

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 31 No. 3

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

October 1997

## NEIGHBORLY NEWS

by Barbara Martin

Penny Ann Money died last month of cancer. She was 39. Penny grew up in Cabin John and is related to many long-time families of this town. Her parents are Gail and James Money; Gail grew up in Cabin John and is the daughter of Danny and Virginia Harris of Caraway Street. James (Jimmy) is also a Cabin John native, the son of Doris and Carlton Money (now deceased) who lived on 78th Street. Her brother is James Money, Jr., married to Mary Farris Money. Her sister is Joann Money Farris, who married Tony Farris. (Mary and Tony are brother and sister who married a brother and sister.) T.J. Farris is Penny's nephew. The Farris are a Cabin John family. Penny's niece, Kim Deebo Vigrass, was born and raised in Cabin John and is married to Jack Vigrass, who grew up on MacArthur Boulevard. Penny attended Clara Barton Elementary, Pyle, and Whitman. She had worked at the Carderock Naval Center for 16 years in the accounting department. She moved in 1995 to Virginia Beach where she worked first for a property management company and then for a hospital.

Our Community Center's Senior Program celebrated its first anniversary in September. The many offerings and events of this program have attracted a large and growing number of Cabin John residents (and nearby neighbors). Wednesday is the main day for Senior activities. Look for a full story in an upcoming issue of Village News.

My humble apologies to those who have, in recent weeks, left phone messages or dropped me notes about their families or other Cabin John people. I have been away most of the last month, and have somehow managed to lose all those notes I was saving for this column. Please be kind enough to call or write again; this time I promise not to lose your news.

This column appears each month. If you have news about your family, your neighbors, or former Cabin John residents, call Barbara Martin at 301-229-3482.

## CRAB FEAST NEWS -

## SUCCESS IS SWEET

by Nicki Wright

This year's crab feast was really a hit! From the grand entrance of the bike parade to the hose-down finale, it was a terrific day. When the cooking began at 9 a.m. the sky was gray and it was sprinkling, but the afternoon arrived with sunshine and warmth.

The bike parade down MacArthur Blvd. was great fun for children and parents, thanks to Donna Roberts' orchestrating. There were costumed bikers, rollerbladers and even parents with decorated strollers. Donna arranged for Lorin Bleecker and Pat Fitzgerald to judge the entrants as they arrived at the community center and prizes were awarded in four categories. Most Crabby was Adan Soria; Most Futuristic was Danny Roberts; Most Colorful was Tom and Charlie Black and Most Creative was Cassie and Nate Rabner. Boy Scout troop 240, headed by Scoutmaster Walter Kirkland, patrolled the edge of the bike path holding signs that read "Drive Safely" and Reed Martin led the parade in his 1901 Oldsmobile.

While the parade was going on Burr Gray and his crew, using a large truck loaned by Hughes Landscaping, were picking up tables and chairs to set up outside on the Clara Barton Community Center blacktop. Diane Leatherman and helpers were busy inside cooking and preparing vegetable dishes. Meanwhile, Clare Amoruso had set up the steamers for hot foods as the first of her many servers were arriving. Ralph Osborne and his crew were very busy catching and cooking runaway crabs. Jan Smith and Stan Schaper already had the coals going and the chicken grilling. Even before the event began on Saturday Helen Daniel purchased vegetables and began chopping and cooking the day before with all the volunteers she had called together. Margaret Coleman prepared and baked all of the delicious baked beans by herself, a feat we really appreciate.

Special thanks to Reed Martin and David Murphy for getting the banner strung across MacArthur Boulevard.

Thanks to the Clara Barton Center for Children for providing two roving clowns to entertain the children and they also arranged for several face painters. Our own Cabin  
*continued on page 5*

## Citizens Association Meeting

Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30 at the Clara Barton Community Center

- (1) vote on donations to other groups,
- (2) CJCA position on County "anti-mansionization" proposed legislation

## Looking Backward in Cabin John

Andrew E. Rice

### Scenes along the Canal

*A number of people have told me they enjoyed last month's column on the C & O Canal, and this has prompted me to use this month's space to present a few extracts from the book I recommended, Hey-ey-ey, Lock!, by Morris Fradin. The book is an account of a family's trip up the canal by canalboat in 1908. We pick up the story in Glen Echo where the travellers have just met Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross.*

Miss Barton was a small bundle of energy. She led Captain Clark and the children up the hill to her great house of 36 rooms. She showed off the various shrubs, plants, and flowers she had planted around the house. The pungent smell of boxwood bushes hung in the air.

Miss Barton lifted her skirt daintily, climbed the front stairs, and led her guests into a long, crowded hall. Here, groups of ladies in nurses' uniforms were rolling bandages, cutting gauze, and working at sewing machines and typewriters:

"Looks like a Mississippi steamboat, doesn't it?" Miss Barton waved her hand at the open, railed, galleries overhead. "Especially with those three decks and the captain's quarters and wheelhouse up above."

"What beautiful woodwork," remarked the captain. "I can't help but always admire it."

"Yes," said Miss Barton, "it deserves your admiration. Much of the lumber and flooring in this building came down the canal in barges like your Daisy Mae, after the Johnstown Flood of 1889. The Pennsylvania refugees of that disaster had to live in temporary wood barracks. Later, they dismantled the structure and sent some of the lumber here to Red Cross Headquarters as a gift — because of our relief work among them."

It was late afternoon when the Daisy Mae moved away from the Glen Echo dock and was steered toward Lock 8, below the town of Cabin John.

But several large barges were stopped ahead. Captain Clark spotted a produce stall ashore.

Some men on the berm threw them a line and helped swing the stern gently against the shore, where

the boat was secured to an old tree trunk. The captain helped his wife and the youngsters over the aft rail and onto a tiny dock next to the produce stand. It displayed for sale smoked hams, vegetables, fruits, and jars of food that the lock-keeper's wife had grown in her garden, or had preserved.

The stone lockhouse was whitewashed, so it would be easier to see at night. It had a sloping cellar door outside, with a frame summer kitchen added onto one side of the building. A porch extended along another wall. Small outbuildings housed hogs and chickens, or protected axes, plows, spades, and rakes from the weather. Two cows gave fresh milk, from which were made cream, butter, and farmer's cheeses. And, sometimes, even fresh ice cream was mixed, frozen, and sold to delighted canallers.

Laden with baskets of the goodies, the family waddled back to the Daisy Mae. Mrs. Clark, however, was muttering to herself "Fifty cents! How awful. . . Fifty cents for a smoked ham. Land sakes alive! 'Tain't worth more than forty cents!"

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## At The Clara Barton Center...

The Clara Barton Senior Program continues to grow. Newcomers are always welcome. The program meets on Wednesdays from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm. Exercise and speakers are just a part of the program. Joan Doff is the Senior Adult Program Coordinator. An exercise program run by Holy Cross Hospital meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00 am to Noon. All this is available to anyone 55 or older, with doctor permission and a County Recreation Activity Card. Stop in on Mondays for Drop In Bridge, from Beginners to Advanced, there is a table for you.

Thinking about getting fit? Consider joining the **Weight Room**. We have 2 new stationary bicycles. Our fees are very reasonable.

The **Teen Center** meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for drop-in and educational tutoring from 3:00-6:00 pm. A middle school dance is scheduled for October 24. We are looking for adult and youth to serve on the Teen Center Advisory and Planning Council. Please call Linda Jones at 229-0010 with any questions and to volunteer during Teen Center hours.

Our **Leisure Class** Section is offering the following programs: Karate, Latin Night Club Dancing, Preschool Gymnastics, and Adult Exercise Programs. For further information on these classes call 301-217-6797.

Call 229-0010 for information on any of the programs.

### 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.

## Cabin John resident and author Toby Thompson will discuss his home on the C & O Canal

*Diane Leatherman*

Toby Thompson is presenting an evening program for Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Md. Inc. on Friday, November 21st, at the home of Farid and Kathleen Stout of Potomac. Dinner will be catered, followed by Mr. Thompson's stories about his family's home and growing up on the Canal. Proceeds from the event will go to benefit Montgomery County Public Libraries.

Toby wrote an article about the Thompson home for *The New York Times* this summer. He told how Roscoe Larue Wood, the architect who brought the log buildings down from Bucks County, Pa. in 1937 combined his two hundred-year-old structure with modern touches and whimsical ideas, such as a pool table that retracts to the ceiling, and wrought iron gargoyles on the home's exterior. This should be an interesting evening for his Cabin John neighbors.

Cost of dinner and program is \$35 per person. Interested parties should call Friends of the Library at 301-217-3882 or Diane Leatherman at home, 301-229-7412.

## Community Service Day in Montgomery County

If you want to participate in this 11th annual effort to improve your neighborhood through one day work projects, meet at Glen Echo Carousel at 10 am this Saturday, October 25th. A rally starts the event at 9:00.



## Ludwig Landscaping

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## The Pajama Game

The Whitman Drama Department is pleased to announce the Pajama Game as its fall musical. We hope our community will attend this swiftly-paced production and enjoy our new sound system which was completely renovated this past summer. Those of you who have attended the last two productions know that sound has been a problem. We hope you will come see (and hear!) for yourself. November 20, 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m. Walt Whitman High School Auditorium. Tickets: \$6. (301) 320 6600

## CJCA Minutes

CJCA September 23, 1997

1. Old Business-(a) This year's **Crab Feast** was the most successful ever from an attendance and fiscal perspective. Lori Rieckelman deserves a special thanks for coordinating the event. (b) **Outdoor benches** were installed at the Clara Barton Community Center. (c) A letter was sent to the County concerning the dangers at **Seven Locks & MacArthur Blvd.** (d) **The Cabin John House Tour** was very successful and generated a \$200.00 profit.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Crab Feast Results - \$5,289 (Gross)  
 -\$2,857 (Expenses)  
 \$2,432.00 (Profit)

\$617.00 New Dues

The current CJCA account balance is \$5,000.00.

3. New Business (a) **Proposed County "Anti-Mansionization" Legislation** - The County is considering legislation to restrict the

size of homes/additions that can be made on lots recorded by deed or subdivision prior to January 1, 1954. CJCA voted to send a letter opposing the legislation until residents have had the opportunity to review the proposal. (b) **C & O Canal Preservation Coalition** - The C&O Preservation Coalition (made up of neighborhoods adjacent to the Canal) gave a presentation of their efforts to work with the Park Service to see that local area locks and canal are restored. The Canal downstream from Brookmont has been returned to pre-flood status, while upstream it is still in disrepair. Under pressure from the Coalition and others, the Park Service committed to allocate an additional \$1 million toward partially restoring the stretch between locks 5 and 10, and has committed to rewatering the Cabin John/Brookmont stretch by spring 1998. The Coalition is soliciting administrative and volunteer sup-

port. Contact Melissa Andrews (301-320-2580) if interested in helping. (c) CJCA voted to request that the County install additional stations separating the **bike path** from MacArthur Blvd. at 79th street and between 80th and 81st streets. Drivers tend to use the bike path as part of the road at those locations.



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**CRAB FEAST CONTINUED**

John Volunteer Fire Department provided a really impressive hook and ladder truck.

Lemonade was hand made by David Murphy and Barbara and Reed Martin, and Larry Heflin manned the iced pool of soft drinks and beer. Thanks to Elaine Gardner for running the pizza table, and to Bob Epstein for keeping the popcorn flowing.

Andy Rice made sure the trash-cans did not overflow, thus keeping the bees to a minimum. At the end of the day the fire department came back with a smaller pumper truck and hosed down the blacktop after all the tables and chairs were removed by Burr's clean up crew.

Before any of this could take place Barbara Martin and Jean Betz rounded up volunteers for advance ticket sales. Barbara and Jean had tickets printed up and distributed a few weeks before the feast giving everyone a chance to purchase their tickets at a discounted rate.

We are also appreciative of these community businesses that supply us with their products at wholesale cost: Bassin's MacArthur Liquor, Bethesda Co-op, Market on the Boulevard and Pizza Hut.

Everything was so smooth and looked so easy but it took a lot of wonderful volunteers to make it so. Lori Rieckelman and I had a great time working with all of you and want to thank you for your help. Here are the names of all the people who worked so hard: Oona Stieglitz, Elaine Tama, Kelly Burke, Cheryl Israel, Ritch

Kepler, Diana Carter, Judy Sturm, Judy Welles, Carol Mundy, Juliet Rodman, Stephanie Smart, Susan Roberts, Kelly Levy, Renee Riley-Adams, Charlie Almand, Margaret Atwell, Judy Duffield, Debbie DuPont, Anne Edgerton, Brandon Fortune, Laveta Fyock, Tom and Norika Hoge, Marie Keefe, Ray Kemp, George Lichtblau, Evelyn Marquecho, Lorraine Minor, Gail O'Laughlin, Ted Orme, Leigh Partington, Rita Powell, Irene Redecke, Connie Rice, Joanie Schrof, Kathy Siefkin, Peter Vogt, Bob Wilkoff, Betty Yoklavich, Mike Levy, Tom and Chris Bick, Rob Kibler, Mark Leatherman, Oscar and Walter of Hughes Landscaping, Rick Duffy, Adi and Diana Carter, Brandt Rice, John Henry and Keana Scott, Tony and his son, Trudy Bick, Jennifer and Leslie Morton, Liz and Johnny Clark, Lisa Creadick, Ruth Rabner, Harry Rieckelman, Chris Davison, Peter Hobby, Liza Collery, Anise Hoachlander, Tyler Whitmore, Lynne Yockey, Terry Tomlin, Lori Powell, Jamie Agins, Catherine and Sisi Kapp, Karen Melchar, Benno Schmidt, Cherry Doyle, Erin and Susan Hatch, Eva Stolwein, Daniel Alper, Robin Mustain, Kathy and David Siesken, Connie Bergfors, Barbara Quinn, Kay Kemp, Suzanne Richardson, Merideth Briggs, Walter Dence, Jane and Max Kepler, Adan Fitzgerald, Adam Nagy. If we have missed anyone we hope you know that your help was appreciated.

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Non-smoking female teacher from Holton-Arms interested in either sharing rent of 2 bedroom apartment/house in Cabin John area (up to \$700. per person) or in renting a 1 bedroom apartment. Please call Dena at (202) 659-1114

Mature, Spanish-speaking woman seeking **domestic work** in Cabin John; has references; half or whole days available. Graciela Contreras 301-439-2439. For translation assistance call Diane Leatherman, 301-229-7412

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  
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People who make the Village News possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Barbara and Reed Martin

Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, Lorraine Minor and Barbara Martin, Nicki Wright.

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