

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 26 No. 9

Serving the people of Cabin John and Beyond

May 1993

## The Crab Feast!

by Lauren Forestell

The time for planning for biggest event in the Cabin John community is upon us. Tradition demands that everyone takes time from busy lives to get back in touch with neighbors and have fun planning, cooking, eating and socializing at the annual bash. The food is always delicious!

There are always games for children and the event is fun for all. Last year the kids decorated their bikes and had a bicycle parade down MacArthur Boulevard. The planning committee supplied the revellers with live cabaret music; there were door prizes donated by local businesses, several crafts people and antiques vendors were displaying their wares for sale, and Cabin John memorabilia was on sale.

Planning for the Feast will be on the agenda at this coming Citizen's Association Meeting and your ideas are important for another successful event. Come and offer a hand. You'll be glad you did!



## Citizens Association Meeting May 25 — 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 Pepco representative Fred Lawless who will address the damage done to Cabin John electrical and electronic appliances during the "Blizzard of '93."

The Traffic Safety Committee will have preliminary results of the traffic counts that were conducted during the May 19 rush hours. As this newsletter goes to press, a meeting of several county representatives and county police representatives together with the Traffic Safety committee has been scheduled for the morning of this meeting.

Planning for the annual Crab Feast will begin soon and we need volunteers. If you are new to Cabin John, this is a perfect and fun way to introduce yourself and meet your new neighbors. Get involved!

Many thanks to members of the Nominating Committee: Andy Rice, Taffy Kingscott, Larry Heflin, Barbara Quinn and Celest Swendenberg.

## Glen Echo Park Scene

**The Puppet Company** will be featuring Beauty and the Beast through May 30 on Wednesdays & Thursdays at 10 and 11:30 a.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4. For information call 320-6668.

**Dancing at the Ballroom.** Every Saturday there is swing dancing from 9 to midnight in the Ballroom (\$7). Every Sunday from 7:30 to 10:30 there is square and contra dancing. (\$7), and on Sunday afternoons, tea dancing, foxtrots, waltzes and swing from 3 to 5:30 p.m. (\$8).

**The Refugee Experience in Words and Pictures:** Photographs and stories of Montgomery County's newest refugees will be featured at the Glen Echo Park Gallery during the month of June. This exhibit highlights the lives and experiences of 18 representative refugees who attended Northwood Refugee Center, a school and training program for refugees, during the month of November, 1992. The exhibit will open on June 4 with a reception from 7 - 9 p.m.

## Briefly noted . . .

The Community Swim at the Palisades Pool will be held again this year on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning June 17 (the week school ends). Mary Potter will be serving as the coordinator again this year. If you have any questions about the free swim, you may call her at 365-0420.

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The Glen Echo Carousel has re-opened! It is now open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Recycling for shoes, clothing, and other textiles (curtains, sheets, towels, etc.) as well as magazines and other glossy paper materials is available at the Shady Grove Waste Station weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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The free Friday dance series has begun at the Bethesda Metro Plaza. Dancing is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The annual Beach Party Blast is being held May 29 from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. Information on these and other Metro Plaza activities is available by calling 652-4988.



## Community Calendar

Thursday May 27 you are invited to help "feed the hungry" through Marth's Table. Call 229-8233 to volunteer your time.

Saturday June 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Redeemer Church (MacArthur at Glen Echo) is planning its annual Strawberry Festival. There will be freshly picked strawberries, a bake sale, next-to-new boutique, hotdogs, and a Moon Bounce and other games for the kids. For more information call 229-3770.

June 21 through June 25 the Cabin John United Methodist will be holding the Vacation Bible School from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for all children age 2 through 5th grade. Registration begins June 1. There is no charge. For more information call 229-8233.

'93 Summer Camp will be held at the Clara Barton Center from June 28 - August 6 Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for school age kids. Cost for the camp is \$35. Contact the rec center for registration and further information.



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**SUZANNE PARMELEE**

**Cabin John United Methodist Church**

**10:00 Worship Sunday**

**School resumes in September**

**Food Received for the Hungry**

## CITIZENS DEMAND IMPROVED SAFETY

At the March 23rd "standing room only" town meeting a loud and passionately felt consensus emerged: the safety of our neighborhood streets must be restored. Nearly everyone who attended had a horror story to tell. For some it is nearly impossible to leave their neighborhood in the morning. Others must contend with reckless commuters racing through side streets in order to gain a few car lengths on traffic backed up at the Parkway entrance. In response to complaints from commuters, proposals are now being considered by the county to speed up traffic at the Parkway entrance by the addition of turning lanes on MacArthur. The county appears to be considering only the convenience of commuter traffic in its proposals. The Citizens Association Traffic Safety Committee was formed to advise the county that this community will not allow the convenience of commuters to take precedence over safety on our streets. While solutions to the real causes of the traffic are long-term and regional, the Citizens Association meeting gave resounding approval to the outline of a traffic safety plan to protect our community from the automobile mayhem that now prevails.

The four main points of the traffic safety plan now being formulated are:

**1** That the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and the Clara Barton Parkway be made safe for everybody. Plans for its improvement must consider *all* users including: Cabin John Gardens residents, school buses, bicyclists and pedestrians on the bike path, Ride-On commuters, automobile commuters, and local traffic.

- Improvements to this intersection must aim to give alternating right-of-way to all users after coming to a full stop. Things needed are yellow lines on the pavement, STOP AHEAD signs, rumble strips, and crosswalks.
- The access to MacArthur from Clara Barton should be made one lane to eliminate right turning traffic onto east bound MacArthur. Because MacArthur is restricted at the Union Arch Bridge this traffic accomplishes nothing but disruption to the alternating flow.
- Any proposal to create turning lanes or stacking lanes is contrary to the goal of making the intersection safe and accessible to all users.
- A small foot bridge is needed across the ditch on the north side of MacArthur to enable pedestrians to cross MacArthur at the stop sign. This is especially important for the kids who live in Cabin John Gardens and go to the playing field or the recreation center.

**2** That the 3 residential roads used by all thru-traffic in Cabin John—MacArthur Boulevard, Seven Locks Road, and Persimmon Tree Road—be made safe for all users, not just convenient for commuters. Improvements to main intersections are needed including better signs, lines on the pavement, and pedestrian crosswalks. A reduction in the speed limit to 25 mph and additional speed limit signs are urgently needed on these roads.

**3** That small residential streets must be protected from speeding commuter traffic. There are no alternate routes through Cabin John so traffic is leaving, then reentering the main routes creating delay and congestion for others, and forcing children, school buses, pets and pedestrians to share the narrow streets with adrenaline-crazed drivers for whom the term "share" is oxymoronic.

- Speed limits on all Cabin John's streets except those noted above should be reduced to 15 mph.
- Access to small residential streets should be restricted by a system of DO NOT ENTER, NO LEFT TURN, and by physical barriers including a DO NOT ENTER during rush hours onto Tomlinson Avenue from Seven Locks Road.
- The intersection of Tomlinson and MacArthur should be realigned to form a right angle. This will tame the high-speed turn syndrome so prevalent at this corner.

*These proposals are repugnant to most of us and will cause the greatest inconvenience to ourselves, but they are preferable to the horror story that is played out daily. The intention is to make our streets safe and to prevent the tragedy that seems inevitable if the present situation continues.*

**4** That the appearance of MacArthur Boulevard should be improved. Corps of Engineers restrictions and county neglect create the visual impression of an Expressway. Shallow rooted trees and shrubs could be planted without affecting the conduit. Signs should designate entering and leaving Cabin John. The historical and scenic features of the area, and the bike path should be emphasized and protected. Appreciation for these things should be promoted lest they be usurped for the convenience of those who view Cabin John as an unnecessary bottleneck.

### Additional items needed:

- 3-way stop and pedestrian crossing at Persimmon Tree Road and MacArthur.
- Solid barriers and trees protecting the bike path from MacArthur Boulevard traffic.
- Red FIRE LANE -NO PARKING painted curbs at Clara Barton Center driveway
- Community involvement in long-term transportation planning

### Things we can do right now:

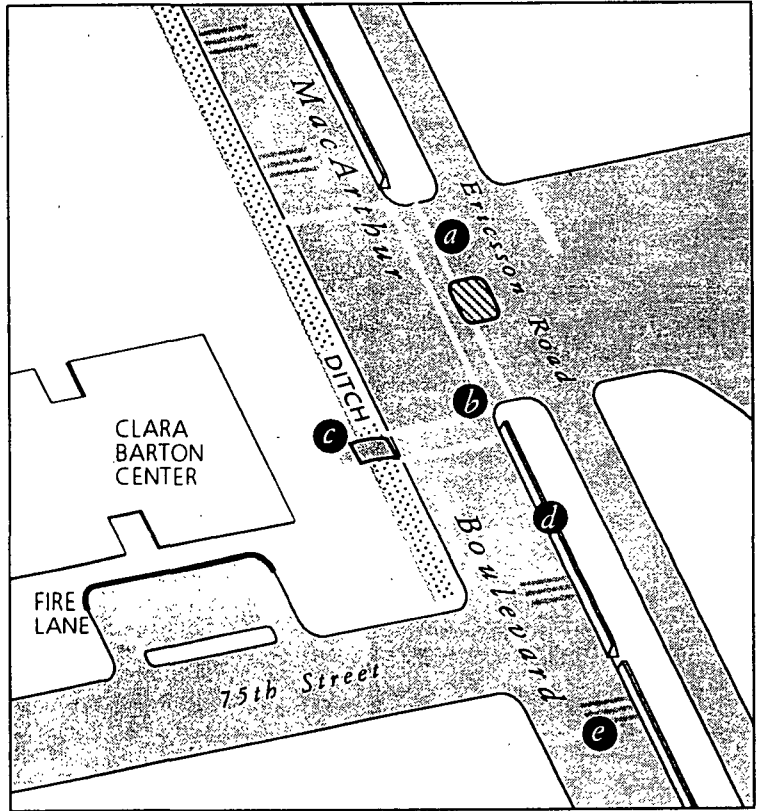
- Drive slow
- Report unsafe conditions to police and demand enforcement. Call Sgt. Lester at 657 0125
- Sign the Petition for Safe Streets included in the Village News

These maps show some of the suggestions collected by the Traffic Safety Committee. This is not a complete list, but it shows what kinds of things your neighbors think will make Cabin John safer. The Traffic Safety Committee wants *your* ideas. The final plan will affect everybody, so make your opinion known now. If there is an idea you want included in the Traffic Safety Plan, write it down and give it to Gerry Quinn, 7405 Arden Road, 229 8030, or bring it to the Citizens Association meeting. Make it as specific as you can.

The intersection of MacArthur and Clara Barton has to be made safe and accessible for everybody. Cabin John Gardens becomes inaccessible during rush hours and residents are forced into an unsafe situation just getting to and from their neighborhood. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and Ride-On commuters on the bike path are frequently threatened and bullied off the path by drivers. Drivers pass stopped school buses even as children are boarding sometimes driving on the bike path to pass on the right.

Nobody claims to have a cure for the mess at this corner. These proposals are intended to simply get drivers to obey the existing law—to stop, yield alternating right-of-way, and not run over pedestrians.

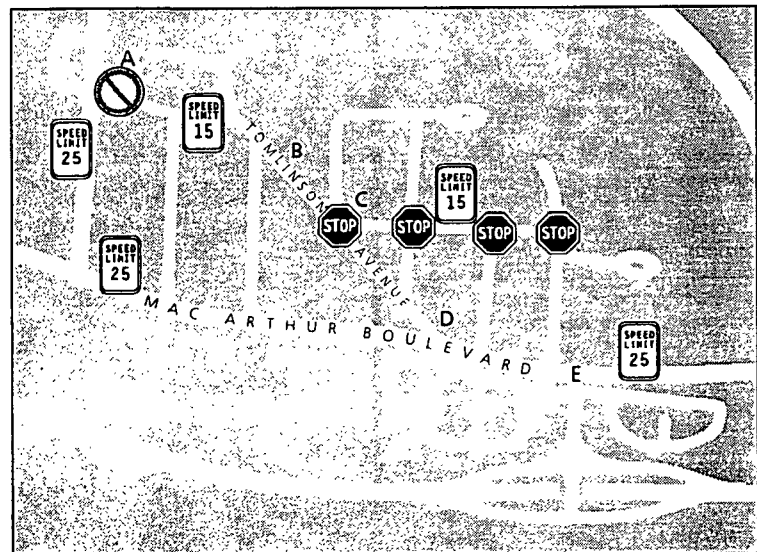
- a One lane access to MacArthur
- b Pedestrian crosswalk
- c Foot bridge and paved path to Clara Barton Center
- d Solid barriers protecting the bike path extending from the Union Arch Bridge to Seven Locks Road
- e Rumble strips, STOP AHEAD sign



The chaos at the Parkway entrance is spilling over to our streets. Drivers hell-bent on getting a few car lengths ahead have turned Tomlinson Avenue and Arden Road into an Autobahn. The Traffic Safety Committee is considering ways to slow and restrict traffic through small streets. The map shows some of the many suggestions made thus far.

Some things shown here are redundant, for example, either item A or a barrier (item B) would make some other things unnecessary, but this is a sample of the types of proposals that the Traffic Safety Committee has gotten from the community. The next step is to collect all the ideas and make some sensible and workable options for consideration by the Citizens Association:

- A DO NOT ENTER (except trucks) onto Tomlinson
- B A barrier to automobile traffic on Tomlinson Avenue at this point
- C STOP on Tomlinson, DO NOT ENTER on Arden
- D Realign intersection to slow speeders
- E See detail map above



# 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.

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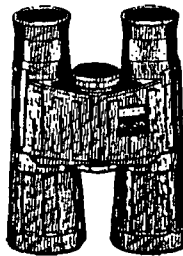
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**P A R D O E**



# Frank McKinney Memorial Fund Set Up

With the passing of Frank McKinney, his church lost a valued member and his community lost a devoted friend. To keep his memory alive a memorial fund has been established in the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church. At the last Citizen's Association Meeting, when the people who attended voted to make a contribution in his memory, several members expressed their desire to make personal contributions.

Those who want to make their own contributions may send them made out to The Frank D. McKinney Memorial Fund, c/o Gibson Grove AME Zion Church, 7700 Seven Locks Road, Cabin John, MD 20818. The donations will be used carry on his work of beautifying the church and remodeling the areas suggested by his family.



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**EXPERIENCED SECRETARY** seeks part time work, weekends OK. Call 229-1847.

**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

**LOST CAT/KITTEN** 10 mos old femal dark gray/brown striped tabby, no collar, neutered, one month ago in Cabin John on 78th Street. We would just like to know what happened. 229-7412.

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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,  
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Business Manager:

Clare Amoruso  
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