

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 30 No. 8

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

April 1997

CAAN Who?

More than fresh breezes come into our homes at this time of year when we start to open up our windows and spend more time outdoors. Screens can keep out the flies, but nothing can stop the noise from the fleet of antique jetliners still allowed to operate at National Airport. The CJCA is one of the member organizations of The Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise. We invited them to describe their efforts for *The Village News*.

The CAAN has been working for the past 10 years to control aircraft noise under local flight paths.

CAAN has had some notable successes like the favorable Supreme Court ruling on the role of Congress in our airports. However, these big achievements are the exception. The work is mostly a process of small steps leading to long-term changes.

Here are some of the things CAAN has done:

- Worked with Congressional representatives to add noise restrictions to the legislation creating the MWA
- Took Congress to the Supreme Court twice for violating the separation of powers provision of the U.S. Constitution—and winning both times
- Testifying at FAA hearings
- Worked with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to help devise solutions to the noise problem
- Established a direct working group with the FAA.

CAAN meets periodically with the FAA to discuss the Potomac Project which aims to combine the four regional airports (National, Dulles, BWI, and Andrews AFB) under one control center operating as a single airspace. This will allow the FAA greater flexibility in directing air traffic in the area. It could also improve efficiency in fuel use and flight scheduling, and it could reduce noise. CAAN is working to give citizens a say in where the planes go and what climb rates and descent profiles are used. CAAN intends to monitor progress on the project and to comment on the FAA's design. Anyone wishing to help should call the CAAN office at 301 320 5905.

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Celeste Swedenberg is home from the hospital and feeling stronger. She is on dialysis three times a week. **Eva Stolwein** and **Daniel Alper** were married April 6. They live in the Gardens.

Jack Vigrass and **Kim Debo Vigrass** have moved back to Cabin John from Germantown, with their two daughters. Jack works for the Madison Hotel, and Kim works in advanced cardiology.

Sarah Richardson won first place at the Montgomery County Debate League, and will be the first student from Whitman to compete in the national Tournament of Champions. Sarah is the daughter of Doug and Suzanne Richardson of Macarthur Boulevard.

Judy Miller is a new Cabin Johner. She has bought the house at the corner of 81st Street and Riverside Avenue. Judy works for AFL-CIO and is a runner, bicyclist, and kayaker.

Diane Leatherman last month had an article published in the Montgomery Gazette about her experience of being an "older mom."

Tiffany Manion has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Elon College in North Carolina.

Pat Stevens' house on Russell Road was severely damaged by fire. No one was hurt, and the house is being repaired.

Happy 90th Birthday to **Jo Havens**, a decades-long resident of 76th Place.

Joe Glen is on his way to his 56-year high school reunion. Joe has a part as a principal extra in Tim Allen's new movie, "For Better or Worse." For his role, Joe has grown a beard and long hair.

Liz and Ron Clark of 75th Place celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary.

Twins were born to **Courtney and Alan Rice**, 6423 78th Street, on February 28th. They are Matthew Harrison and Natalie Elizabeth.

This column will appear each month. If you have news about your family, your neighbors, or former Cabin John residents, please call Barbara Martin at 229-3482.

Cabin John Citizens Association Meeting

March 22, at the Clara Barton Center 7:30 pm

Looking Backward in Cabin John

Andrew E. Rice

This is the third and final selection of excerpts from *Time Was: A Cabin John Memory Book*, a collection of interviews with 18 Cabin John old-timers by Elizabeth Kytle which was published by the Cabin John Citizens Association at the time of the national bicentennial in 1976

The Cabin John Bridge Hotel

Although previous *Looking Backward* columns have frequently made mention of the famous Cabin John Bridge Hotel, these excerpts are in the words of Harry and William Bobinger, grandsons of the hotel's original proprietors.

"The hotel was started when they started building the Cabin John Bridge during the Civil War. My grandfather worked on the bridge as a stone mason, and my grandmother started a little eating place for the men... They lived right near the spot where the bridge was, and the workmen came there and ate. The word got around, and it kept growing and growing. When the bridge was finished, my grandparents stayed right there. The bridge was an attraction for people to come and see and take pictures of. (Editorial note: When the bridge was completed in 1863, it was the longest masonry arch in the world and it held this record for 40 years, during which time the Bobingers' modest eating place grew into a sumptuous establishment.)

"The hotel didn't have overnight guests after my parents took over. The lower part, the foundation, of the hotel was granite — the ratheskeller was all granite — but the main part of the building was wood... On the second floor were dining rooms, with the big banquet rooms at one end. They had a terrific rathskeller covering almost all the whole lower area, and they had many slot machines... They used to collect coins from the slot machines by the bucketful. And they didn't count it; they weighed it...

"The main dining room was on the first floor {with} a bar that ran the whole length of the hotel. My father had 17 bartenders and 40 waiters ... The food was very good, and the hotel was really famous for Maryland fried chicken and Potomac black bass. Maryland fried chicken is fried chicken in a white cream sauce, with curled strips of bacon on top. They used to serve it as 'fried spring chicken, Cabin John style.'"

(For clients who came out by street car from Washington to the end of the line on the other side of Cabin John Creek, the Bobingers built a cast iron foot bridge.)

"It was about a hundred feet south of the Cabin John Bridge, parallel to it... It had overhead horseshoes of lights all the way across the bridge, colored lights. People would get off the street car and come across the iron bridge to the hotel {garden which had several bandstands}. We used to have 30- or 40-piece bands in some of

these bandstands...

"I think from about 1895 to 1907 or 8 was the hotel's heyday time ... My father died in 1926... After that it was locked up tight, boarded up. It lay idle. And full of all that expensive stuff. And no insurance. (On the night of April 6, 1931, a fire of unknown origin broke out.) I remember looking out the window the night the hotel burned... The fire departments all came and they thought they could save at least the front end of it, but they couldn't... There were 33 fire engines there."

Building the Fire House

Mrs. Isaac Marshall tells Elizabeth Kytle how the fire house was started and built.

"The fire house was started the year Roosevelt was elected, 1932. Of course there was a fire department before there was a fire house They had a model T Ford {that} used to be kept at the Scott residence, in a shed they had, on the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and 77th Street." In essence, the building of the fire house was a matter of cooperation among neighbors... "The ladies worked hard, don't you think we didn't work. We had dinners, we had plays — home talent plays — and charged 25 cents admission... We had bake sales. Everything. Each one took her turn selling refreshments — things like hamburgers and hot dogs, soft drinks, coffee. We had big dances; I think admission was fifty cents. People just didn't have any money then. But we did all these money-raising things and the auxiliary paid the first hundred dollars on the Brockway, the first real fire engine the fire department bought.

"The firemen did different things too. As you go up Seven Locks Road, there was a field back in there and they called it the ball diamond. The firemen played baseball, and they had donkeys that they rode — ball games, only they played on donkeys. Anything to make a little bit of money, you know...

Mrs. Marshall remembers the 1936 flood. "In '36 I was vice-president of the ladies auxiliary... so the Red Cross called me one morning, the morning of the flood, to take over the fire house to house the people that lived along the canal. I had to get them something for their breakfast and take care of them. I went down to Mr. Benson's store — where the veterinarian's hospital is now — and bought a lot of breakfast foods...

"I went to the fire house and I told the firemen what the Red Cross ordered, and I took over and some of the firemen resented this very much. It was a volunteer fire department, you know... Anyway, we went on and the Red Cross started sending things over — clothes and bedding — and we had twelve people housed upstairs at the fire house. We put curtains up and made rooms, private rooms. We used sheets for partitions and the men helped us hang them on wires... We had a big stove at the fire house, and everybody housed there cooked their own meals."

Neighborhood Events

At The Clara Barton Center

Clara Barton Seniors meet weekly

On Wednesdays between 10 am and 2 pm local seniors gather at the Clara Barton Center. Activities include speakers, an exercise program, yoga, crafts and entertainment. All seniors (55+) are welcomed to participate.

Some coming attractions:

Movie "An Asian Journey" April 23 at 1:00

Poetry reading by Enoch Dillon April 30 at 1:00

Exercise program each Wednesday and Friday at 11:00

Also—Bridge players wanted

For more information: Clara Barton Center at 229-0010

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.

CABIN JOHN HOUSE TOUR

Coming to your neighborhood! On the beautiful afternoon of June 15, several interesting homes in Cabin John will be open for your viewing pleasure.

Anyone interested in working on the planning and arranging committee, please call Diane Leatherman 229-7412 or Barbara Martin 229-3482. Kind souls who would consider putting your house on the tour, please call Diane or Barbara. Every open room will be guarded by vigilant watchers. Proceeds will go to Village News and Citizens Association. Watch for details in the May issue.

Don't talk back to me, young lady!

Cabin John's Sarah Richardson, a junior at Walt Whitman won the Montgomery County Debate League Championship for the second year in a row. She also won the national Liberty Bell Classic debate tournament held at the University of Pennsylvania. She will be competing in the "Tournament of Champions" in Kentucky this spring. Sarah moved here from Montana four years ago and lives near 78th and MacArthur.



The Whitman High School Presents "Damn Yankees"

The Whitman Drama Department is pleased to announce Damn Yankees as its spring musical. This popular production includes a cameo appearance by Whitman principal, Dr. Jerome Marco and Athletic Director Jim Douglas. May 1, 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Whitman Auditorium. To purchase tickets, which are \$6 call 301 320 6600.

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Cabin John Citizens Association

March 25, 1997 Meeting Minutes

The March 25, 1997 meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) was called to order at 7:37 pm by Harry Rickelman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Burr Gray and approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Elaine Tammer was out of town, so there was no Treasurer's report.

NEW BUSINESS

■ Wild Bird Center Property

The Wild Bird Center property has commercial zoning (C-1), and is ~~legally subject only to its limits.~~

The Cabin John Master Plan functions as a guide, not a binding law.

■ Citizens of Cabin John can send letters of concern to Jim Wilner and to the County. We can be vigilant to ensure compliance /conformance with the zoning laws. Follow-up by CJCA with the owner of the property seems limited at best, due to a history of hostility.

■ Watershed Management

A request for a watershed variance was rejected. Reed Martin reviewed the watershed map, and it was determined that several actions can be taken. First, area topography can be reviewed and updated. Also, the culverts along MacArthur Blvd. need to be cleaned. A motion was proposed to write a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers requesting action to correct the periodic flooding of MacArthur Blvd. with its resulting traffic safety problem. Coordination with the County Department of

except where except. requested.

Transportation is probably necessary. The motion was tabled to allow Reed Martin and Ritch Kepler to identify the proper authority, and to review existing conditions with them.

■ Cabin John Creek Cleanup

The creek cleanup is set for April 26th. Volunteers will meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot next to the tennis courts by Union Arch Bridge. The Department of Parks and Planning will remove any trash hauled to the road. A notice about the creek cleanup will be put into the newsletter.

■ Crab Feast Organization

Lori Rickelman and Nicky Wright would be pleased to assist anyone who wants to take charge of organizing the Crab Feast. If necessary, they will take charge of it themselves.

The Crab Feast will take place on the Saturday after Labor Day. The Feast needs to be coordinated with the Palisades picnic.

Trudy Bic volunteered to help.

■ Nominating Committee

The fourth Tuesday in May is the election date for the next year. Reed, Helen, and Harry make up the nominating committee.

■ Community Center Piano

Reed will contact an associate to assess the piano. A motion was proposed to allow up to \$200 for tuning and repair. The motion was passed by voice vote.

■ The Village News

A suggestion was made to have the Village News carry a calendar of events, including the Senior Center meetings. All newsletter correspondence should go to Jerry Quinn.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9pm. The next CJCA meeting will be April 29th.

Help Cleanup Cabin John Creek

Saturday, April 26th, 9:00-12:00

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the MacArthur tennis courts near Union Arch Bridge (one lane bridge)

The floods of last winter left trash and debris on the banks of the Cabin John Creek, one of the prettiest streams around. If you've walked along the MacArthur-Seven Locks trail through the Cabin John Park, you've seen the problem. As part of Earth Month, the Citizens Association has planned a cleanup of the Cabin John portion of the Creek. Park and Planning has offered to provide garbage bags and gloves, but it's probably best to bring your own gloves (and a pocket knife) if you have them. Please wear a pair of shoes that you won't mind getting wet. Kids welcome. Hope to see you there.

HAVE A NEIGHBORHOOD DINNER

by Barbara Martin

For the fourth year, the neighbors in the 79th Street/ Woodrow Place/Riverside Drive/MacArthur Boulevard community have enjoyed a pot-luck, progressive dinner. This event is fun for everyone, gives you a chance to meet new neighbors, connect with old ones, and strengthen the bonds of a neighborhood, not just a collection of houses.

Here's what it takes:

1. Two or three people are the organizers.
2. Pick a date. Sunday evenings seem to be good. We have set times at 5, 6:30, and 8 for the three courses.
3. Find three households willing to be hosts. Hosts do not contribute food; they provide coffee, etc. Each year find three different homes.
4. The first home will be hosts for appetizers; the second, for the main course; the third, for dessert (and local musical talent if you like).
5. On computer, make an invitation/flyer that explains what, when, where, and whom to call for RSVP and food "assignment." Ask people to bring beer or wine (if they prefer it) to the main course hosts' home. Each family brings enough of their

dish to feed 12-15.

6. Three weeks in advance, put invitations in neighbor's mailboxes. (Post Office, don't read this.)
7. Several days before the dinner, call those who haven't responded. Sometimes people forget or misplace their invitation.
8. If the hosts (especially the main course hosts) don't have enough silverware, round up some from two or three neighbors. Plastic is fine for dessert, but not too good for dinner.
9. Use name tags. They make things more comfortable.
10. Enjoy. It will be noisy but delightful, and you will know you're living not just in a house, but in a real neighborhood.
11. We make this dinner an adults-only event. In the summer, we have a pot-luck picnic in someone's yard where there's plenty of room to run around; the kids are very welcome at this.

For our neighborhood dinners, Nicki Wright and Lori Rieckelman (and others) have done a wonderful job of organizing and managing. If you would like to do the same for your neighborhood, they would be wonderful resources.



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Houses on the market in Cabin John

Address	Price	Type	BR	Baths	1/2 Bath
7815 Archbold Terr	\$182,000	Attach/Row	3	1	1
7870 Archbold Terr	207,000	Townhouse	3	2	1
7505 Arden Rd	249,000	Detached	4	2	
7616 Cabin Rd	539,727	Detached	4	2	1
1 Carver Rd	90,000	Detached	2	1	
4 Carver Rd	129,000	Detached	2	1	
8033 Cypress Grove Ln	375,000	Detached	4	2	1
3 Froude Circle	147,000	Detached	2	1	
6412 79th St	524,900	Detached	4	4	
6416 79th St	679,000	Detached	4	3	1
6512 80th St	420,000	Detached	4	3	
7507 MacArthur Blvd	689,000	Detached	5	2	2
7906 MacArthur Blvd	229,000	Detached	2	1	
6912 Seven Locks Rd	689,000	Detached	6	4	2
6914 Seven Locks Rd	674,000	Detached	6	4	2
24 7630 Tomlinson Ave	86,500	Condo	1	1	
6440 Wishbone Terr	324,900	Townhouse	3	3	1



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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 May 17 for the issue mailing May 22.

People who make the Village News possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin, Contributors: Andy Rice, Bur Gray, Eleanor Balaban

A French Playgroup for children 3 1/2 – 6 years old who are regularly exposed to the language by a French-speaking parent or care-giver. Meets Saturday mornings for an hour in Cabin John at 10 a.m. Free. Parent-led. Come join the FUN en Francais! Call Rene 301 229 5579 for details.

**REMINDER:
THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE IS 10 AM SATURDAY,
MAY 17.**

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.

MUSIC LESSONS

VIOLIN, VIOLA AND PIANO STUDIO, All ages, all levels. Ensemble workshops. Vera Dolezal, 229-5685.

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MATH TUTOR: all levels. Your home or mine. Certified, Teaching experience: middle school, high school, college. Afternoons/evenings. Nancy Shaw 320 6342.

Two hardworking Cabin John students want to **MOW YOUR LAWN**. Four years experience and professional equipment. Call Nick or David Amoruso at 320 2685.

Furniture for sale Twin bed with storage drawers and bureau. Both maple in good condition. Also Ikea wardrobe 229-8030

Landscaping helper wanted Could be a summer job for a strong and motivated student \$6 per hour. 229-8030

NINTENDO 64, brand-new, \$150. Call Jack Smith 229 1707.

Sunfish sailboat hull \$100.

Bicycle parts to give away: frames, rims, etc. If you work on bicycles, I have free used parts.

I have a VW powered "Kit" car which needs to have the wiring done. Do you know how to do this? Please call Reed Martin 229-3482

Wanted-old banjos, guitars & mandolins, in any condition. call Reed Martin 229-3482

Delia Avelar, 301 585 9583, is **seeking domestic work** in Cabin John on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. She speaks some English.

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.

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.

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