

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 27 No. 8

Serving the people of Cabin John and Beyond

April 1994

Traffic Committee's Proposals Supported by CJCA

By Helen Daniel

At the March meeting the Cabin John Citizens Association unanimously passed two proposals to deal with the rush hour traffic on Cabin John's roads. One proposal seeks congressional help in negotiating with the Park Service to close the entrance and exit ramps for Clara Barton Parkway during rush hours. In the morning rush hour, the southbound exit ramp at Cabin John would stay closed from 7:00 to 9:00 A.M. For evening rush hours, between 4:00 - 6:30 P.M., the northbound entrance ramp onto Clara Barton would be blocked. This action would effectively keep 800 rush hour vehicles off Cabin John roads.

When the Traffic Safety Committee did their survey last May, license tags were counted at the MacArthur Blvd./Clara Barton intersection. At the peak of rush hour, there were over 1,600 cars per hour. Fully one half of these cars were from Virginia. Instead of cutting through Cabin John on their way to and from work, these Virginia commuters have several other viable options that would not greatly impact a residential community. They can continue on Clara Barton Parkway and exit at Glen Echo. Or, they can continue on the beltway and exit at River Road,

Citizen's Association Meeting at the Clara Barton Center 7:30 PM, April 26 — *Be There!*

This month's Cabin John Citizens Association meeting should be a fun one. Up for discussion at the meeting will be planting along MacArthur Boulevard to beautify Cabin John — possibly to provide safety to pedestrians and bus riders by erecting planters at strategic places.

Also, the CJCA has excess funds left over from the proceeds of last year's crab feast. If you have any good ideas about where the money should go, join us.

All ideas for both topics will be welcomed.

Wisconsin or Connecticut Avenues. All of these roads are designated commuter routes. MacArthur Blvd., Tomlinson Ave., Arden Road, and 74th Street are not.

The second proposal seeks assistance from the State Highway Administration to overturn the Potomac Master Plan and allow the State to widen River Road from Seven Locks to at least Falls Road, a 3-mile stretch. The building boom in Potomac, Rockville, and Gaithersburg during the 1980s has resulted in a large increase in the number of drivers using MacArthur Blvd. as their preferred commuting route. During the traffic study it was noted that many of these would-be River Road commuters use River Road to Persimmon Tree Road to MacArthur Boulevard. And, it is these drivers who when frustrated by

the half mile backup from the Clara Barton Parkway entrance peel off MacArthur at Seven Locks, 77th or 76th streets speed down Tomlinson onto Arden Road, finally making a right onto 75th Street. Here they re-enter the traffic stream several thousand feet from where they started, probably saving almost no time while managing to annoy and endanger the residents who live on these narrow streets. Many of these commuters complain about the gridlock along River Road and so help to create another gridlock on MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John.

Letters have gone out to our congressional representative, Connie Morella, and Hal Kassoff of the State Highway Administration asking for their help in making these two proposals a reality.

Copy of Letter to Congresswoman Morella

Dear Congresswoman Morella:

The Cabin John Citizens Association is asking your help in solving a continuing, in fact a worsening, traffic problem in our community. We have tried over the past years to work out our traffic problems with the County Transportation Department. While Department staff are always unfailingly polite, amiable, and sympathetic, they never quite get around to doing anything constructive. Even promised remedies from almost a year ago are not yet done. Meanwhile the traffic problems keep getting worse, eroding the quality of life within our community.

In 1989, the community did a traffic survey and at the most congested intersection (MacArthur and Clara Barton), there were 1,100 cars per hour in the worst of the rush hours. Two years later, in 1991, the County Transportation Dept. did another survey at that same intersection. There was an 18% increase to 1,300 cars per hour. Last year the community once again did a comprehensive traffic survey. By June 1993 the count had climbed past 1,600, a 50% increase from 1989 and a 23% rise from 1991. From 7:30 to 9:00 in the morning and again in evening rush hours, from 4:30-6:30 P.M., traffic along MacArthur Blvd. from Union Arch Bridge to Persimmon Tree Road is at a standstill. A one lane bridge with a traffic light that allows approximately thirty cars through with each signal change is not compatible with an intersection 300 feet to the north where 1,600 cars an hour amass.

There are several unfortunate repercussions from this situation. One is the location of a community, Cabin John Gardens, right next to the MacArthur Blvd./Clara Barton Parkway intersection. The only way into and out of the 100 home Gardens neighborhood is from Ericsson Road which is ten feet west of the Clara Barton/MacArthur Blvd. intersection. Four hours a day, five days a week the residents in Cabin John Gardens have great difficulty getting out of and into their own neighborhood as well as being enveloped in car fumes. The second development is having hundreds of commuters frustrated by the back-up on MacArthur Blvd., speed through the winding, twenty-foot wide Cabin John residential streets, trying to gain a couple hundred yards on their fellow commuters crawling along MacArthur Blvd.

At the Cabin John Citizens Association's March meeting a proposal passed unanimously to have the Park Service block the Clara Barton Parkway entrance and exit ramps in Cabin John during morning and evening rush hours. Closing the southbound Parkway exit ramps from 7:00 to 9:00 A.M. and the northbound entrance ramps from 4:00 to 6:30 P.M. would cut in half the traffic at the MacArthur/Clara Barton intersection during rush hours. The community's last traffic survey showed that one half the rush hour cars at that intersection have Virginia license tags. These commuters going to and from work in Montgomery County and Washington D.C. have several alternatives that would not impact so badly on our community. They can continue on either Clara Barton Parkway and exit at Glen Echo or continue on the beltway and use designated commuter roads such as River Road, Wisconsin or Connecticut Avenues.

The community is asking for your help in negotiating with the Park Service to close the Cabin John Clara Barton ramps during the morning and evening rush hours. With fifty percent of the commuter traffic re-directed along more suitable paths, the rush hour impasse along MacArthur Blvd. can be relieved and a better quality of life restored to Cabin John.

THE VILLAGE NEWS PEOPLE

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P.O. Box 164,
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'Round Town ...

Diane Leatherman and Larry Heflin are proud grandparents of Alexander David, born April 10, weighing in at 7 lb. 9 oz. in Redondo Beach, California to their daughter Heidi and her husband Ernesto Guzman.

...

Wayne and Kay Swisher, LaVeta Fyock and Uva Cable are proud great grand parents, Jackie and David Fyock, Doug Cable, Dana and Roger Lupton, grandparents of Tyler Brett, born Feb. 25, 8 lbs. 1 oz. born to Dawn and Kevin Fyock .

Congratulations all!!

...

On a sadder note, long time Cabin John resident Peg Williams passed away early this month. She was a good neighbor and will be deeply missed.



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The folks who bring you the Village News each month want to meet you. We will hold an open house on Wednesday, May 4, 8:00 PM at 7521 Arden Road. Join us!

Copy of Letter to State Hwy. Adm.

Dear Mr. Kassoff:

At the March Cabin John Citizens Association meeting a proposal was unanimously passed by the community to ask that the Potomac Master Plan be revised to allow for widening River Road to four lanes between Seven Locks and Falls Roads, and beyond Falls if needed. A better traffic flow on River Road would ease an intolerable traffic burden in our community.

At our most congested intersection, MacArthur Blvd. and Clara Barton Parkway, there are over 1,600 cars an hour during the worst of the rush hour. In 1989, the community did a traffic count, and there were 1,100 cars per hour at this intersection. Two years later, in 1991, the County Transportation Department did another count at the same intersection. There was an 18% increase to 1,300 cars an hour during the worst of the rush hours. Last year, the Cabin John community did a comprehensive traffic survey and the increase in traffic at the MacArthur Blvd./Clara Barton intersection was 23% since 1991. This intersection is approximately

please see page 4

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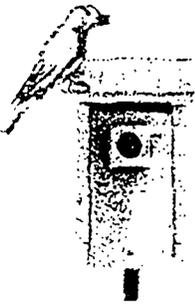


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PARDOE



Horoscopes

for the Month of May
by Leticia Parmer



Bannockburn Plans May Fair

Bannockburn's annual May Fair is set for Sunday, May 15 from noon to 4 pm. There will be fun for the kids including Moonbounce, a dunk tank, lots of games and face painting. The "gently used" sale is always fun for all.

This year the silent auction is great for the grown-ups and includes Redskins tickets, a flight with Walt Starling, theater tickets, and much more.

Support your local elementary school!

Kassoff letter *Con'd from page 3*

300 feet north of Union Arch Bridge, a one-lane historic structure with a traffic light. Many commuters pouring onto MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John, traveling west down Persimmon Tree and Seven Locks Roads cite the terrible traffic along River Road north of Seven Locks as their reason for commuting through Cabin John, an almost completely residential community. None of Cabin John's narrow, winding streets are designated commuter roads.

River Road needs to be widened to carry the number of commuters resulting from the 1980's building boom in Potomac, Rockville, and Gaithersburg. Keeping River Road at two lanes has not kept development from occurring in Potomac and beyond and has instead imposed an unfair burden on neighboring communities. Your consideration of our community's proposal would be appreciated.



Aries

Energetic and talkative, you'll be in quite a whirl this month. Woe betide anyone who tries to pin you down though, you want freedom to come and go where you please, and say what you please. Your sense of humour is right there, on the surface.

Taurus

Give rein to your natural creativity, this month. Dig out those paints and brushes, put pen to paper, because you have a gift to share with others. Write those long-overdue letters, maybe even some beautiful poetry which you could sent in to the Newsletter!

Gemini

You'll have an active social life, though at the start of May you may have to hover in the background. Don't worry, by mid-month others will be paying you your share of attention. Watch out for idealism, it is important to be realistic now too.

Cancer

To escape the madding crowd and wallow in your own daydreams, is your idea of heaven this May. You yearn for time off, to just smell the roses. A great month to appreciate all the beauties of nature and springtime in Cabin John.

Leo

Since you are normally so sunny, others may wonder why your smile has disappeared at the start of May. But you want to get things done, and done well. The respect of your peers is very important to you. Try not to become a perfectionist, though.

Virgo

May's arrival marks the start of a lighter period for you. Optimistic about most things, you may decide to plan a trip overseas. You're in the mood to travel, and fine out what the rest of the world is doing. A great month for sports and games, too.

Libra

People may wonder what you are up to, you simply aren't saying. As the month unfolds, so do you, until you become so open and outspoken that you begin to put your foot in your mouth. A great month to work on fitness and get yourself in shape.

Scorpio

Hard-working and detail-conscious, you start May taking much better care of your health. Fair play will become a focus of yours later in the month, so legal matters will be prominent. You just know you have to see justice done.

Sagittarius

At the start of May you'll be a hive of industry, you want to achieve solid practical results from your efforts. Teamwork comes into play later in the month, when you appreciate the benefits of having someone to work or play alongside.

Capricorn

You are flamboyant, keen to invite friends round and have fun with them at the start of May. Do your entertaining then, because by mid-month your conscience will kick in and you'll feel you cannot leave any job half-done in order to enjoy your play.

Aquarius

Home and family will be much appreciated by you this month. You'll be a great bargain-hunter too, thoroughly enjoying the browse through the local rummage sales, yard or estate sales. You'll have a tremendous sixth sense about the value of something.

Pisces

Buy, sell, and generally strike deals during the first half of May. After that money is likely to slip through your fingers, and you may be tempted to impulse-buy, from catalogues or in sales. The family will appreciate your strong nurturing instincts now.

For more details on this or any month, or for a private horoscope reading, call Leticia on 320-0707.



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IN MEMORIAM: CLARA LINGENFELTER

by Reed Martin

It was a warm summer's day about 5 years ago, and I was headed for High's in my 1931 Model A. As I approached the Union Arch Bridge, I noticed a lady walking along the bike path heading in the same direction. The top was down, so I asked if she would like a lift to the shopping center. "Let's go," she said, and got in. I introduced myself and she told me her name was Clara and she lived in Cabin John on 78th Street. For 10 years since I moved to Cabin John, we were living one block apart and had never met before.

At the shopping center, folks were asking questions about the car and she was answering them all. I was enjoying this stranger—she knew cars and it seemed she knew all the people asking the questions. When I asked how it was that she knew everyone, she told me, "I am a home builder and this is my area."

As we started back, she asked if I would detour up to Cabin Road. "I have a house there that I need to check on," she said. As we drove up 75th Street, she pointed to one house after another. "Built that one," and "Owned that one," and "Having trouble selling that one," were dotting the conversation.

I realized that this interesting lady was far more than the normal pedestrian in our town. She told me of the families that were in the houses when she came to Cabin John, and why she had become a builder of houses.

After our house check on Cabin Road, she asked if I had time to drive to Falls Road. It seemed that she had a crew building an addition on a house, and she wanted to make sure it was progressing as scheduled. Off we went, out MacArthur Boulevard.

As we rounded the turn at the entrance to Great Falls Park, I noticed that a crew was erecting a 6-foot chain link fence around the Gold Mine entrance on the left. Clara had never seen the buildings that are still standing there, and she wanted to walk over. I remember her calling me over to one building in particular and emphasizing that the amount of concrete which had been poured just for the one building, she thought, was a true miracle. She kept saying, "Think of all the lumber that was needed just to build the forms, before the concrete could be poured. This is one of the most amazing buildings for its time that I have seen."

We checked on the house on Falls Road, I drove back to Cabin John, and I said good-bye. That was the only time I had the privilege of listening to Clara Lingenfelter. We would wave when we passed each other, and now I have learned that she has died.

I have lost a friend, and Cabin John has lost one of its unique residents.

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