

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 27 Number 10

Serving the People of Cabin John and Beyond

June 1994

Cabin John Proteus 1-2-1

Cabin John has a soccer team! Cabin John Proteus Bike and Fitness has sponsored an under-13 boys team in the MSI Classic League. This Spring, under the coaching of Carlo and Nick La Porta of 81st Street, the team moved up to the Classic League from MSI's Open Recreation program. All the players but four attend Pyle or Westland Middle Schools. Last year the team finished with 5 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie, and won its division.

In the tougher Classic League, Cabin John Proteus has one win, two losses and one tie. It lost its first game 4-1 after giving away 3 goals with some bad mistakes. It lost to the undefeated Sonics on May 1st, 1-2, and could have easily won with better shooting. Anchored by fullbacks Dan La Porta and Jared Prushansky, Proteus knew it had the defense to be competitive. It proved this by winning its second game 1-0, and holding the Sonics to two goals when the Sonics had been averaging six goals per game. Proteus tied its fourth game with the Badgers 1-1 on May 7th. The team has one more

Citizen's Association Meeting

7:30 PM, June 28 at the
Clara Barton Community Center - Everyone is
Welcome!

On the agenda at the next meeting of the Cabin John Citizen's Association is a report on the newest addition to the MacArthur Square shopping center - Pizza Hut Express. Other agenda items include a report on the Crab Feast, scheduled for September 10th (see article on the Crab Feast in this newsletter), and an update on the ongoing traffic debate.

The last order of business will be election of officers. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers for 1994-1995. Nominations will also be taken from the floor, followed by voting.

This will be the last meeting before the Crab Feast. Please plan on attending!

Help Plan The '94 Cabin John Crab, Chicken and Craft Feast!

Lori Rickelman and Diane Leatherman have agreed to co-chair the CCC Feast this year. Make sure you get your two cents in at the planning meeting on Monday, June 27th, at 7:30 p.m., at Lori's home, 6423 79th Street.

If you cannot make the meeting but want to have a part, call Diane at 229-7412 or Lori at 320-6299. This is an ever-evolving, equal opportunity, annual Cabin John ritual and a way to get to know your neighbors and community.

The CCC Feast itself will be held on Saturday, September 10th, from 2 until 6 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center. As always, advance tickets will be slightly cheaper than those at the door. One way to make sure you get yours early is to offer to advance sell in your neighborhood.

game in round robin play, then it starts a second round of seeded play that will determine the league champion. The games are played

in Silver Spring on Saturdays.

For more information, call Carlo La Porta at 229-0691.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I am a Cabin John resident and a commuter to DC. When I moved here 10 years ago, going to work was a breeze. What I have observed is that the heavy increases of traffic through our quiet neighborhood streets started when those metal guard posts were placed at the intersection of MacArthur Blvd. and Clara Barton exit. The construction on Canal Road did not help either. Prior to this, when the light turned red at the one lane bridge, cars turning right to Clara Barton could bypass any car that was stopped at the beginning of the exit. This kept traffic moving. Because of those metal posts, no one can make a right until the light changes. Therefore, people, including myself, have resorted to going to the back streets to get around the backup. Every morning I see mothers with their children and pets standing in the middle of the street and staring down those passing through. All you are doing is creating more danger for you and your family. All of the proposals that I have read in the Village News by "concerned residents" will only create more traffic backup and will also create a nightmare for your own neighbors who need to go to work.

I am all for safety for our neighborhood, but let us not be so selfish. Some of us do have to go to work in order to make a living. Please be open-minded and see what is the real problem. The culprit is whoever made the traffic department put up those metal posts. What we need is a right yielding lane to Clara Barton. Most people who are making a right turn during working hours are very careful of pedestrians and bikers. Besides, there are not that many pedestrians and bikers during those hours of the week anyway.

Please let us not lose our

heads and destroy our quiet neighborhood.

- Concerned Cabin John Resident and a frustrated commuter

Dear Editor:

On May 23rd, fifteen cars were parked on the hiker/biker path along MacArthur Boulevard between 81st Street and 80th Street. On Memorial Day weekend a car that was for sale was parked in approximately the same place. On the 23rd, I saw a woman pushing a stroller forced onto MacArthur Boulevard, and on the weekend there was almost an accident as families of bikers going in opposite directions were forced into the road at the same point at the same time as a car was driving by. Please don't be the cause of a serious injury. Don't park your car on the bike path, and ask you visitors not to park there, either.

- Lorraine Minor




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MAKING A DIFFERENCE: CELESTE SWEDENBURG

Celeste Swedenburg was born in Georgetown, the third oldest in a family of seven children. Her dad was a landscaper, her mother a housekeeper for a Bethesda family. When Celeste was 4, the family moved to Maryland, just off River Road, near the railroad track. She went to River Road Elementary, and then to Lincoln Junior High in Rockville. "Schools were still segregated; the black children were picked up by bus and taken all the way out to Rockville."

Of her young days, she remembers "helping around the house, cooking, doing laundry—and also climbing trees, running through the weeds. I was always tearing up my legs, but I'd just wash them off and go back out."

While she was in high school, she worked evenings and weekends, taking care of four kids for a family who owned a beer garden on River Road. "The family lived over the beer garden. I made \$4 a week and most of it I took home to Momma. All of us helped out. My brother caddied at Kenwood."

Her next job was working at the Hot Shoppe in Bethesda. About that time, she and her sister moved back into NW Washington, renting a room together. "I took the streetcar to work. I had two jobs; besides the Hot Shoppe, I was doing cleaning jobs during the day. My sister was an elevator operator."

Celeste's sister introduced her to a man who worked at Carderock Model Basin. They were married and moved to a house on Carver Road; her

husband was eligible to buy there because he worked at Carderock. After several years and two children, they were divorced, and Celeste moved back to Washington to her mother's home.

When she married Gilbert Swedenburg, a steel cutter at Carderock, she came back to Cabin John. They were married in the home of the Rev. Mrs. Williams on Carver Road. The family grew with the births of three more children, two of whom were christened at Gibson Grove AME Zion Methodist Church.

Gibson Grove has been very important in Celeste's life, or perhaps it is more accurate to say that Celeste has been very important in the life of Gibson Grove. On the first Sunday of every month—Communion Sunday—you will see her dressed in white and serving as an usher. She has planted flowers in the churchyard, and been a part of just about every church project for 40 years and more. If you've been to a supper at Gibson Grove, you know that Celeste and her friends are marvelous cooks.

In 1965 she began driving a school bus for Montgomery County, a job she held for 22 years. "The first year my route was in Wheaton and Silver Spring, then I got moved closer to home. It was a job I enjoyed. I had very little trouble with the children. They knew I was serious and they respected me. I respected them, too. Oh, you might have one bad egg in every group, but overall it was a good job. Except for the kids that I drove to Western Junior High. Many of them were children of diplomats and they were a mess. All the drivers hated to get that route. But most of the young people, including the teenagers, behaved like ladies and gentlemen. Sometimes I would have 60 high-schoolers on my bus, but they knew how they were supposed to act and that's what they did." Celeste retired from

bus driving in 1987.

One of Celeste's proudest accomplishments was the formation of the Cabin John Home Study in the 60's. "Black kids were being kicked out of school on a daily basis. They weren't learning anything. They needed individual help and encouragement. I planned it with a lady I was working for. She found tutors and I found the students. The kids were from Carver Road and elsewhere in Cabin John; the tutors were from outside Cabin John. The tutors would come to the children's homes and study with them regularly. We also got the children school clothes if they were needed. We met with the principals of the elementary, junior, and senior high schools. They were happy to cooperate with us. The schools got the message that the kids were really trying and that the community was working for them. It made a big difference in attendance and we had kids who began doing well and enjoying school."

Home Study graduates were helped with college expenses through a grant program. Cabin John resident Larry Ware was warmly enthusiastic about the financial help he received from Home Study during his college years, and declared that it definitely advanced his education. "We did other things beside the education coaching; we arranged free activities for them to enjoy like going to the circus and swimming pool. We began by car-pooling to Mohican Pool on MacArthur. One of the tutors, John Bender, who was a member of Mohican, arranged for the Cabin John children to have free swimming at the pool. Then when Palisades Pool was built off Seven Locks Road, several Cabin Johners who were members established with the Pool Board, community swimming closer to home.

That was the beginning of the Cabin John Free Swim pro-

continued from page 3

gram that has continued every summer. Over the years, several generations and hundreds of Cabin John kids have enjoyed twice-a-week swimming at Palisades Pool. The program is still going strong in 1994.

Inspired by the Cabin John Home Study success, other neighborhoods started their own programs. Scotland and Ken-Gar were among those communities. "Sometimes we chairmen would get together and talk about ways we could make things work. We traded suggestions and kept each other encouraged." The Home Study program lasted for about 25 years.

Isn't she proud of that fine program and what it has meant to the community, I asked. "Well, some people look at it as something special, but it was an everyday thing with me. Kids always deserve help."

Besides being a strong part of the Carver Road community and of the Gibson Grove Church, Celeste is a faithful worker at the Crab Feast, supervising the vegetable table. Over the years she has worked at the voting polls at the Clara Barton School. Celeste enjoys gardening; each year she raises tomatoes, string beans, squash, green peppers, and okra.

In 1990, Gilbert died at 85. He and Celeste were married 35 years.

She has raised four children and a grandson. Her son Floyd works in Hyattsville as an auto mechanic; Deborah is an administrator for an office supply company; Queen lives in Jessup and is an IRS accountant; Harry lives in Burtonsville and manages a Taco Bell; Everett is an aide at Bannockburn School. For Mothers Day, they all took her to Burn Brae for dinner and a musical. "I'm very proud of my kids." And Cabin John is very proud of Celeste.

-Barbara Martin

Glen Echo Park Scene

The "Chatauqua Artists", summer resident artists at Glen Echo Park, will be displaying recent work at the gallery from August 5th through August 28th. An opening reception for the show will take place on Friday, August 5th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the stone tower which serves as the Glen Echo Park Gallery.

The National Park Service is sponsoring its sixth annual **Children's Chautauqua Day** at Glen Echo Park on Sunday, September 18th, from 12 noon until 5:00 p.m. A variety of hands-on workshops and demonstrations will be provided by area artists. Storytellers will stir up the imagination and performers will have everyone clapping. Most activities are free. For more information, call 492-6229 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The **Puppet Company** is currently performing **Rapunzel** through July 17th, every Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m., and most Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.00. Call 320-6668.

The **Adventure Theatre** is presenting **Winnie the Pooh** through July 24, weekends at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50. Call 320-5331.

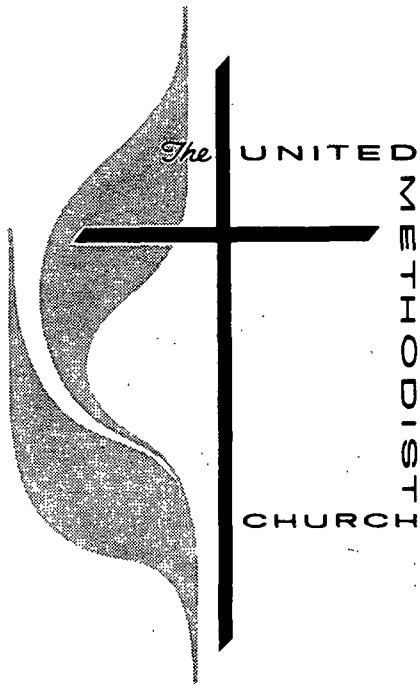
Palisades Pool Free Swim

The Palisades Pool, 6918 Seven Locks Road, is once again offering a free swim time to Cabin John residents on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. throughout the summer. Palisades Pool has a wading pool, a learning pool (three - four feet deep) and a full size adult pool. They also have play equipment for kids. For more information, call: 229-9879.

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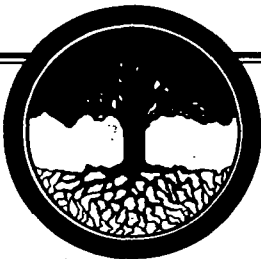


- ☆ At the end of May the Cabin John United Methodist Church (MacArthur Boulevard at 77th Street) voted to blend with the Chinese United Methodist Church (Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase). The new congregation will be known as the Cabin John United Methodist Church, offering ministry to Cabin John and the Washington area in both English and Chinese.
 - ☆ Effective July 1, the pastor of the new blended church will be the Rev. Timothy H. T. Ang, who has been the pastor of the Chinese congregation, since 1979. Rev. Ang and his wife, Lucille, live on Harmony Lane in Potomac.
 - ☆ The current pastor, the Rev. J. David Roberts, who has served the Cabin John congregation since 1990, has been appointed the pastor of Clarksburg United Methodist Church effective July 1. A farewell dinner for Rev. Roberts, Mrs. Sarah Roberts, and their sons, Jon and Steve, will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, in Cabin John Gardens. The community is invited to Rev. Roberts' last worship service in Cabin John at 11:00 on that day, as well as to the dinner (please contact Mrs. Vivian Jones for further information).
- ☆ Because both churches are congregations of The United Methodist Church, the blended congregation's theology and organization will remain the same. The following is the schedule for the new blended congregation, effective July 1:
- July 3 - 11:00 Worship in English (guest preacher)
 - July 10 - 11:00 Inaugural Worship in English with Chinese translation
 - July 17 (regular schedule) - 9:30 Worship in English, Sunday School in Chinese
11:00 Worship in Chinese, Sunday School in English

Come Visit Us! There Are Continuing and New, Exciting Activities for Everyone!

Au Revoir, Dan and Martha

For 8 years, Dan Blum has faithfully fulfilled the responsibility of seeing that the Village News gets to and from the printer. Now Dan and his wife, Martha Pierce, are moving from Woodrow Place to Braddock Heights, a suburb of Frederick. Martha has just finished her residency in family practice and will join the staff of Columbia First, an HMO in Frederick. In August, attorney Dan will leave the law firm he has been associated with for many years. He will work full time researching, writing and publishing the legal newsletter he established in 1992. Their new home, complete with 13 acres and a barn, sits on a ridge overlooking the Middletown Valley. It's definitely country, but Dan insists that Braddock Heights is much like Cabin John in its small-town neighborliness and mix of people. Dan and Martha expect to be in Cabin John frequently, where they can follow their love of kayaking on the Potomac. Dan, thank you for all your years of service to our town newspaper.



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BEAU MASSETT: A LEGEND IN HIS OWN TIME

Ordinarily you don't see an obituary for a dog. But then Beau was no ordinary dog.

If you live south of Macarthur, on 79th Street or Woodrow Place or Riverside Drive, you knew Beau. You probably don't know all your neighbors, but you knew Beau. A peaceful yet regal soul inside a coat of thick, white hair and a 150-pound body, Beau was the king of the neighborhood.

Beau lived on 79th Street with Larry Massett. He was an enthusiastic sleeper who chose non-traditional sleeping poses and locations. His favorite sleeping position was on his back with all four legs lifted heavenward. We who were his neighbors were used to seeing him in that pose, but strangers driving down the street often became agitated, insisting they had seen a "dead" dog.

Although the front yard was his preferred nap locale, a close second choice was in the middle of 79th Street. And, happily giving the king his due, we all slowed down and drove carefully around him. No beeping horns, no irritated shouts, just indulgent smiles as cars passed the napping Beau.

He was known outside his immediate neighborhood, too. He held a part-time volunteer job as security patrol at the shopping center. Proteus Bikes considered him their mascot. And up Seven Locks Road, on Archbold Terrace where the Cabin John Trail begins, the residents greeted him on a regular basis as he made his appointed rounds.

Larry Massett joined forces with Beau in 1983. Larry, a freelance journalist for National

Public Radio, was on assignment in Arizona when he found Beau at a Huskie breeder's ranch. Beau was 8 weeks old. Larry tried to pet his new puppy, but Beau wasn't having any; petting was of no interest to a dog of his self-assurance. The woman who sold him told Larry always to keep the dog on a leash because Huskies have a poor sense of direction; the other misinformation she gave was that Huskies don't take well to car travel. As soon as Beau was legally Larry's, he jumped into the back seat, put his hind feet on the arm rest, stuck his head and body out the window, and gave the unmistakable message, "Okay, let's go."

Beau grew up on the go. He and Larry traveled on assignments all over the continent—Canada to Key West, with a summer each in Utah and Montana. Mostly they camped (which Beau loved) but sometimes they stayed in motels. When the motel wasn't "Pets Welcome," the two of them had a slick system worked out. When Larry went into the office to register, Beau would hunker down in the back, out of sight. Then Larry would drive directly outside the room, open the motel door, then the car door, and when he gave the all-clear signal, Beau would shoot into the room and rest quietly until morning.

His AKC registration is in the name of Beau Car-go. Larry meant to name him Bo, but the AKC people didn't think that was fancy enough. Beau—French for handsome—is the official spelling on his pedigree papers.

One assignment took the duo down the Mississippi River from its source to the Delta. The trip was a mixture of car and boat. Beau preferred the car, but tolerated the boat. He didn't like sitting still in the boat.

Before Larry and Beau moved to Cabin John, they lived near Harpers Ferry. Every day Beau made the 12-mile circuit

through the Park Service trails.

Larry is a great biker and Beau was always ready for a long run. After they came to Cabin John, their favorite trips included round trips to Fletchers Boathouse and even Seneca.

Once he moved to Cabin John, he soon found favorite paths and destinations, some of them quite far afield. Well-meaning, concerned people would call Larry from Glen Echo, Fletcher's Boathouse, Great Falls, or Georgetown, telling him they had found his lost dog. But Beau was never lost; he always knew where he was. Without fail, he would come home if people would only leave him alone. Several times would-be rescuers took him to the D.C. Pound where Larry had to retrieve him.

One time Beau got into trouble with the law. In back of Old Anglers Inn is a duck pond. It seems that Beau caught a duck and made short work of him. The Inn called the police and Larry had to bail out the criminal and pay a \$31 fine, which after all is about the price of a duck dinner at the restaurant.

A few years ago, Larry decided the wandering was getting to be too much, so Beau took a trip to the vet to be altered. Afterwards, he still made his daily travels but in a smaller sphere.

Although Beau was of impressive size and stature, he was a peaceful dog. Had Larry ever known him to start a fight? "I doubt the thought ever crossed his mind." If some dog—or person—was being obnoxious, outside of Beau's domain, he would simply walk away from the display of bad manners. He was, however, quite positive about who owned his yard and his bones. Occasionally, while Beau was resting quietly in his own yard, a foolish German Shepherd or Wiemerauner would attack. In less time than it takes to tell, Beau would lay that astonished in-

truder in the dust. He was a skilled fighter; he just rarely saw the need. As one of the neighbors remarked, "He was a king who just happened to live here." Every man, woman, and child in the neighborhood loved Beau, and he accepted that adoration graciously as his due. He enjoyed hanging out and watching people, but he always maintained a certain regal aloofness.

Each spring he got his annual shearing. His nakedness embarrassed this dignified dog, and he would hide in the back seat of Larry's car (his "home"). After about a week, he would come forth, resigned to his bare look.

Toward the end of this May, Larry noticed a change. Beau was quieter and "had a funny look in his eyes." On what would be their last day together, Larry asked his buddy if he would like to go for a ride. Beau, whose arthritis had been slowing him down considerably, nevertheless hopped into the car like a puppy and enjoyed the ride. Later that afternoon, while Larry was working in the backyard, Beau came around and stayed near him. This was very unusual for Beau, who considered the front yard his territory but rarely visited the back. After a bit he walked away and headed down toward the river. "I think he was saying goodbye," explains Larry. "I believe he was planning to die."

When Beau was missing for 2 days, Larry was certain he had died but couldn't find him. Larry traced all of Beau's favorite paths, but it was a Cabin John neighbor who discovered Beau lying by a creek in the woods. Larry buried him there, where he had spent so many happy days.

A small white cloth was hung on the post by Beau's yard next to a photograph of him. Within a day people began bringing flowers and personal offerings to the memory of "their dog," tributes which they left on the walk by the street. Every day or so, Larry would bring the flow-

ers inside, but the next day more would appear. "I always thought he was special," says Larry, "but I've been touched that so many other people felt that way, too." People have sent cards and notes. One family wrote a poem, "A Tribute to Beau," that was funny and loving and appreciative. The last verse says:

We'll miss you, Beau,
because
You were a landmark
round these parts.
And we're surely not the
only ones
Who pass with heavy
hearts.
But we know you've gone
to better bones
In that Garden in the sky.
So a fond farewell to a
local legend.
Goodbye, dear Beau,
goodbye.

- Barbara Martin

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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