

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 28 No. 5 Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

January 1995

## **Citizens Association Meeting Tuesday, January 24 at 7:30 at the Clara Barton Community Center**

### **ON THE AGENDA:**

#### **Washington Gas**

Are you interested in obtaining natural gas service to your home? Despite rumors, past history or other beliefs, it is possible to obtain gas service in Cabin John if certain criteria are met.

Attend this meeting to learn what is involved and hear a presentation by Washington Gas representatives Connie Poole, Rick Williams and David Zabetakis. A survey form and two articles about gas service appear on page 3

#### **Traffic Light**

We will present the preliminary plans for the traffic light to be erected at the entrance to the Clara Barton Parkway. The preliminary plans, with all the details are in hand and being presented for comment and suggestions. Construction is expected to start this spring. In addition, a suggestion for a petition to close the entrance from the Clara Barton Parkway eastbound in the morning and to the Parkway westbound in the afternoon will be presented and opened for discussion. The Citizens Association has already taken a vote in favor of closing the access. The discussion will center around the wording and logistics for the petition. More about this on page 2

#### **Closing the Marketplace at the Union Arch Bridge**

A report will be presented on Corps of Engineers plans to close and fence off the lot used by vendors on the east end of the Union Arch Bridge. More on page 4

#### **Potomac Conservancy**

Due to the full agenda, the presentation by Paul Rosa of the Potomac Conservancy is rescheduled to February 28th.

## **Teen Center and Advisory Board are Organized**

Three meetings have been held to set up the organization for the new teen center to be established at the Clara Barton Community Center. A Middle School Lounge and a High School Lounge will be furnished in the next few weeks, and a large opening event featuring a DJ will be scheduled for late February. Your student's school papers, as well as local radio and newspapers will be carrying information about the Center. Once we are established we are planning for Friday evening programs (DJ, Bands, Game nights) and scheduled activities during the week. A staff person is being hired to run the program. Community volunteers will be needed for all events that draw over 50 students.

### **NEEDED:**

- Adult advisory board volunteers
- Homework tutors
- Furnishings for the lounge
- Donations of yard sale items

We need a few more adult volunteers to serve on the advisory board. The advisory board will run the Center in conjunction with the Montgomery County Recreation Department. There will be six meetings held each year. Please call Judie Mopsik (320-2111) if you would like to help. This important program needs your support.

One of the programs that the students on the Advisory Board have requested is after school tutoring. A "homework help" program will become an ongoing activity from 3-5 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Can you volunteer some time?

The Teen Center needs tables, chairs, sofas, rugs, and lamps to furnish the lounges. If you have any suitable items you can donate, they will be put to a good use. Also, any items you can donate for the Teen Centers planned Spring yard sale will help support this worthwhile community resource. Call June Spencer at 229-6496 for more information or to arrange to have your donations picked up.

## Comment

**No to Traffic Lights**

The complex of traffic lights to be installed on MacArthur Blvd at the 75th St. entrance to the Clara Barton is going to make our little neighborhood less liveable, and for no good reason. It's a silly idea that people reading this should oppose.

In rush hour (what the installation is supposed to improve) the lights would allow 2-3 cars from Cabin John Gardens access to MacArthur Blvd each light cycle. That is about as many as, and may even be fewer than, the number now entering by butting into the traffic stream. Little or no gain here. And the lights would certainly make access to MacArthur for people (like me) living on 75th St., 75th Place, etc., much harder. No gain here, either.

And for the 65% of the day when there is no rush hour, the lights would (in combination with the lights already at the one-lane bridge) create a monumental and wholly unnecessary bottleneck. The project is a nonremedy for a problem that is getting better (rush hour is easier this year) and will be substantially eased once the Clara Barton repairs are finished.

Proponents say the lights will be timed with those at the bridge. Folks, all lights are timed. They still obstruct traffic. That's what they're designed to do.

The real purpose of many of those lobbying for the lights is to create so many obstacles that driving in our neighborhood will become impossible. An anti-auto political agenda that makes everyone suffer. Remember, once those lights are installed, we will never get rid of them.

At a Citizens's association meeting recently, I was told the traffic lights were a "done deal" and it would be futile speaking against them (I was told the same thing last year when I wrote the county Department of Transportation).

Well, I urge anyone reading this to write immediately to our County Executive (Doug Duncan, County Executive, 1012 Monroe St., Rockville, MD 20850) and send a copy to Mr Scott Wainwright, Chief of the County Division of Traffic Engineering (same address, 11th Floor) with a different message: no to traffic lights that make life worse for all, in order to fulfill the political agenda of a few.

Jack Smith  
75th Place

**Neighborhood Events**

At The Clara Barton Center

**Country Western Dancing for Beginners**

Monday nights starting Jan 23. 7-8:30

7 week course, \$58.75 per couple. Some line dancing included. Join your neighbors for good fun. A County Recreation activity. Call Barbara Martin 229-3482

**Other classes at Clara Barton:**

In-line skating, Akido Dog Obedience, Night Club & Latin Dance, Karate, Dance Fitness, Nature Explorers

At Glen Echo Park

**Hall of Mirrors Performance Series**

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March 25 & 26

Sally Nash & Last Minute Wood Co., Modern dance

Saturday performances at 8 pm, Sundays at 4 pm. For information and reservations call 229 6022

To announce an event in The Village News send a written notice to: Editor, PO Box 164, Cabin John Md 20818. The next deadline and mailing date is published on the inside back page.

**Proposal Would Limit Traffic During Rush Hours**

The Citizens Association will consider a proposal to circulate a petition to close access to MacArthur from the eastbound Parkway for two hours in the morning and access to the westbound Parkway from MacArthur for two hours in the evening. Traffic between the Union Arch Bridge and the Parkway would be reduced by more than half, according to the data collected in the May 1993 traffic survey.

The Citizens Association has been cooperating with County engineers in their plan for traffic lights, but has never formally endorsed the plan. A motion in favor of limiting Parkway access has been approved by the Association, but a petition would reinforce the message and require a response from the County. The proposal has strong support since it would solve the immediate traffic problems with a minimum of inconvenience, but there is debate over its political feasibility, since the action could only be taken by the Park Service.

A strong community consensus is needed on this issue so plan to attend the meeting and make your opinion count.

## Natural Gas Service May Come to Cabin John

During the fall, Richard Sablowsky contacted Washington Gas about adding service to his home located on 79th street below MacArthur. Through his persistence, he discovered that the reasons given in the past for the lack of gas service here are mostly folklore, and that four homes located below MacArthur are already connected.

At the November Citizens Association meeting a resolution was approved to ask representatives from Washington Gas to make a presentation and to conduct a survey to determine who would be interested in receiving gas service. Contacted by Fred Mopsik, Washington Gas agreed to make a presentation at the January 24th meeting. They also suggested the survey that appears below. Your response to the survey will be used to evaluate the demand for service installation. Depending on the response, gas lines can be installed at no cost to homeowners other than the cost of conversion inside the home.

### GAS INTEREST SURVEY

Please answer the following questions and bring the completed questionnaire to the January 24 meeting, or mail it to the Citizens Association, PO Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818 in time for the January 24th meeting.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

1.  I am interested in converting to Gas immediately
    - 1a. I am interested in gas:
      - Heat  Water heater  Dryer  Cooking
      - Other \_\_\_\_\_
  2.  I am interested in converting to Gas within the next \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.
  3.  I am not interested in converting to Gas
- Other comments:

## Who Pays to Install Gas Lines?

Elaine Tama

Before Washington Gas will install pipelines, a "revenue test" is performed, which weighs the pipeline installation cost against the projected revenues, according to Lynn V. Scruggs, Washington Gas spokeswoman.


Under the "General Service Provisions" promulgated by the Maryland Public Service Commission, the installation cost must be financed by two years' estimated revenues from on-line customers. If enough customers do not commit to gas service to cover this cost, the difference between the installation cost and projected revenues must be deposited with the Gas Company by the customers who have contracted for service. The deposits, which are placed in a non-interest-bearing escrow account for five years, will be returned in increments as additional customers acquire service, until all of the deposits are refunded. If, however, the number of new customers does not meet the quota necessary to cover the installation cost, the remaining deposit funds will be forfeited to Washington Gas.

For example, if a pipeline cost \$10,000, and three customers contracted for service, generating estimated revenue of \$6,000 for two years, those three customers would have to deposit a total of \$4,000.

Usually Washington Gas uses underground boring machines to install lines from mains to homes; however, in some areas, geological characteristics mandate using trenching equipment. Gas mains are installed at least three feet below the surface, and gas lines (from the main to the house) are at least two feet below the surface.

Washington Gas is currently offering special financing if both heating and hot water equipment are purchased.

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## CORPS OF ENGINEERS POSTPONES CLOSING MARKET

On January 11, the Army Corps of Engineers and the County held a meeting at the Clara Barton Community Center to discuss the proposed closing of the open air market. There were 35 people in attendance, including representatives of three Citizens Associations (Cabin John, Glen Echo and Bannockburn), the Potomac Conservancy and Tony, the produce man (and his family). After the Corps stated its reasons for wanting to close the market (it was in violation of county codes), the meeting was opened for community comments.

Everyone in attendance spoke in favor of leaving the market "as is". The only complaint that was raised concerned trash that is left in the woods behind the market parking lot. As a result of this meeting, the Corps has postponed the closing until March 1, 1995. In the meantime, they will look into what can be done to keep the market permanently open and in compliance with County codes. They will hold another meeting of the communities in late February.

Many thanks to Barbara Martin for being our representative to the meeting. We will take a formal position on the closing at the January 24th meeting.



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## New Business Wants To Be a Good Neighbor

The newest business in the shopping center, Hannibals Coffee Company, supports several community-based programs including Adopt-A-Road, and MADD, and will exhibit the work of local artists. In addition to local causes,

each store in the chain contributes to the protection of an endangered creature. How's the coffee? *The Village News* restaurant critic has not yet fully evaluated Hannibals, but the initial impression is favorable. A series on the restaurants of Cabin John starts in *The Village News* next month



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## LaVeta Fyock: Giving Her All To Life

By Barbara Martin

LaVeta Mitchell Fyock grew up in Dallas City, Illinois, a farming community with a population of 1,000. Across the Mississippi River was Iowa. "On Saturday night all the farm families came into town. My father was a barber; like all the stores and business places, his shop was on Main Street. Main Street started just outside of town and went right on through and down to the River. Lots of times strangers or town boys who got a little wild wouldn't slow down and would end up being fished out of the River."

Her father picked her name. Her mother had named the first child and told her husband to name the second. She has never met another LaVeta.

She is a born hard-worker. While still in elementary school, she was helping with household chores, baby-sitting, and doing women's hair. "Finger waves were the big fashion."

One of LaVeta's grandmothers lived a mile outside town, and LaVeta often walked to visit her. Her other grandmother had a home in town. "Her backyard was the Mississippi River. When it rose, her cellar would flood." So that her grandmother wouldn't be alone, LaVeta and her sister took turns staying nights.

She was a good student. "Our high school had small classes and fine teachers. We couldn't have a football team because in the fall all the boys had to spend afternoons and Saturdays helping in the fields. But we had a great basketball team."

LaVeta took a commercial course—shorthand, typing, and bookkeeping. "The typing teacher, Miss Hulse, was very strict; if you fooled around she wouldn't bother with you a bit, but if you tried hard, there was nothing she wouldn't do for you. She was a real inspiration to me."

Although she was studying business, LaVeta early recognized her true vocation: beautician. She worked after school and on Saturdays in a local beauty shop. When she graduated, she went to beautician's school in Kirksville, Missouri. Because she got credit for the 2 years she had apprenticed in the Dallas City beauty shop, she was able to finish her beautician's course in half the time. "And for half the money—that was important."

A friend from home shared a room while they were studying in Kirksville; they paid \$10 a month rent. "We would put dried beans on the radiator to slow cook. We left them there overnight and when we got home at the end of the day, they would be ready. We'd invite other girls from the school for dinner; everybody would bring something and we had a feast right there in our little room."

Back in Dallas City, LaVeta opened a beauty shop in

her home.

"We had a room with a separate door; that was converted into a shop and I was in business. By this time, I was doing a lot of *marcel* waves and pin curls." The woman in whose shop LaVeta had apprenticed was married to an undertaker. One day LaVeta got a call from him. His wife had died and he wanted LaVeta to do her hair. His wife had always arranged the hair on bodies he prepared, and now he needed someone to do her hair. "I said yes but I was feeling very nervous. I didn't want to touch her skin. He stayed with me but then he had to answer the door. I got nervous and fumbled and bumped into the body. And it was okay; I decided that phobia was silly and went ahead and did my work." (Many years later, LaVeta was called upon to do the same service for a Cabin John woman, Dytha Wilde, who lived with Mrs. Bissett at Persimmon and Caraway.)

For 5 years, LaVeta ran the shop in her home. Then she took a fateful vacation; three former neighbors and friends who, like thousands of other young women recruited from small towns during World War II, were working for the government in Washington and persuaded LaVeta to come for a visit. The friends gave a party, and the boyfriend of one girl was asked to bring a date for LaVeta. The proposed date, one David Fyock, protested, complaining that his last blind date had been "the giggliest thing I ever met." Finally the young Forest Service ranger was talked into it, on the assurance that LaVeta was not a giggler. And the rest is history.

LaVeta went back to Illinois after just a week, but David visited her in September and again at Thanksgiving. He wanted to marry her but she was hesitant, concerned about leaving her mother alone. Her high-school typing teacher was a customer, and when she next came to get her hair done, LaVeta confided her situation. Miss Hulse spoke up strongly. "Listen to me my girl. If you want to help your mother, get a job in Washington and send money. But don't you pass up this nice young man who wants to marry you. I made that mistake—sacrificing marriage for my family—and I've always been sorry. You don't want to be a sour old maid like me." LaVeta and David were married in Washington in February.

David had come with his family to Washington as a boy, at the suggestion of his uncle, David Lewis, a Congressman from Pennsylvania. Mr. Lewis was the primary backer of the legislation that created Social Security. As a young man, David Fyock drove his uncle to meetings and became acquainted with Franklin Roosevelt.

When they married, the young couple lived with his family in Chevy Chase; there Jacquelyn and David Jr. were born. Then the whole crew moved to Cabin John, to 76th Street. David left the Forest Service and worked for the Post Office, then for Army Map Service. During the war, his job took him all over the United States, so when their

third child was on the way, LaVeta went back to Illinois where Marilyn was born. Myrta, the fourth child, was born after they had moved back with his parents on 76th Street.

When Myrta was in high school, LaVeta took up her profession again, working with Dorothy Helen Nelson, first in the building that is now the Wild Bird Center, then in "the apartments" (as they were known until their conversion to condos). She worked with Dorothy Helen for 18 years.

Her husband became ill, first with stomach ulcers that required extensive surgery, then with lung cancer. They had been in their house on McKay Circle just 2 years when he died in 1969.

"I had never learned to drive, but there was a car sitting out front, so at age 52 I became a new driver. And after Dorothy Helen moved to Florida, I started taking customers in my home or going to theirs."

"Every year I visited my sister in Arizona. One year when I came back, my daughters met me at the bus station and told me they had a surprise for me. My family had built a shop onto the front of my house and furnished it with all the equipment I needed. I'm a very fortunate woman to be able to work at my own home, at my own pace, doing what I enjoy."

LaVeta has been a strong force in the Cabin John Methodist Church for more than 40 years. When the children were small, they attended Sunday School in the basement of what is now the frame building, officially called the Paul Connolly Hall. Through the years, LaVeta has worked in every rummage sale, dinner, and fund raiser the church has held.

She is grandmother to 13, great-grandmother to seven. Her son, David, lives in the Gardens as she does, and is a

carpenter. Daughter Myrta Peyton lives on Brickyard Road, Jacque Shenk is in Silver Spring, and Marilyn Dempsey is in Gettysburg. The 13 grandchildren are mostly still in the area and two have married other Cabin Johners. She gets frequent calls from grandchildren who want her encouragement and sensible advice.

LaVeta has always liked living in Cabin John. "When I first knew Cabin John, it was like my little hometown in Illinois. Where the Captain's Market is now, was Dickerson's grocery, with one gas pump. Where the vet is, there was another grocery store and a soda fountain, later a laundromat."

LaVeta is a steady bus rider. When her car needed major repairs, she decided to give up driving and use the Ride-On. "I can take the last bus in the morning into Bethesda, do some shopping, have lunch, and take the first bus back. I like the trip."

Besides her sister in Arizona, she has a long-time friend in Baltimore, and knows half the population of Cabin John, especially the families who have been here several decades.

A few years ago, she had a wood stove put in and she splits wood for it ("just the kindling"). "I like a stove for heat. I was raised with a stove; my sister and I took care of loading it with coal." A small woman, LaVeta gives a definite impression of strength and good health. "I love to get outdoors and walk, and I like to mow the lawn and rake leaves but my kids give me a bad time about that; anyway I still putter around in the yard."

Her latest project? "Well, we have a new minister at church, Reverend Ang, and he's teaching us Chinese. It's a little hard but I'm learning." Doesn't that sound like LaVeta Fyock?

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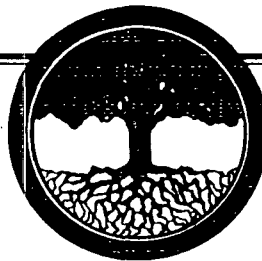


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The Village News  
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 Cabin John, Maryland 20818

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People who make the Village News possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Cherry Doyle, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin

Contributors: Fred & Judy Mopsik, Richard Sablowsky, Jack Smith, Elaine Tama

**GARAGE SALE** Board games, paperback books, bunk bed, also small 1950's two seater convertible of unknown make, possibly Italian, red, best offer. Saturday 9-4

### New Advertising Rates

The Village News wants to break even. New postal rates and higher printing costs make it necessary to increase advertising rates. Our new rates are an attempt to make the price of ads reflect the cost of printing and mailing.

Effective now:

Classified ads – 25¢ per word

Display ads – Prices begin at \$20 for a 1 column, 1 inch ad or \$170 per year. A business card sized ad costs \$30, or \$255 per year. A complete schedule of rates and dimensions is available by writing to *The Village News* or by contacting the editor or business manager

### Tell Your Neighbors About the Services You Offer

There are a lot of experienced and talented people offering services in the neighborhood, but they're not always easy to find. Starting this month, *The Village News* will print a new directory called Neighborhood Services on this page. It's a friendly low-key way to advertise and it helps support *The Village News*. Listings may be placed for \$60 a year for two lines, or \$80 a year for three lines. Classified advertising will now appear on inside pages. Existing classifieds will appear in the new Neighborhood Services format at no additional charge until their contract expires.

### Neighborhood Services

#### BABYSITTING

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