Glen Echo Classes. Glen Echo is looking for an instructor to teach one or more classes in basic drawing as part of its Creative Education Program. Applicants must demonstrate an ability to teach in a variety of media and have experience teaching adults with many different levels of skill. To request an application call 301/492-622. Deadline for receipt of applications is May 24. ♡

Carousel at Glen Echo Will Not Open May 1

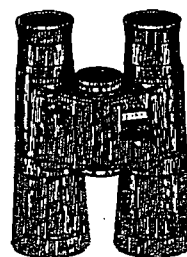
by Diane Leatherman

Sad news. The carousel at Glen Echo Park will not open as it usually does on May 1 because it needs major repair. Did you know that, of the original 5,000 or so hand-carved carousels in this country that turned during the height of their popularity, our Glen Echo carousel is one of the only slightly more than 150 that are still operating? Not only is the Glen Echo carousel still operating but it is in its original location.

Many persons in this area contributed \$5, \$10, \$25 in 1970 to buy *back* the carousel and keep it at Glen Echo Park. Very gradually the National Park Service has been having each of the 52 animals restored. The process is expensive: \$3000 to \$5000 per animal. Much work remains to be done in order to keep the carousel from further deterioration and to restore it to its original glory.

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Where did our town get its name?

by Barbara Martin

In the Washington Post's January 10 Magazine section, it was reported that the name Cabin John was originally Captain John's Mills. This was taken from a recently published book by Robert Alotta, "Signposts and Settlers: The History of Place Names in the Middle Atlantic States."

In my 23 years of living in Cabin John, I had never heard of Captain John's Mills — nor, it seems, had anyone else in town. The two legends we all know are about a hermit, John of the Cabin, and a treasure buried by Captain John Smith. Take your pick.

I called Mr. Alotta in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and had a surprising conversation with him. In the National Archives, in postal records showing the appointment of postmasters, is found (in Folio RG 28) a listing of Captain John's Mills, a name used to identify our community from 1819 to the end of the nineteenth century when it evolved into Cabin John.

So says Mr. Alotta, a gracious man and long-time research scholar. If anyone is inspired to verify this in the National Archives, I think we would all be interested in any findings. And meanwhile, I'm beating a hasty retreat from my "positive knowledge" of how the name of Cabin John came to be.

Who do you suppose Captain John was and where were his mills?



Dear Editor:

My name is Allisha M. I am a fifth grader at Holdrege Middle school in Holdrege Nebraska. I am doing a report on your state, Maryland. It would help me a great deal if any of your readers would send me a postcard showing something about your state.

Allisha M.
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