

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 30 No. 5

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

January 1997



*This sad message appeared at the empty parking lot beside the Union Arch Bridge on the last day of 1996.*

## Tony DiCarlantonio 1901-1996

Biagi DiCarlantonio, known as "Tony", immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1922. He worked as a streetcar mechanic for Capitol Transit until his retirement in 1955. He sold produce at the Union Arch Bridge for close to thirty years. He was a kind, generous humanitarian and an inspiring example to those who knew him.

## Citizens Association Meeting January 28, 1997

- The future development of the Wild Bird Center site
- The creation of an archive on development/zoning matters in Cabin John will be discussed. Cabin John residents are encouraged to preserve significant development documents and bring copies to the January meeting.
- Aircraft noise and recent efforts by the group Citizens Against Aircraft Noise.
- Results of the survey asking for ideas about allocating CJCA funds.

## Summary of CJCA Meeting Minutes - November 26, 1996

### Development Issues

- Laverne Baptist, Postmaster for Cabin John, described the renovations at the Post Office expected to be completed by the end of February.
- The value of the creeks and watersheds in Cabin John was discussed.
- Veterinary clinic on MacArthur Blvd denied request for a zoning "special exception".

### Funding Issues

- \$100 was given to fund the Christmas Party.

## SHOPPING CENTER CHANGES

- The Post Office is expanding to include the adjoining space, formerly occupied by Market on the Boulevard. The Market has moved two doors down.
- The former Proteus Bikes space is now home to Tina's Gallery, the art and framing business previously located on the second level. Mr. Chow's has left, replaced by another Chinese restaurant, Lucky Garden. In March, First Union bank will close its Cabin John branch.
- The Washington Post reported that Hannibal's parent corporation is filing for bankruptcy and will close some stores. We don't know if our Hannibal's will be closed.
- The Wild Bird Center is moving to two new locations, one in Potomac Village where Sutton Out is now, and a second in Bethesda. See LETTERS on page 7.

## CJCA Financial Summary

**Crab Feast** - This year CJCA netted \$2,218, a fourfold increase over the 1995 net income of \$550 and almost three times as much as the 1994 Crab Feast proceeds.

**CJCA** - The fiscal year ending 6/30/96 resulted in a net loss of \$1,583, which can in large part be attributed to the low 1995 Crab Feast net income. The Association made contributions to the Village News (only \$1,000 because of the Village News' increased advertising revenue), the Potomac Conservancy (\$1,000 for the restoration of the C&O Canal), \$150 to the Cabin John Fire Department, and \$150 to the Cabin John/Brookmont Nursery School. Under the leadership of Helen Daniel, former Treasurer, a beautification program was completed which utilized the remaining balance in the Beautification Fund along with a Montgomery County grant of \$250. See balance sheets on pages 3 and 6

## Looking Backward in Cabin John

### A January Potpourri

By Andrew E. Rice

These mid-winter days there seems to be a bit more time to go back over the old records of the Cabin John Citizens Association, the Clara Barton PTA, and, of course, the Village News. The other day we looked particularly at some of the documents of January's past and picked out a few items that give us snapshots of Cabin John as it used to be.

In January 1971, for instance, the Village News reported that plans had been unveiled proposing a 400-unit three story star-shaped building to be built on the Polinger tract (the then vacant land south of MacArthur Boulevard between Cabin John Gardens and the animal hospital) to be used as a senior citizens home. The plans were being opposed by the Cabin John Citizens Association (and eventually were turned down by government authorities).

In the same month the PTA minutes revealed that the organization had \$186.67 in its treasury and that a bake sale was being planned for February. (The Executive Committee had voted to buy a curtain rod and provide drapes for the school library.) The minutes also reported the good news that a stop sign had been installed at the corner of 76th Street and Arden Road.

Big news in the January 1972 Village News was the square dance held to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the birth of Clara Barton. "Cabin Johners of all ages - from 80 plus to 2 year olds - do-si-doed and Virginia Reeled," the paper reported.

The January 1973 News featured photos from the community holiday party of the preceding month. A surprise feature of the party was a "This Is Your Life" presentation for Celeste Swedenburg, in which the community thanked her for the many years during which she had organized programs for the benefit of Cabin John's children. (Congratulations, Celeste; you're still going strong.)

A whole page in the January 1974 paper was devoted to delicious recipes submitted by Cabin John residents. (Note to Kay Kemp: I intend to try your candied fruit cookies. Note to the editor: Why not again invite readers to send in their favorite recipes for publication?)

Skipping ahead a bit, the January 1983 Village News disclosed that a "Cabin John House Tour" was being planned for the spring. Cabin John families would open their homes of particular historical or architectural interest for a Sunday afternoon walking tour to raise money for the 3-and-4-year-old school. The paper also reported that a contract had at last been awarded "to improve, level, and widen Seven Locks Road between Lilly Stone Drive and MacArthur Boulevard." (Five years earlier, on January 28,

1978, a march had been organized in Cabin John opposing the then plan to take land on the west side of the road - where houses are - for the widening. Justice eventually prevailed after many, many months, and the road was now to be widened on the east, parkland side.)

The headline in the January 1985 paper was that bus service to Cabin John would start again on January 28. (Since 1976, when the old N-8 bus line had been discontinued, the community had been without public transportation.) Bus fare was to be 60 cents, with a 10 cents charge for a transfer.

January 1988: Cabin John residents are invited to a meeting on how to fight the gypsy moth caterpillar. The pest was threatening trees throughout our area. . . .

Which brings almost up to date. Musing: Will the events of January 1997 appear in some future historian's account?

### And A Good Time Was Had by All!

An old Cabin John tradition was re-initiated on December 15 when many community members, young and old, gathered for a holiday party at the Clara Barton Center. The Center's big room had been decorated for the season, largely through the efforts of Blythe Leatherman and Constance Griggs, and a handsome Christmas tree was the focus of attention. Diane Leatherman was the indispensable organizer.

Music was offered by a talented duo - Susan Roberts on the keyboard and Vera Dolezal on the violin (she also lent the keyboard) - and group singing of familiar holiday songs was led by the enthusiastic Barbara Martin. A special feature was the recitation by Peter Vogt, with audience participation, of a long-standing Christmas tale about Santa Claus.

And yes, Santa Claus did make an appearance in person and drew out of his sack little bags of goodies for all the small children present (and some of the larger ones too!) There were some who said that S. Claus looked suspiciously like Andy Rice.

Liquid refreshments were organized by Bob and Lisa Norris, with paper goods supplied by Allen Alexander with the help of a gift certificate donated by Giant Food.

Bob Norris also produced the handsome flyers announcing the party, while Reed Martin did yeoman service in distributing them widely throughout our town.

The warm welcome given to the party by Liz Clark and others on the staff of the Clara Barton Community Center made all arrangements go easily. And the Clara Barton Center for Children provided a variety of simple handicraft opportunities which kept children happily occupied when there were lulls in the program events. Others who gave important support in planning and carrying out the party included Jo Alexander and Connie Rice.

**CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENSES**

	FYE 6/30/96	FYE 6/30/95
<b>Income</b>		
Advertising	\$980.	\$650.
Contributions	89.	1,084.
Crab Feast Income	551.	1,105.
Dues	1,762.	1,001.
Interest	69.	295.
T-shirt sales	130.	230.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,581.</b>	<b>4,365</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank charges	57.	
Beautification	389.	
Contributions	2,150.	3,859.
Miscellaneous	0.	54.
Office	736.	
Printing	1,832.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,164.</b>	<b>3,913</b>
<b>NET INCOME(LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$1,583.)</b>	<b>(\$452.)</b>
Bank Balance	\$2,245.	\$3,828.

**PIANO WANTED FOR COMMUNITY CENTER**

Do you have an upright or spinet that you don't use any more? Would you be willing to donate it to the Clara Barton Center? If it's out of tune or needs repair, that's fine. Reed Martin, who in one of his previous lives was a piano tuner and repairer, has offered to see that the piano gets into playable condition. We will be responsible for picking up and transporting the piano to the Center.

The piano will be kept in the Senior Room for their enjoyment and will be rolled into other rooms for special occasions. In other words, it will be well taken care of.

Your donation is tax-deductible. Please call Reed or Barbara Martin at 229-3482.

**WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?**

The Village News would like to have a column reporting events in the lives of Cabin Johners. We want to know of births, deaths, marriages, people moving away, new neighbors—any items that will help us to strengthen the

small town neighborliness we treasure in Cabin John. Please call Barbara Martin, 229-3482, with news from your family or from your street.

**Join or Renew**

Please take the time to renew your CJCA membership - the dues are still only \$7.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family. We also solicit donations along with your dues, which will ensure that the Association has funds available for our annual contributions to the *Village News* and other worthy causes during the year. The Citizens Association would like to hear what you think should we should be supporting.


Send your dues, donations, and suggestions to: CJCA, PO Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818.

Elaine Tama, Treasurer

On December 22, Cabin John lost longtime resident, **Cynthia Carter**, when Ms. Carter died from cancer. Many of us may have known her, but not known of her many accomplishments that were attested to by family and friends at the service held in her memory. I knew her as many others in town did, because many years ago, our sons were close friends. I was so glad that recently we had taken time to have a catch-up conversation at the Bethesda Co-op. Cynthia was a physicist and a champion fencer; in fact, just this October she placed second in foil in a contest that was held in Germany. She did this even while suffering from undiagnosed cancer. Cynthia is survived by three sons, Aymar, Adriaan and Evert. Cynthia's mother and her son Evert are Cabin John residents.

*Diane Leatherman*

**Dr. Steven E. Clark**  
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## RALPH OSBORN Marketmeister on the Boulevard

by Barbara Martin

When Ralph Osborn was growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, it was an important industrial city. All the raw ingredients for steel making are found near Birmingham; coal mining was a huge industry. U.S. Steel had a plant there. Things have changed in Birmingham; the new medical center is now the largest employer in the area, followed by the local branch of the University of Alabama.

Ralph's father was a pharmacist who ran an apothecary; he had come to Alabama from his boyhood home in north Georgia. His mother, a nurse, stayed at home caring for Ralph and his sister, but when World War II came along, she went back to nursing. Ralph went through the public school system in Birmingham. "I didn't play sports in high school because I was too small. When I was 16, I was just 5'5"; but in the next 2 years, by the time I went to college, I had grown 7". Although Ralph was a city boy, he spent summers working on relatives' farms in the country.

"I thought I wanted to be a farmer, so at Auburn University I majored in agriculture—animal husbandry. Then I got more realistic and decided to switch to business administration."

The Korean War took him into the Navy for 3 years. He never got overseas; after Officers Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island, he did administrative work at the amphibious base at Norfolk. Ralph met his wife, Jo Ann, at Auburn. They were married in May 1957, between OCS and Norfolk.

About the time Ralph was due to finish his Navy time, he was recruited by Marriott for their food service department. His special field was hospital food service. After 3 years, he became District Manager for the area from Cleveland to Atlanta, responsible for 15 facilities. Marriott's regional headquarters were then on River. The Osborns had a house in Hillmead, Bethesda. Their daughter Allison was born in Norfolk; Ellen and Jimmy were

born while they lived in Hillmead. In 1967, they moved to Montgomery Square, near Falls Road and Montrose. Their youngest son, Frank, was born 2 years later. All the Osborn sons and daughters attended Wooten High School.

After 13 years with Marriott, Ralph left to become an independent consultant, working with food service businesses. "I always knew I wanted to be my own boss." In 1979, he opened a restaurant in Germantown which he operated for 5 years. "It was exhausting; I was working very hard 7 days a week." For 2 years he worked for Braun's Caterers in Hyattsville, and then in 1986 bought Fisherman's Market in Glen Echo. He changed the name to Glen Echo Seafood, and in the summer of 1993, looking for more room, he brought his store to Cabin John, renaming it Market on the Boulevard. "I wanted a name that would be of this community. My wife and her bridge club picked Market on the Boulevard, and I liked it."

The Market sells wines, breads and pastries, a wide variety of deli items, and some prepared foods, like roast chicken and lasagna. All their deli foods are made in the store. "We start making food at 6:30 and we open at 7. The early birds come in to get breakfast, and a newspaper, or sandwiches to take to work or on a day trip."

During the lunch period, the store is crowded with customers wanting such specialty sandwiches as the Great Falls sandwich, the Cabin John Club sandwich, or the Seven Locks sandwich. In warm weather, the barbecue pit in the parking lot tempts passersby with mouth-watering aromas. The Market stays open until 9 p.m. Between 4 and 7, people come in to pick up seafood or other food for dinner. Two carved benches outside the store invite people to enjoy an outdoor lunch. A third bench was "borrowed" one night, and the borrower hasn't remembered to return it. (P.S. A midnight return would be appreciated, no questions asked.)

Many Cabin Johners have been on the Market workforce. Ralph hires from the community. His one criterion is that the person wants to work; if so, they get a job. One town resident, Maureen Gidding, has been with the Market from the beginning. Currently there are over a dozen workers on the payroll—fulltime and parttime.

Ralph's family is heavily involved in the Market. Son Frank works there fulltime. Wife Jo Ann (in addition to



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directing the Bradley Hills Nursery School) helps with the books. Daughter Ellen comes in 3 days a week to make sandwiches during the lunchtime rush.

Although the Market is open 7 days a week, Ralph is supposed to be off Mondays and Tuesdays. But somehow he often shows up on his "off" days. "I work about 80 hours a week; it's all I know."

When the Post Office wanted to expand into the Market's space, Ralph moved three doors down, and now has a third more space. Three of the Osborn offspring are still in the area. Frank lives in Bethesda, Allison is in Mt. Airy, and Ellen lives off Glen Road in Potomac. Jimmy is in Nashville, where Ralph and Jo Ann recently visited for the baptism of Jim's baby. This latest grandson makes five grandchildren.

From the beginning, Ralph has been a generous and enthusiastic part of Cabin John. Since 1986 he has cooked the crabs for our Crab Feast. In the last 5 years when the Crab Feast has been held at the Clara Barton Community Center, the crabs have been cooked on site, luring people in with the wonderful aroma.

Ralph is a past president of the Bethesda Kiwanis Club, and worked with that organization for many years. Kiwanis sponsors such enterprises as camp for needy kids and a home for teenagers in troubled situations.

He doesn't take much time for hobbies, though he does have a 22' motorboat in Annapolis that he enjoys taking out. But there's no question that most of his energy and time goes to making Market on the Boulevard a place that Cabin Johners are glad is here.

## Clara Barton Childrens Center 21 years of caring in Cabin John

Founded in 1975, the Clara Barton Children's Center operates year round programs for children from ages 2 through 12. The preschool and child care programs for the youngest children (ages 2 to 5) are held in five, bright and cheerful rooms in the Clara Barton Community Center at MacArthur Boulevard and 75th Street. Currently 78 families have enrolled their children at this site.

The Kindergarten Enrichment Program and the Extended Day Program at the Concord School serve children who attend half-day kindergarten and grades one through six at local public schools, including Wood Acres and Bannockburn. A total of 69 children make up the two programs there.

There are Summer Camps at both locations. Both the preschool and kindergarten enrichment programs offer two week camp sessions. These begin in late June and continue until the last week of August. Children not enrolled during the school year are eligible for Summer Camp.

Special programs include a weekly music class, and a creative movement program. These supplement the daily experiences of art, cooking, language arts and the other activities planned by the staff of ten teachers. Every classroom opens onto one of two large well-equipped playgrounds for the children.

When two year old Andrew arrives three mornings a week, he greets one of his two teachers, Karin Webb. Karin has taught at Clara Barton Children's Center for 20 years. "Children I had as three year olds are now in col-

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## CLARA BARTON CENTER cont.

lege", says Karin. "A few of them have come back as teacher aides in the summer."

Alyx is in her third year at Clara Barton Children's Center. Her class is the oldest group, 4's and young 5's, better known as the "Eagles" class. Alyx's teachers, Ann Clemmitt and Monica Meyer, delight in the conversations among their 16 students. "These are joyous children who share their wondrous thoughts with us every day", Monica notes. Ann Clemmitt has taught at Clara Barton Children's Center for over 11 years. "Our children don't want to leave Clara Barton because of how happy they are in the program. I have always enjoyed teaching here because of the caring, interested parents and the experienced, professional teachers we have always had", Ann said.

The Center is a non-profit organization that is governed by a Board of Directors. All Board members are parents and they represent both the Preschool/Childcare and Kindergarten Enrichment/Extended Day programs. The Board recently hired Chris Scanlon as the new Director of Clara Barton Children's Center.

Before joining the staff of Clara Barton Children's Center, Chris was the Director of the Chevy Chase Baptist Church (CCBC) Children's Center for 13 years. Enrollment priority is given to Cabin John residents. The school also provides some financial aid. Chris invites Cabin John residents to visit or to call if they wish to volunteer or have talents to share.

CJCA Crab Feast Financial Statement  
INCOME AND EXPENSES

	Sept 1996	Sept 1995
<b>Income</b>		
Ticket Sales	\$3,958.	\$2,439.
Hot Dog Sales	0.	16.
Beer and Soda Sales	508.	238.
Lemonade Sales	329.	316.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,795.</b>	<b>3,009.</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Chicken	398.	280
Vegetables & food items	413.	455
Rentals & cooking items	170.	472.
Crabs	675.	605.
Hall rental	260.	300.
Printing	144.	53
Band	400.	0
Beer & Soda	117.	126.
Moon Bounce rental		168.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,577.</b>	<b>2,459.</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,218.</b>	<b>\$550.</b>

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The next deadline is 10 AM Saturday February 15 for the issue mailing September 20.

People who make the Village News possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin  
Contributors: Elaine Tama, Bur Gray, Diane Leatherman,

## LETTERS

Dear Friends,

When I opened the doors of the Cabin John Wild Bird Center in 1985, I never dreamed this little business could grow to over 100 franchise stores and how much I would owe the Cabin John community as a result. So many Cabin Johners provided so much help over such a long period of time that it is impossible to thank each person as I would like. So I hope you will regard this letter as a satisfactory expression of my gratitude.

This is a very difficult letter for me to write because by March 1st, the store will have moved to its new location near the Safeway in Potomac. It's important to me that you understand that we wanted to remain in our Cabin John home. We did our best to work with our landlord, extended the lease several times in the last two years and even had a purchase contract for the property at one time. However, our lan-

lord's financial goals and the accelerating physical deterioration of our little house eventually prevented our dream from coming true.

We may be moving to Potomac, but we aren't about to forget our roots. We trust that we will soon see our Cabin John friends at the new Potomac Place Shopping Center location. We also plan to open a new Bethesda store once site arrangements are concluded.

I and my staff tried our level best to be the kind of friend and business neighbor you wanted and deserved. My greatest hope is that we succeeded in reaching that goal. Your support over these 11 years has been a source of inspiration and, even though you aren't aware of it, I often brag about Cabin John as I speak to individuals and organizations across the country. Cabin John's generosity and community spirit brought out the best in all of us and that's the truth. Thank you.

George H. Petrides  
Proprietor  
The Wild Bird Center of Cabin John

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to thank all of the folks who responded to my request in the last Village News for help in giving a party for Special Education students at Kenilworth Elementary School in northeast D.C. Cabin John's generosity was overwhelming.

A special thanks to Jo Anne Bast, my old Scouting compatriot, and to "Santa" Everett Matthews who went along and helped to pull it off. We pined the nose on a reindeer, made words out of "Merry Christmas" and Christmas cards out of colored paper and glitter that was surplus from Kathy Andrie's classes at Glen Echo Park. Santa never went out of character, in spite of the unArctic temperature, until we were out of sight. We had Christmas cookies thanks to Sarah Hughes and cakes curtesy of Judy Holt; 72 candy canes and a large tin of popcorn from Hazel Geib. And all of the following provided gifts or favors so that each child could make two choices: Meredith Griggs; June Bender; Mandy Mitchell, Cathy Orme, and Barbara Neuser. Appreciation to Elizabeth Espino for \$20 which we left with the teacher to buy classroom supplies. Everett, Jo Anne and I felt pretty good on our way home.

Diane Leatherman

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**PIANO LESSONS:** Children and Adults welcome. My (Cabin John) studio or your home. Call Susan Roberts. 320 4451

**MATH TUTOR:** All levels. In your home or mine. Certified. Teaching experience in middle school, high school, and college. Afternoons or evenings available. Call Nancy Shaw at 320-6342.

**FOR RENT** 2 BR apt., 7630 Tomlinson Ave. Call 299-4187 for information

**Looking for young people** - or older ones - interested in pet care and/or helping with parties. MacArthur Park, call 320 4237.

**VIOLIN, PIANO and VIOLA STUDIO.** All ages and levels. Vera Dolezal 229-5685.

**Garage** or carport wanted to store antique vehicle. Ger Quinn 229-8030

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 cents 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

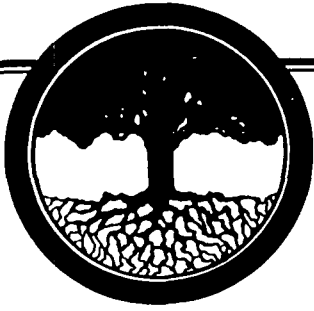
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