

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 29 No. 3

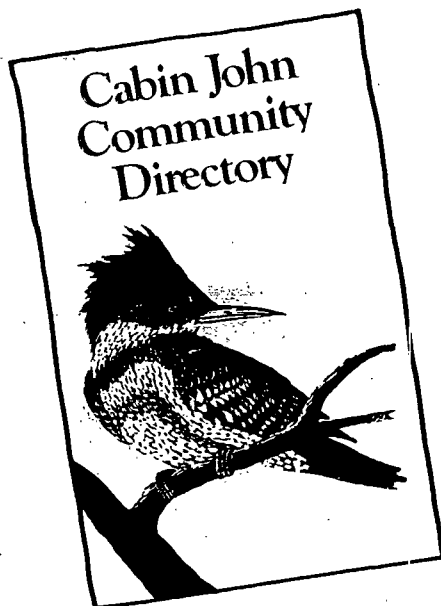
Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

October 1995

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

### **ON THE AGENDA:**

- Update on community development projects
- Proteus Bike Shop -coming or going?
- Parking problems at the shopping center and other pertinent traffic issues.



The new Cabin John Directory is now available for dues-paying residents. It is an excellent compendium of your neighbors' phone numbers, addresses, and a great variety of local businesses, professionals, and tradespeople. Your dues support the publication of the Directory as well, the monthly printing and distribution of *The Village News*, and other activities supported by the Cabin John Citizens Association.

The new directory can be obtained by paying your annual dues, \$7.00 per individual or \$10.00 per family. We are grateful to Fred and Judie Mopsik, and Cherry Doyle, who worked tirelessly to get the directory printed in time for the Crab Feast.

Call Elaine Tama (229-8733) or Fred or Judie Mopsik (320-2111) to arrange pick-up of your directory.

If you have a correction or update to the Directory, please notify Fred Mopsik at 320-2111. The December issue of *The Village News* will contain an update page that you can insert in your Directory.

## **CRAB & CHICKEN FEAST 1995 BREAKS TWO MONTH DROUGHT!**

On Saturday, September 9, a hot sunny humid day at the tail end of a very hot, humid and dry summer, 300 hungry and thirsty Cabin Johners feasted on crab, chicken, vegetables, hot dogs, lemonade, soda, beer, and dessert. The Feast went from 2:00 until 6:00 and one of the most memorable parts of the day was at 6:00 when a torrential rainstorm came down. It marked not only the end of the crab feast, but also the end of the long, 2 month drought. It was quite a scene. The fire truck arrived promptly at 6:00 to wash down the lot. Water - both vertically and horizontally - was everywhere! The kids and the dogs went wild! Several people remarked that it was the speediest clean up ever. Everyone pitched in to help and there wasn't a chicken bone or crab shell to be seen.

We would like to thank a lot of people - some of whose names we do not know. To those not mentioned in the following list, a big thank you to you also.

Some of the Cabin John volunteers who helped make this year's feast happen were: Jan Smith, Stan Schaper, Diane and Mark Leatherman, Tom Green, Judie and Fred Mopsik, Gene, Nicky and Sarah Wright, David Murphy, Reed and Barbara Martin, Maureen Willoughby, Tricia, Nick and Alexander Peters, Adrian Dalingwater, Mark Weiner, Rick Hatch, Frank Casamento, Moe Jellema, Linda Green, Betsy Cheney, Veronica McCandless, Mandy Mitchell, Clare Amoruso, Liz Clark and her 2 children, Cathy Siefken, Andy and Connie Rice, Kay Kemp, Margaret Phillips, Elaine Tama, Paul Bishop, Mary Gordon Smith, Tom Howard, Duff Marquardt, Meredith Griggs, Harry Rieckelman, Linda Smith, Larry Heflin and Eliza Griggs and her friends.

A special thanks to Clara Barton Center Director, Mary McConnell and Assistant Director, Liz Clark whose cooperation was so helpful and invaluable. Also a special thank you to Margaret Phillips who went beyond the call of duty in selling so many advance tickets.

At the next Citizen's Association meeting, donation from the Feast proceeds will be voted on by the membership. A financial statement on the Crab Feast appears elsewhere in this *Village News*

## Looking Backwards in Cabin John

What was going on 25 years ago in Cabin John?

A look at the Village News for October 1970 makes clear that a great deal was going on. In fact, our community, although considerably smaller than it is today, seems to have had more community activities. (Or perhaps the Village News had more volunteer reporters who kept the editor better informed?) Here are some of the highlights of the October calendar 25 years ago:

**October 6** - a Brownie meeting at 3 p.m. and also a meeting of the Cabin John Home Study group at 8 p.m., both at the Clara Barton School. Home Study reported that it had raised \$610 at the Crab Feast which would be applied to sending 44 Cabin John children to summer camp. (Incidentally, the writer of this column thanks Diane Leatherman for correcting my recent history of the Crab Feast by pointing out that 1970 was its first year.)

**October 11** - The VFW post is holding a dinner at the school "to raise funds for the relief of some Cabin Johners who are in ill health or financial need." The VFW also announced its annual Halloween dance on October 30 at the Post Hall on MacArthur Boulevard near Great Falls.

**October 19** - All the Democratic candidates for the Montgomery County Council are scheduled to appear at an evening forum at the recreation center. (Ed. Note: The center used to stand near the tennis courts but burned down later.)

**October 26** - "International Relations" is the theme of the Potomac Valley Homemakers meeting at the home of Jane Winslow on Caraway Street.

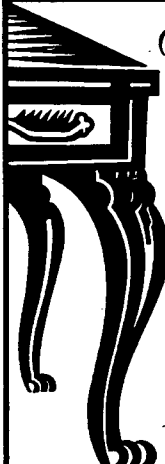
**October 27** - A Town Meeting, sponsored by the Citizens Association, is scheduled at the school to introduce Cabin John's new town planner and to get citizen input on what the community wanted regarding Cabin John's zoning and future development. (Ed. Note: The Association had received a grant from the County to undertake this planning process which culminated in a community plan agreed to in 1973 and formally adopted by the County Council.)

**October 31** - Cabin John Swap Day! Everyone was invited to take part in this community-wide yard sale held on 76th Street between 12 noon and 4 p.m. The rules were simple:

1. Price your own things.
2. Bring your own change.
3. Haul away whatever doesn't sell.

The October 1970 Village News also had an interesting story about the formation of the Cabin John Development Corporation. This non-profit body had been established "to raise mortgage funds for the purchase of and improvement of homes in Cabin John as they came on the market." And one of its specific goals was "to engage Cabin John residents in the reconstruction of properties as they are acquired." The news story asked local carpenters, plumbers, lathers, painters, masons, and electricians interested in working with the group to contact the corporation's secretary. (Ed. Note: Does anyone know what happened to this group?)

*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.*



We'll repair it right in your home, right away, at just the right price.

Let the experts at Guardsman WoodPro repair and restore the beauty of your wood furniture, wood work or kitchen cabinetry quickly, affordably, and without ever having to remove it from your home.

- ◆ Nearly 80 years of wood care experience
- ◆ Bonded and certified technicians
- ◆ Money-back satisfaction guarantee
- ◆ Free phone estimates

**(301) 320-0986**

**GUARDSMAN  
WOOD<sup>TM</sup>  
PRO**  
*Professional wood repair  
that comes to you.*

Recommended By  
The Washingtonian  
and Potomac Almanac

**Mr. Chow's**

Open seven days  
for Lunch & Dinner  
Daily lunch Special  
\$ 3.95  
Dinner Entree \$ 5.75

7945 MacArthur Blvd.  
Cabin John, MD

Tel (301) 320-4001

# Neighborhood Events

## OPEN HOUSE

Bannockburn Cooperative Nursery School  
November 11, 1995, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Meet our teachers, co-oping parents, and students, and sign up for our 1996-1997 classes for 2 to 5 year olds.

Bannockburn Nursery School has an immediate opening in the current 3/4 year old class, which meets Monday - Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. For information, call 320-4252 or 229-8395.

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

## GROWING DEER POPULATION TO BE DISCUSSED

Montgomery County created something called the White-tailed deer Task Force in 1993. The Task Force published a report last year and will conduct public information meetings to discuss it's conclusions. This may be of interest to Cabin John residents because of the apparent increase in the number of deer in Cabin John Park.

Problems caused by too many deer include car accidents, damage to crops and gardens, stress on natural diversity, and Lyme disease.

Some yards along the park in Cabin John were stripped of daylilies and hostas in June by a local herd of deer.

The meetings will be held Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30-10:00 at Gaithersburg High School and on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30-10:00 at Churchill High School in Potomac.

We hear that coyote and bear are also starting to appear in some suburban areas. That could give a person pause before going out at night to shoo a trash can raider.

## NEWS FROM THE CLARK BARTON TEEN CENTER

A new season of activities has begun at the Teen Center. Our Citizens Association receives a \$9000 grant from the Montgomery County Recreation Department for the Teen Center- located in the Clark Barton Recreation Center. Last year we sponsored numerous parties with DJs and concerts with live bands, as well as a Pizza party, and Sub party and a Chinese Carry out Dinner. Many events are supported by our local merchants, such as Mr. Chow's, The Market of the Boulevard, and Pizza Hut. For the last concert of the school year we raffled off a bike, compliments of the Proteus Bike Shop. There are two teen lounges - one for middle school students and one for high school students. The lounges have comfortable furniture, televisions and CD players, and are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school, and Friday evenings from 7-10:30 pm. Field trips and organized sports are being planned. Encourage your teenagers to drop by.

On September 29 we held our opening event - a middle school party, with entertainment provided by a local DJ. Over 125 kids came for an evening of music, dancing and pizza. If you missed the last party, watch for the next announcement in school, or stop by the Teen Center to find out what's happening. Tutoring in math, English and foreign languages is also available provided by community volunteers. Call the Teen Center at 229-0010 to schedule an appointment.

The Director of the Teen Center is Dave Post who grew up in Montgomery County, and graduated from college in June. Linda Jones, a middle school teacher in Montgomery County is Assistant Director. Let them know what kinds of activities you would like the Teen Center to sponsor.

## TEEN CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There is a vacancy on the Teen Center board for an adult resident of the community. There are 6 meetings held each year, and we need community support for planning activities and managing funds. Please call Judie Mopsik at 320-2111 to be considered for the Board.

In January there will be an opening for the position of Volunteer Coordinator. June Spencer will be stepping down from this position and will train someone to take over the job. Community volunteers help chaperone all major activities. June has developed a good roster of volunteers, but we need someone to coordinate the program. Step forward to help your children and your community. The Teen Center has been successful because residents have supported it. Please don't let us down.

## FURNITURE NEEDED FOR TEEN LOUNGES

If you can donate furniture in very good condition that is appropriate for a Teen lounge, please call June Spencer at 229-6496.

# WIN A \$50 CO-OP

**ENTER TODAY** Win your choice of organically-grown foods of all kinds, 150 bulk items, over 150 cheeses, breads fresh daily, vitamins, books, herbals, supplements and more! Drawings every Friday this month at 6pm. Winners notified by phone.

## SHOPPING SPREE!

Seven Locks Rd at MacArthur Blvd  
Mon-Sat 9-9, Sun 9-7 Call 320-2530  
Visa, MasterCard & Most CJ

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**BETHESDA CO-OP**  
Natural Food Market

100% FOR PEOPLE  
Serving the Community Since 1975

## The Thompson Team

*This article about Cabin John residents Betty and Charley Thompson is a continuation from last month's Village News. It is 1951 and the Thompsons purchase the house they had been renting in Cabin John.*

And quite a house it is. An architect, Rocky Woods, built it for himself in the 1930's, using hewn logs rescued from old Pennsylvania farmhouses being torn down. Mr. Woods had spent several years in Sweden and built the house to resemble houses he had seen there. The logs are painted white, and the roof is shingled. On the inside, walls, floors, and hardware reflect loving handwork. Mr. Woods' father was a master coppersmith and ironworker who made all the hinges, handles, and latches seen everywhere in the house. The architect also erected—in the form of a gatehouse—the matching smaller building that sits right on Riverside Drive; this was originally his father's forge.

The Thompsons have faithfully preserved the house in its original form. Turning a garage into a study has been one of the few changes. Many windows and doors give a wonderful view of the canal and river. Some years ago, when Cabin John had a house tour, the Thompsons' house was opened and enjoyed by many visitors.

Back in 1951, Betty and Mrs. Riner opened an antique shop in the building that is now the Wild Bird Center. Their Grand Opening was graced by the President's wife, Bess Truman. Afterwards Mrs. Truman often visited the shop, looking for a special kind of glass she collected. She loved rocking chairs and always spent a few minutes in one of their rockers. "Then we could tell customers that Mrs. Truman sat in the chair, and we sold a lot of chairs that way. Sometimes Mrs. Riner or I would go out into the countryside looking for antiques, but mostly we bought from a woman who went to Pennsylvania three times a week and brought back good things that she sold to us at low prices; she kept us well supplied."

At the same time that Betty had the antique shop, her friend Dr. Zack Sanders had his office in the back part of the building. His secretary was Jo Havens.

After a few years, Betty left the antique shop. "I was too busy. Toby was in school at Beauvoir and then at St. Albans, and I was picking him up every day. Also I was a Democratic party worker and during the campaigns I was very busy."

Dr. Thompson became president of the Fire Board. "We had a second-hand ambulance and two engines. The Cabin John station was all volunteers then, and they were good, too. Tuohey's was a friendly place to have a beer and socialize with your neighbors."

Bill White had been taking care of the yard and garden for the Riners since he was 14 years old. When the Thompsons moved in he continued to beautify their property, and did so for decades. When Bill and Celeste



*Betty and Charley Thompson on their patio overlooking the C & O Canal*

Swedenberg organized the first Cabin John Crab Feast, he got Betty involved in helping. When Bill became ill with Parkinson's, he moved in with the Thompsons for a while and then Charley found a hospital for him in Baltimore. "He was a member of the family."

Betty's mother came to live with the Thompsons after her husband's death, and made her home with them for the rest of her life.

The Thompsons' part of Cabin John was deep in the woods. "Down the hill on the Canal was the lock house and two other small houses. Chris Gates lived in one of them. Charlie often went fishing with the men who lived there. Later those other two houses were torn down by the Park Service. All around us was the woods, and it was full of deer, foxes, birds. Toby and his friends liked to camp in the woods. There were three other houses on Riverside Drive; our neighbors were the Halls, DeGolias, and Claghornes. Riverside Drive continued from our house around through the woods and out to MacArthur, about where the veterinarian is now. And then in the late 50's came the biggest disaster of our lives—the Parkway.

Landscape Design • Installation • Decks  
Retaining Walls • Maintenance • Hauling • Gutters

HUGHES

LANDSCAPING

7810 WOODROW PLACE  
CABIN JOHN, MARYLAND 20818

JOHN HUGHES  
229-5111

An army of men with axes and saws descended on the woods. No more camping, no more peace and quiet, no more country."

Dr. Charles Thompson was in active practice for 50 years, including his time in the Navy. He taught at GWU Medical School for many years and is now Clinical Professor Emeritus. He retired in 1991 at 75. "I never considered being anything but a doctor. From the time I was 16, I used to drive my father when he made house calls. You have to have a love and a drive to be in medicine, because a doctor's life is a hard one, starting with medical school. Medical school was never easy for me; believe it or not, I still dream about taking those killer anatomy exams."

For years, son Toby has lived in the little house next to the road. He is a versatile writer and a professor of English at Penn State, spending frequent weekends in Cabin John.

Poor health keeps the Thompsons restricted these days. They enjoy their beautiful house on the canal and keep the doors and windows wide open on a warm September day. "This has been a good home for us, and there couldn't be a better place to live than Cabin John."

Barbara Martin

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION CRAB FEAST

September 1995

<b>INCOME</b> .....	\$3,043
Ticket sales.....	\$2,439.
Hot Dog sales.....	50.
Beer and Soda sales.....	236.
Lemonade sales (net).....	316.
<b>EXPENSES</b> .....	(\$2,493)
Chicken.....	\$280
Vegetables.....	257
Grill rental and cooking items.....	143
Food items.....	198
Beer and soda purchases.....	126
Moon Bounce rental.....	168
Hot dogs.....	34
Table rentals.....	329
Crabs.....	605
Hall rental.....	300
Tickets (printing).....	53
<b>NET INCOME</b> .....	\$550

Discover the  
*Difference*  
experience  
makes!!

Why take a chance on inexperience?  
Choosing the wrong agent can cost you more than sleepless nights, it can cost you lots of \$\$\$.

For the biggest return on your housing investment, hire the best.

My sound advice and attention to detail can help you get the most for your house.

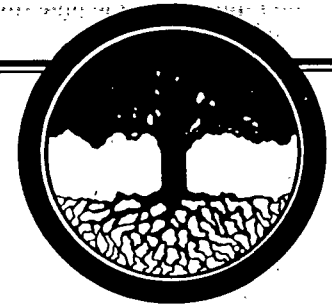


*Barbara Abeille*

(301) 320-5391 Home  
(202) 362-5800 Ofc.  
(301) 303-5199 Voice Mail

When you need results . . .

**P A R D O E**  
R.E.A.L. E.S.T.A.T.E. I.N.C.



**LANDSCAPING**

*in harmony with your  
taste & budget*

Washingtonian Award Winner  
Unusual Design • Wood Decks •  
Brick & Stone Patios • Railroad  
Ties • Waterfalls & Pools •  
Unique & Beautiful Plantings

**Mark Willcher & Co.**  
**(301) 320-2040**

MD 13305

DC 726

*Thanks!*

Dear Neighbors,  
This store and the Wild Bird Centers of America franchise system, owe a profound debt of gratitude to the citizens of Cabin John. We would never have made it to 10 years without your loyal support.

**George Petrides**  
Owner and President



**\$5.00 Off**  
any purchase of  
\$25 or more  
Offer expires 12/31/95



**Wild Bird Center**

The ultimate bird feeding specialty shop™  
7687 MacArthur Blvd. • Cabin John  
Sun.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-6  
229-3141



**SUZANNE PARMELEE**

RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER, B. ARCH.  
REALTOR®, GRI

Preparation of Homes for Resale  
Custom Designs, Floor Plans

Kentlands/North Potomac

Office: (301) 975-9500

Home: (301) 963-9333

E-Mail: [parmelee@us.net](mailto:parmelee@us.net)

Voice Mail: (301) 930-3345



**PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY WORKS  
ABSOLUTE CONSTRUCTION CO.**

Recrown      Reline      Fireplaces  
Recap        Hearths    Fireboxes

- BRICK - STONE - REPAIRS -

6523 77th St.  
Cabin John, Md. 20818      (301) 871-0039

OH NO, not again

**If something is  
bothering you,  
Ask Doctor Bob**



Dear Doctor Bob,

My next door neighbor is a person whose psychological development has been stunted since about the age of 4. His family is dysfunctional, his pets are demented, he puts glossy advertising suppliments into the recycling bin, and he still buys bias ply tires. None of this really bothers me, though. After all, this is Cabin John where we value primitive unevolved behaviour. His home is his castle, architecturally flawed though it is. What really has me concerned is that when I try to politely point these things out to him in a reasonable manner he displays open contempt for the principle of freedom of expression. He won't listen or else becomes unreasonable. His disrespect for the free and open exchange of ideas is a threat to the entire community and I hope you and your readers will join me in the condemnation of this miserable moron.— *A Reasonable Neighbor*

Dear Neighbor,

If only there were more people like you who are willing to sacrifice the pretense of mere civility to fight for a higher moral principle. Just think what a peaceful world it would be. Your virtue ranks with that of many esteemed world leaders. The challenge posed by your neighbor is, no doubt, one that Providence has found you deserving of. What a waste it would have been to make you the neighbor of a normal reasonable person like Doctor Bob. Doctor Bob is thankful.

Condem thy neighbor—with the blessing of—  
*Dr. B.*

Doctor Bob is not an actual doctor but is willing to give cheap, sensible opinions about legal, financial, and personal matters, and stick his nose into every hornets nest and pit of vipers that beckons. Write to Doctor Bob c/o The Village News, PO box 164, Cabin John Md 20818

# No One Can Sell The Neighborhood...

## Like a Neighbor

- ❖ Licensed in Maryland, DC & Virginia
- ❖ Graduate Realtor Institute
- ❖ Certified Residential Specialist
- ❖ Knowledgeable and Professional
- ❖ Bi-Lingual (German and Spanish)



Quality service is a rare commodity. Yet, Traudel continues to distinguish herself with proven results time and time again. See for yourself the world of difference a commitment to excellence can make.

**CALL TRAUDEL LANGE**

**301-571-0532**

OR

**301-564-4900**



**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. Send news, advertisements, letters, and subscriptions to:

The Village News  
PO Box 164  
Cabin John, Maryland 20818

The next deadline is 10 AM Saturday November 11 for the issue mailing November 23rd. People who make *The Village News* possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin  
Contributors: Barbara Martin, Andy Rice, Judy Mopsik, Elaine Tama, Helen Daniel, Lori and Harry Rieckelman

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**LAWNWORKER/HANDYMAN WANTED:** With own transportation, Glen Echo area. \$8/hr. (202)720-8305, (301)299-8254.

**WANTED:** Small house to rent in Cabin John/ Glen Echo. Please call (703)904-1615.

Small non-profit adoption agency located in MacArthur Plaza (near Bethesda Co-op) is seeking a bright, organized PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST for friendly, team-oriented office. Excellent telephone skills required. Computer knowledge helpful. Approx. 30/hrs/wk. \$7.50-9.00/hr. Call Kim at (301)229-8300

**SALE:** Outdoor furniture by Brown Jordan. Dark teak, white cushions. Mission style. Table, chairs, lounge, love seat, etc. 320-3840.

Looking for mature and responsible babysitter for occasional daytime and evening hours. Home in Cabin John Please call: 229-7074.

**To place an ad in the Village News classifieds** send your ad before the first Saturday of the month to the address in the box above. The cost is 25¢ per word. If you have questions, call Jerry Rhodes at 320-5219

## The Glen Echo Baptist Church

Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, MD

Jesus Christ is our Lord, Saviour and God. He still performs miracles at the Glen Echo Baptist Church. A born again Fellowship. 229-4430.

**Sunday Morning:** Prayer 8:00, Family Sunday School 9:30, Worship and Praise, 11:00.

All are invited!!

**Sunday Evening:** 6:00 Why we believe the Jewish Bible, 7:00 Praise, Testimonies, Worship, Singing.

**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.



*Let's Talk!*

**Eleanor Balaban**

**229-7990**

**To RESIDENTS IN ZIP CODE 20817**

**ARE YOU READING THE VILLAGE NEWS?**

Although all writing, editing, and production of Cabin John's newspaper is done by volunteers, the Village News costs \$5,500 a year to print and mail. The Citizens Association pays half of this cost.

According to our records, no people in 20817 have joined the Citizens Association for 1995. If you want to continue receiving *The Village News*, please return this form to:

VILLAGE NEWS  
PO BOX 164  
CABIN JOHN MD 20818

Check any or all boxes.

- I want to join the Cabin John Citizens Association. I have enclosed a check for my dues. (\$10 family, \$7 individual). A Cabin John directory will be delivered to me.
- I want to continue receiving the Village News.
- I want to contribute to the Village News. (Suggested \$5.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Neighborhood Services**

**ENTERTAINERS**

THE POTOMAC MUSICIANS Elegant wedding, party and reception music by flute, violin and cello trio, string quartet or piano. 229-5685.

**HAULING**

Reasonable, Yard/garage items. Lawn cutting and hedge trimming. Prefer small jobs. Call Ed, 229-1195.

Support The Village News and tell your neighbors about the services you offer with a Neighborhood Services listing

**Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cabin John, MD  
20818  
Permit 4210**

Resident  
6517 80th Street  
Cabin John, MD 20818