

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 28 No. 9

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

May 1995

Citizens Association Meeting Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30 at Clara Barton Community Center

ON THE AGENDA:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The main item of business at the coming meeting will be the election of new officers. This is the last meeting of the year until September and as new officers will be taking over, a time for them to get ready to carry forward next year.

CRAB FEAST PLANNING

The time has come to start planning for the annual Crab and Chicken Feast. It's lots of fun and a good way to meet your neighbors. If you are interested in helping plan this year's event, call Judy Mopsik at 229-2111. A planning meeting is scheduled for June 19 at 7:30.

RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC PETITIONS

We have recently received a response from the National Park Service, which we are attaching to this note. While the letter starts out seemingly negative, by denying any immediate action, it ends quite constructively and the last paragraph is in keeping with the response that we have received from Montgomery County. That response was to initiate a traffic study at Montgomery County's expense, based in part on our own study of 1993. The results will then be used to justify relief for our neighborhood. Since a traffic study will take several months, its completion and the completion of the construction should be close to being at the same time. While I do believe in never getting overly optimistic, this is the most positive response that we have ever had in our dealings with our Parkway problem. It certainly seems to be the first time that both the County and the Park Service seem to be cooperating. The letter appears on page 3.



PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL

As we are planning to step down after leading the Citizen's Association for the last two years, we would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and give our thanks for all those who have contributed these past two years. While being Association President has required some time on our part, both of us feel that we have personally benefitted from the experience and are glad to have had the opportunity to get to know our neighborhood that much better. We have had both frustrations and successes but we hope that the successes, such as the new Teen Center and better relations with our merchants, will continue in some way to help improve our community. We look forward to still helping and wish our successors best wishes in carrying forward.

Fred and Judie Mopsik

Looking Backwards in Cabin John

Sixty-two years ago, prohibition had just ended, and David Tuohey had applied for a license to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption at the Wayside Store, located where the MacArthur Plaza shopping center is now located. His application was denied by the County but Tuohey appealed the decision to the State Licensing Bureau.

Enter the Cabin John Citizens Association which, during May 1933, mounted a campaign against the issuing of the license. The Association had generally opposed all efforts "to commercialize" Conduit Road (as MacArthur Boulevard was then called) since, in the words of a May meeting resolution, such commercial establishments "carry with them a display of signs and resultant traffic congestion, etc., in the place of natural scenery."

Other Cabin John residents supported the application, however, and eventually, in March 1934, the state authorities reversed the County Board's decision and ordered that a Class "D" license be issued. (Note: the Tuohey establishment continued for nearly 40 years until it closed in the early 1970's and the building was demolished.)

Nearly 50 years later, in May 1984, the big news in The Village News was the completion of the widening and straightening of Seven Locks Road from River Road to MacArthur Boulevard. A "Sunday Stroll" was announced for June 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. when the road would be closed to traffic and citizens could observe a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the County Executive and then walk along the new, safer roadway. The improvement project was the fruit of nearly 15 years of effort to make the very hilly and winding road safer for both drivers and pedestrians, while also protecting the property rights of adjacent home owner.

The only problem was that at times of heavy rain, flooding occurred at the intersection of Seven Locks Road and MacArthur Boulevard. However, the cause turned out to be an error by the contractor, who was required to re-do the work at his own expense.

Anybody have photos of Tuohey's? Thanks to Village News Archivist Andy Rice for contributing this feature. If you have photos or mementos of the good old days in Cabin John, the Village News would like to use them with this feature.

Neighborhood Events

at THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Off MacArthur Blvd near Glen Echo Shopping Center

ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

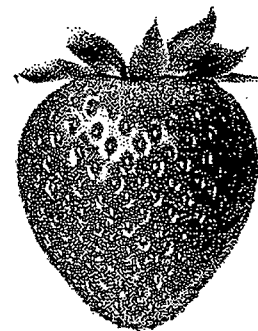
June 10, 11 to 3 pm

Freshly picked strawberries with homemade short-cakes; Hot dogs, sodas, Moon Bounce and games for kids; Home baked cakes, pies, breads, cookies; clothing for the family; jewelry; fine needle-work; SILENT AUCTION (great values); Balloon Man; Books, books, books; Fun for all. Info 301-320-2990.

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.

On the subject of Strawberries...

One of our local treasures, Tony Dicarantonio, has moved his rolling produce stand from the Wilson Lane lot to his driveway at 10611 MacArthur Boulevard. The Glen Echo newsletter, *The Echo*, reported that Tony's family was concerned because he would be the only vendor at the site after the county begins enforcement of vending laws there starting July 1, and were worried about his safety. Drive out MacArthur about two miles past the Beltway, and you will find Tony's driveway on the right.



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Letter from Superintendent Audry F. Calhoun

The Park Service responds to CJA petition

Dear Mr. & Ms. Mopsik:

This letter in response to your letter of March 13, 1995, requesting that the National Park Service close the Cabin John Gardens ramps to and from the Clara Barton Parkway during rush hour.

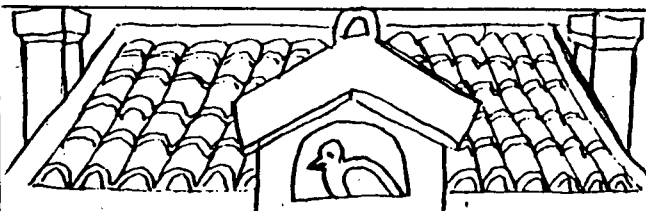
We have reviewed your request and must deny it at this time. We believe that it would be inappropriate to consider closing the ramps while the Clara Barton Parkway is under construction, and before any studies are completed to determine what impacts this will have on other road systems. We believe that some of the traffic congestion that you are experiencing is due to the construction currently underway at the Glen Echo exchange. This work will be completed late this fall and we expect traffic wishing to reach Bethesda and beyond will use the Glen Echo turn-around again.

We have had discussions with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation on this issue and have agreed to participate with them in a traffic analysis of this area. Once the results are in and the construction is completed, we will be willing to consider measures which will reduce the traffic in your community during rush hour.


Thank you for your concern, we will keep you advised of our progress.

Sincerely,
Audrey F. Calhoun
Superintendent





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TIME: 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM

AGE: 3-13

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Wednesday Evening: 7:00 Prayer,
Testimonies, Bible questions

Friday Morning: 10:00 Community
prayer and Bible study

Collecting food and clothing for the
homeless and needy.

If something is bothering you, Ask Doctor Bob

Doctor Bob's mailbag has been overflowing this month. While Doctor Bob sends a personal reply to each letter he receives, there is not room to publish them all.



Dear Doctor Bob,

Concerning your reply to "Going nuts on Riverside Drive" about the problem of squirrels destroying bird feeders— I would like to point out that your solution is cruel, inhumane, and probably illegal. If I could have one wish, it would be for people like you to experience some of the distress that you inflict on defenseless, cute, furry little animals. Please cancel my subscription to the Village News.

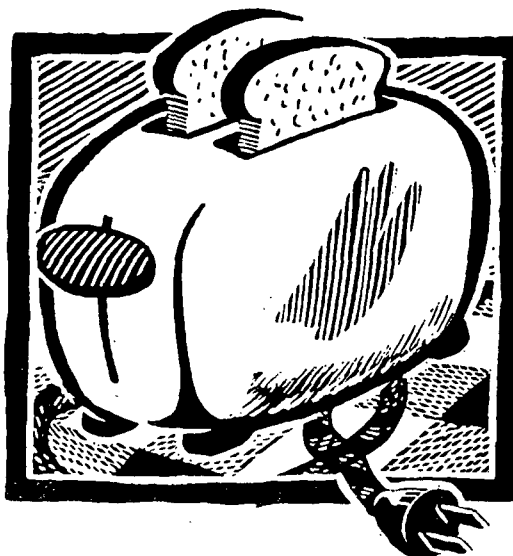
—Friend to bushy-tailed neighbors

Dear Friend,

Doctor Bob is distressed. Your defense of tree rodents moves me profoundly. To make amends, I will devote all my tomato plants this summer to the cute little guys, thus saving them the trouble of rising so early in the morning to mangle each tomato just as it becomes ripe. I will also buy two new bird feeders at The Wild Bird Center and grind them into shredded Lucite, the Dove Bar of squirrel cuisine. After my squirrel guilt is fully assuaged, I will turn my attention to crows.

—Dr. B

Doctor Bob is not an actual doctor but is willing to give cheap, sensible opinions about legal, financial, and personal matters, and home improvement. Write to Doctor Bob c/o The Village News, PO box 164, Cabin John Md 20818





Let's Talk!

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Contributors: Fred & Judy Mopsik, Andy Rice



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