

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 29 No. 4

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

November 1995

Citizens Association Meeting Tuesday, November 28 at 7:30 at the Clara Barton Community Center

ON THE AGENDA

The next Citizens Association meeting will include a discussion of recent crimes in our area.

Cabin John's representative to the Bethesda Police District's Citizen's Advisory Board reports that there were two daytime residential burglaries in the 7600 and 7700 blocks of Tomlinson Ave. on October 16th and 23rd. Entry was gained through unlocked doors in both cases. Property that was taken suggests that the burglar was not a professional and may have been an area youth. It is our responsibility to secure our property and to thwart temptation as much as possible. Do not leave valuables in plain view through your residential windows or your car windows.

The Columbia First Federal Bank was robbed at about noon on October 20th. The robber has been described as a black male, 25-30 years of age, 5'5", 130-150 lbs., wearing his hair in dreadlocks. He showed a demand note to the teller and was carrying a large automatic handgun and wearing gloves. The robber was driving a Jeep which had been stolen one hour earlier in Rockville. The Jeep was abandoned two blocks from the bank, suggesting a second car and driver.

If you have any general, non-emergency questions or information regarding local police matters which can be addressed at the Advisory Board meetings, feel free to contact our representative, Susan Roberts, at 320-4451.

SUMMARY OF CJCA MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 24, 1995

Development Issues

The CJCA is investigating potential development plans for the Wild Bird Center lot and adjacent lot on MacArthur Blvd. The CJCA will write to the County Park and Planning Commission requesting that existing zoning be maintained and that any development be consistent with the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Development Plan.

A developer is interested in subdividing and building new houses on the property at 7814 MacArthur Boulevard. The CJCA is concerned that the existing house on the property may be of significant historical value, and would like the historical value of the house to be determined.

Proteus Bike Shop

Lease negotiations are on-going between the Proteus Bike Shop and the owners of the mall. The Proteus owner says he is committed to staying in Cabin John and has offered to buy the mall.

Traffic

In order to encourage motorists to stop at the 4-way stop sign at Tomlinson Aven. and Arden Rd., a recommendation was made that white lines be painted on the street.

New Business

The CJCA was informed of the armed robbery of the First Union Bank and the burglaries of two residences on Tomlinson Ave.

A suggestion was made that distribution of *The Village News* be discontinued to Cabin John residents in the 20817 area because of a perceived lack of interest of those residents, and the cost of mailing.

The CJCA decided to discontinue publication of editorial letters regarding an on-going dispute between two neighbors on Cabin Rd.

**If you paid your Citizen's Association
dues and have not received a directory,
call Fred Mopsik at 320-2111.**

Looking Backwards in Cabin John

Glancing through back issues of The Village News is a bit like surfing the Internet. You can get an overall view of our community and how it has changed over the years, but you can also stop when you want and read some of the especially interesting stories.

Recently I pulled out some of the November issues of the 1970's and 1980's. Here are some items that particularly caught my eye.

November 1971 - Cabin John is a "classroom" for an urban studies class at Walt Whitman High School. Seven seniors have been interviewing residents and studying the town's history, composition, activities, etc.

November 1972 - Announcement by the editor: "We need a deliverer to the 100 houses in Cabin John Gardens. This will earn some lucky person \$1 every month."

November 1974 - The News announces that curbside pickup of newspapers for recycling will begin in Cabin John the following January, with a collection on one Saturday every month.

November 1975 - Headline: "The Latest on Airplane Noise" The story began: "The protests by the Cabin John community concerning 'noise pollution' by jet plane overflights brought about a meeting with officials from the FAA, the EPA and various elected officials. Success seemed within the grasp of the Cabin John protesters . . . when the FAA announced that henceforth planes heading south and west from National Airport would veer toward Virginia before reaching this area.

"Unfortunately, Virginia residents, including Senator Edward Kennedy, were not enthusiastic about this proposal. They held a protest meeting too. FAA acting chief James E. Dow has now decided to take noise level measurements of the old and new systems and make the results available to citizens groups on both sides of the river before rerouting any planes."

November 1976 - All public transportation to Cabin John ended when the N-8 bus line, running along MacArthur Boulevard from Sibley Hospital to Persimmon Tree Road and up to Carderock, was discontinued due to lack of patronage. The line had been running since trolley service to Cabin John ended in 1960.

November 1978 - Community action helped defeat the location of a sewage treatment plant on the parkland north of Cabin John between Seven Locks Road and Cabin John Parkway. Said County Executive Gleason: "The public hearing testimony . . . convinced me that the adverse environmental and community impact of development of a sewage treatment plant at this location is too great to accept."

November 1982 - Announcement is made of plans for a rush hour minibus "feeder" service between Cabin John and the Metrorail station in Bethesda which would become operational in 1984.

November 1983 - "Cabin John Appreciation Night" is announced — a special meeting to present the history and lore of this community, with displays of historic photos, Indian artifacts, memorabilia from the old Cabin John Hotel, etc. [Ed. Note: There must be many new residents who'd enjoy such an evening again. Any organizers around?]

November 1984 - Alexis Gelb, age 8, is interviewed by Barbara Martin for her popular "People of Cabin John" column. Alexis was one of the two winners of the 1984 Cabin John T-shirt design contest; her entry was a cheerful representation of sun and flowers in bright yellow, green and red with the slogan "Cabin John Is My Place In The Sun."



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.

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Neighborhood Events

SPAGETTI DINNER sponsored by Cabin John VFW Ladies Auxilliary

at 11511 MacArthur Blvd. near Great Falls Park
 Friday evening, December 1 from 6 to 8 PM. \$6.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children ages 6-11 years, under 6 free.

CHRISTMAS EVE at Cabin John American - Chinese United Methodist Church

Big Christmas celebration at 7:30 pm on Sunday December 24 with carols, a Christmas drama, reading, music. The community is invited. Please come and celebrate with us.

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.

NEWS FROM THE CLARA BARTON TEEN CENTER

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL EVENT OF THE SEASON WINTER BAND JAM - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1995

Back by popular demand, the Dust Bunnies will perform at the Clara Barton Teen Center's first high school event of this school year with two other bands - Hive and Raw. Admission is \$3.00 and includes Pizza. Soft drinks will be 50 cents. All high school students are welcome.

HOMEWORK HELP CONTINUES

The Teen Center's tutoring program has become very successful. Students can get help with their homework on a drop in basis every Tuesday, and by appointment at any other time. Tutors works with each student individually.

NEW TEEN CENTER DIRECTOR

Stop by the Teen Center to meet Matt Shore, the new Director of the Teen Center. Matt grew up in Montgomery County, attended Good Counsel and Wheaton High Schools and graduated from the University of Maryland in 1994 with BA in Government and Politics. Matt has worked for the Recreation Department for over three years. If Matt's name sounds familiar, you might remember that he ran for the Maryland General Assembly in 1994. Matt's father, Frank Shore, represented Maryland's 17th District (Rockville/Wheaton) in the General Assembly for many years.

TEEN CENTER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

There are vacancies on the Teen Center board adult residents of the community. There are 6 meetings held each year, and we need community support for planning activities and making decisions regarding the raising and spending of funds. County by-laws require at least 6 adult members on the Teen Advisory Board. If we don't get your support we will lose our funding next year. Please call Judie Mopsik at 320-2111 to be considered for the Board. Your children really need your support.

In January there will be an opening for the position of Teen Center Volunteer Coordinator. June Spencer, will be stepping down from this position and would like to train someone to take over the job. All major teen center activities are chaperoned by both recreation center staff and community volunteers. June has developed a good roster of reliable volunteers, and now we need someone to coordinate the program. The job consists of assigning a group of volunteers to chaperon for the one main activity each month. This school year we have had two such events. Please step forward to help your children and your community. The Teen Center has been successful because Cabin John residents have supported the program. Please don't let us down.

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:

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
 PO BOX 31
 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 _____

Meet Susan Roberts

by Barbara Martin

She's a retired detective, with 25 years of police service. She's an accomplished horsewoman who rises before dawn during the hunt season. She's a musician, playing with a neighborhood chamber group and teaching piano to a blind boy. She's Susan Roberts.

Susan grew up in Leonia, New Jersey, across the George Washington Bridge from Manhattan. Her father was a biophysicist doing cancer research at Columbia. Her mother worked for Sir Aldo Castellani in tropical medicine. "Leonia is a town of about 6,000, one mile long. We had one elementary school and one high school, so of course I knew all the kids in town."

The family spent 2 years in England when Susan's father was sent to work on a cancer research project for the Department of Naval Research under General Eisenhower. The U.S. Government installed Susan's family in Winfield House (purchased from heiress Barbara Hutton), a huge mansion on 10 acres in the middle of Regent Park. "I was 5. My brother and I had a Swedish nanny, and the London Zoo was next door. The Scottish bagpipers practiced on the lawn, and I got my first bike." When the family returned to the United States, Winfield House became the official home of the American ambassador to England.

Susan started riding at 8. "I've always loved horses. My uncle had a couple of old work horses that he let me ride. When I was a teenager I bought a \$10 saddle which I put on a barrel and practiced posting."

Susan started college as a math major at Earlham, a Quaker school in Richmond, Indiana. "They had a good math department, but really I wanted to go there because they had 16 Morgan horses and a riding program. In high school I was in a math honors course but at Earlham I discovered in my first math class that it was too far ahead of me and it scared me away."

So Susan, who had taken piano lessons for years and had sung in the church choir, switched her major to music. But her enthusiasm was still focused on horses; she taught riding at college and at summer camps. When she graduated, her parents presented her with a round-trip ticket to Europe. She stayed 6 months, 3 of them at Talland Equitation School in England.

Back in the United States, she moved to Washington, D.C. "I had a boyfriend who lived here, and he had a horse." With another woman, she rented a 28' trailer in Darnestown, on the horse farm of Frank Stallone, father of Sylvester. "Yes, I knew him, but I was more interested in his father's horses."

She worked in Silver Spring at the American Institute for Research, reading proposals for police-community relations programs, and became interested in police work. A friend in Denver urged her to move there, and Susan

became a policewoman, one of the first hired by the Denver Police Department in 15 years. She took the Federal Civil Service exam and was accepted into the Washington, D.C. Police Academy. (At that time, the D.C. police department was Federally administered.)

"There were very few women on the force. I was assigned to the sex squad, taking the place of an officer who had been murdered. I worked at Headquarters where I sat at a desk and typed statements from rape victims. After a year of that, I got fed up and insisted I wanted to do the whole investigation. I organized the other police women and eventually we were given the same assignments as the men. A Rape Crisis Center was established. It helped that the ERA was big news at that time."

After 14 years as a detective with the Sex Offense branch, Susan was transferred to the Second District, the area west of Rock Creek. She did general investigations—assaults, thefts, burglaries, stalkings, and particularly robberies. (A robbery is a crime against a person; a burglary is a crime against someone's property.)

"I enjoyed my work. I never had a problem with getting respect; a confident approach was always effective. I have had selfdefense training but have never had to use it. There was one woman—she was small but high on PCP—who attacked me and my partner; we needed three sets of handcuffs to subdue her."


Susan's college minor, psychology, was a good background for police work. "You become a practical psychologist. You know when people are lying. You develop a "tune-in" if things don't look right. You pay attention, develop your powers of observation, become a good judge of character."

From 1978 to 1993, she was the highest ranking female detective on the D.C. police force. "I never took the promotion test because I didn't want to be in administration. I wanted to do the work I loved—solving cases." A year ago, she retired after 25 years on the force.

Since then she has taken several limited-time jobs. One was working in Washington Hospital Center's organ and tissue donation unit, as liaison between families and the hospital. She has also done private investigations.

In March she went on safari to Tanzania for 17 days, traveling in a van and photographing wildlife. Now she's

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Susan Roberts, *continued*

looking at travel brochures of New Zealand. She has taken courses in forensic science and is currently studying at the Levine School of Music to improve her piano teaching skills.

When Susan first moved to this area, her dad gifted her with her first horse. "It was an old Palomino he paid \$200 for." Since then she's had half a dozen horses and loved them all.

She has been foxhunting for 20 years with the Potomac Hunt. Their territory is upper Montgomery County. "In the U.S., hunting is the thrill of the chase; there is no intention of killing—it's not a blood sport. The fox gets away 99 percent of the time." Susan rides three or four times a week and keeps her horse stabled at the farm of a friend.

Her chamber music group plays together regularly. Andy Rice is the cellist, Susan the pianist, and there are a violinist and a flute player. "We need another violinist. If anyone in Cabin John is interested, please call me."

Susan moved from Bethesda to MacArthur Park 8 years ago. She is a regular at Citizens Association meetings and is the community's liaison with the County police. Retirement for Susan has meant no less activity, just more varied expressions of her considerable interests and energy—a lady on the go.

Word has come from Monica Howard Blume of the death of her mother, **Carmen Howard**. The Howards lived on 83rd Place (renting the Lichtblau's house) from 1971 to 1974. Bob and Carmen Howard were presidents of the PTA at Clara Barton Elementary School, where Monica and Sean were students. Older siblings attended Pyle and Whitman; there are seven Howard sons and daughters.

The family came to the Washington area from Montana when Bob, a Blackfeet Indian, became director of the Office of Native American People, part of HEW. When Bob died of a heart attack in 1974, Carmen moved back to Montana. She died of lung cancer September 24, on what would have been the Howards' 46th wedding anniversary.

Monica said that her mother and all the family had warm memories of their years in Cabin John and considered the town a real home to them.

Betty and Charley Thompson, residents of Cabin John since 1951, both passed away in the last month. The Thompsons were featured in a *Village News* interview by Barbara Martin that appeared this past September and October.

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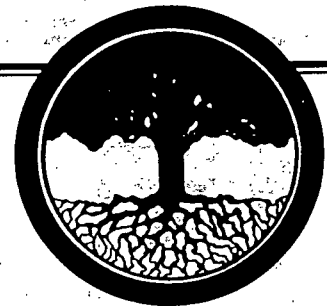


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CABIN JOHN BIORAPHIES

The library of the Montgomery County Historical Society has a new acquisition: a collection of interviews with 35 residents of Cabin John. All but a few of these people have lived in Cabin John for most of their lives.

The interviews were conducted by Barbara Martin, a Cabin John resident since 1970, and were originally published in *The Village News*.

Those whose stories are part of the collection are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1982 | 1986 |
| Worsham, Buck and Irene | Chandler, John |
| Carlantonio, Tony | Williams, Gar |
| 1983 | Harris, Danny |
| Graham, Sid | Last Clara Barton class |
| Marshall, Thelma | 1991 |
| Duff, Panya | Hunter, Pete |
| Lawrence, Betsy | Shaw, Geraldine |
| Kyle, Elizabeth | 1993 |
| Bart, Peter | Rice, Andy |
| Nicholson, Mike and Trudy | 1994 |
| Hearn, Cathy and | Havens, Josephine |
| Johnson, Daniel | Swedenburg, Celeste |
| Forestell, Lauren | Long, Olga |
| 1984 | Fyock, Laveta |
| Prather, Margaret | 1995 |
| Wheelock, Anne | Mater, Wilma |
| Fraze, Wayne | Thompson, Betty and |
| McKinney, Frank | Charles |
| Dodds, Mac and Vera | |
| Shuff, Bill | |

- 1985**
- Willoughby, Maureen
Kemp, Kay and Ray
White, Bill
Luzuriaga, Luis and Martina
Schlafman, Tevy
Gallagher, Hugh



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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 January 6 for the issue mailing January 18th.

People who make *The Village News* possible:

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

Does that star spangled banner yet wave?

The Cabin John VFW puts American flags along MacArthur Boulevard on patriotic holidays. They have been doing this for at least 25 years. John Barrett of the VFW reports that in the big windstorm of November 11, about a dozen flags were blown out of their holders. Six are still missing. If anyone has taken a flag into their home for safekeeping, please call 299-5547 and someone from the VFW will pick up the flag.

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

The next Village News will appear in January.
 The deadline for articles and advertisements submitted
 for publication is Saturday, January 6, 1996
 There will be no meeting of the Cabin John Citizens
 Association in December.
 The next meeting will be January 23rd.

Neighborhood Services

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 cutting and hedge trimming. Prefer
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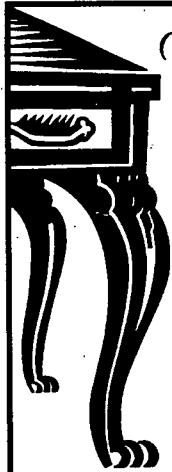
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