

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 31 No. 6

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

March 1998

## WHAT'S TO BECOME OF GLEN ECHO PARK?

*Diane Leatherman*

Since everyone was there, I probably don't need to tell you that the National Park Service (NPS) held a "scoping" meeting for Glen Echo Park at the Clara Barton Center on February 3rd. The large turnout must have told the NPS, if nothing else, a great number of people are interested in what becomes of the park.

The "scoping" format offered some stations around the room, including a film of Glen Echo's heyday as an amusement park, several display boards listing the five options that the NPS had created for Glen Echo's future, and comments made at prior recent meetings dealing with Glen Echo Park. The room was filled beyond capacity and included print and television media. It made for a confusing mix.

Let me try to explain what the NPS is saying: they aren't going to continue operating Glen Echo Park as they have. It will cost a great deal of money to stabilize and renovate the buildings and they don't have it. The service gave five alternatives for the future:

1. "No Action," represents fewer services provided by NPS due to no anticipated increase in overall funding for the park. This one isn't really an option or the NPS wouldn't be going through this exercise.

2. "NPS Management of Self-Sustaining Cooperators," would continue NPS management; however, the cooperators would be responsible for rehabilitating and maintaining the structure containing their programs.

At Glen Echo Park "cooperators" are the artists and groups who run programs, i.e. Adventure Theatre, The Puppet Co, Glen Echo Pottery, the Washington Swing Dance Committee, etc.

3. "Naturalized Settings/Open Space," would remove all of the structures from the site except the Carousel and the Chautauqua Tower.

I don't believe even the NPS likes this option but I believe they are quite capable of carrying it out. It would indeed be stupid to tear down the Spanish Ballroom just after \$600,000 was raised for its renovation, including the \$300,000 state bond.

4. "Managed By a Public Entity," would allow the park to be managed by a public entity such as the State of Maryland or Montgomery County.

I overheard County Executive Doug Duncan being

interviewed by a newspaper reporter. He didn't scoff at the idea of a County role. Historically speaking, neither the County or State were interested in the early 70s when the federal Office of Management and Budget (who held the deed to the park) approached them but that was then, this is now.

5. "Management by a Single Private/Non-Profit Single Entity," would allow a private concern to manage the park. (This is a direct quote from the NPS document.)

This one is not necessarily bad. Any entity that isn't public (as in 4.) is private. This entity could have the intent of keeping the programs open to the public.

Let me urge you readers to think in terms of not one of these options but a possible combination. No bureaucracy is known for its creativity and this situation cries out for creativity. The NPS is now trying to flesh out these five scenarios.

Meanwhile a large contingent of Glen Echo Park aficionados have formed the National Campaign to Save Glen Echo Park, which can be reached at phone #301-320-TALK, P O box 143, Glen Echo, MD 20812 and website [w4c.com-glenecho](http://w4c.com-glenecho).

State legislators Frosh, Genn, Kopp, and Goldwater and County Executive Douglas Duncan are scheduling a public hearing on Saturday morning, March 14, 11 am, Pyle Middle School. There's a chance to have your own say.

Please turn to page 2 for the body of a letter that Burr Gray, Cabin John Citizens Association President, and I drafted to send to the NPS to represent our town's feelings. The March 5th deadline for public comment has now been extended to June 1st in response to enormous public interest. Come to the Citizens Association meeting on Tuesday, February 24th, to make sure your voice is heard. Please feel free to call me if you have questions or comments at 301 229 7412.

## **Next CJCA Meeting - 7:30 p.m. February 24, 1998 at the Clara Barton Center:**

Agenda - (1) Greeting of David Smith and Tim Kiter from Potomac Outdoors (new store moving into old Wild Bird Center location), (2) CJCA position/comments on future of Glen Echo Park, (3) Updating of the Cabin John Directory.

*(continued from article on page 1)*

### Letter to the National Park Service

Dear NPS:

The Cabin John Citizens Association strongly asserts that our citizens want Glen Echo Park and its programs to continue. This sentiment is apparently in agreement with that of a large number of people in the greater metropolitan area, many of whom attended the scoping meeting held by the NPS at our community center on February 3, 1998. We love and use the park in its present incarnation, as we have in the past and hope to in the future. We understand that the NPS does not have adequate funds to stabilize and renovate the buildings at Glen Echo Park. We believe the NPS is announcing they will not continue to operate the park alone. The problem then becomes who or what will assume this monumental task. The task may be monumental but is not impossible. We urge the National Park Service to take the time necessary to work with the people and entities coming forth to create a viable plan that will assure the park's preservation and guarantee its future accessibility to everyone. The Cabin John Citizens Association is ready to assist in whatever way we reasonably can.

Sincerely,  
Cabin John Citizens

### At The Clara Barton Center...

Special thanks go out to a couple of Cabin John residents — to **Reed Martin**, who made sure the Citizens Association sign was out for the meeting and brought it in afterward. He also repaired the piano. Special kudos also go to **Bob Epstein** for cleaning up and organizing the weight room.

**The Clara Barton Senior Program** meets on Wednesdays from 10 am till 2 pm. Activities include exercise, speakers, trips. Joan Dorf is the Senior Adult Program Coordinator. The exercise program meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 11-12. On Mondays we have Drop In Bridge. From beginners to advanced, there is a table for you.

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 or to volunteer.

Class programs continue to be successful at the center. Karate, Latin Night Club Dancing and Adult Fitness Programs are very successful. For further information on these classes call 301 217 6797.

**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 - 6 pm.

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

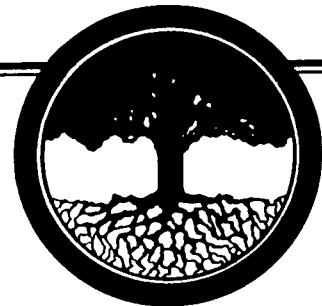
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### Soccer News

Cabin John, you won! Well, your soccer teams did. Time to catch up a little on soccer news.

The Cabin John Azzurri, an U-19 boys team, played indoor soccer last winter and won the league title at the Corner Kick in Gaithersburg. The team only had one loss, and even though shorthanded, won its last game convincingly to take the title for the second year in a row. All three La Porta's from 81st street played on the team, which was largely made up of BCC students. (Sorry Whitman fans). Nick La Porta from the team played at Gettysburg College this fall, and Judson Coplan played for Amherst College. Both of these schools made it to the final 8 in the NCAA Division III national tournament. Senior midfielder Mike Goldman won all-Met honors for his high school team season this fall. (By the way, BCC high school won the Maryland 2A regional championship and Whitman won the state 4A title).

Your Cabin John Proteus team had quite a year in 1997. An outdoor team, boys U-17, Proteus finished 6th of 11 in the MSI Classic league last spring, but was only 2 goals away from finishing second. It was the only team to score more than one goal, and maybe the only goals, against the Silver Spring Strikers, the team that won the league. Silver Spring was a year older than Cabin John and won its game against Cabin John 4 - 2 on size and speed. Proteus traveled to a tournament in July in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. After a rough start against teams from New York and Pennsylvania, it won its last three games and finished first in the loser's bracket, the "best of the rest." In August the team played in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, had a great time, but didn't win any of its games. The work during the summer raised the team's play, and a new Italian-style defense (AC Milan's) it adopted in the spring began to show some promise.

In the fall MSI Classic season, Cabin John didn't lose a game. Yes Cabin Johners, you were undefeated, winning six games and tying one to finish in first place in the league. The defense, led by keeper Will Nero, and defenders Steve Andrews, Adam Morse, Dan La Porta, Alvaro Torres and Carlos Melgar only conceded four goals in seven games. It was the team's best finish in several years and a great reward for the players who have stuck and worked together through some losing seasons. Dan La Porta, Alex Steiner and Paul Radulovic have been on this team since they were in 2nd and 3rd grades.

In January, Cabin John Proteus was awarded MSI Club Status, and will move up to play in the National Capital Soccer League this spring and also compete in the Maryland Cup. Coach Carlo La Porta, 81st Street, has roster spots available for a highly skilled defender and a defensive midfielder. The team's coaches and players are available to help Cabin John's younger players (we see you working in the park), so give a call to 301 229-0671. And come to a game, we can use some more fans.

## JERRY F. GROSS, CPA, CFP

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**CJCA Minutes**

From CJCA meeting, January 27, 1998

**1. Construction at 6425 83rd Place - CJCA voted to oppose a requested variance that would have allowed construction of a home on a lot of only 3800 sq. ft. approx., which is smaller than the minimum 5000 sq. ft. lot size required in this case by the relevant Zoning Ordinance. A hearing is scheduled for February 25, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. at the Board of Appeals for Montgomery County, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The CJCA position on these types of issues has been to consistently oppose variances to existing restrictions where neighbors and existing residents would be adversely affected by the variance.**

**2. Highways & Communities - Elaine Tama made a presentation on a symposium that she attended on alternatives to building additional highways. Elaine (229-8733) will continue to be the CJCA contact for this general issue.**

**3. MacArthur Blvd. - Susan Roberts (320-4451) agreed to represent CJCA at a Montgomery County meeting on Feb. 3 meeting concerning County bike paths. In addition to a letter previously sent to the County requesting repair of the bike path in Cabin John, CJCA will request a meeting to address the repair of damages resulting from the ongoing aqueduct maintenance near Glen Echo. A motion was also passed to address ways to make pedestrian crossing of MacArthur Blvd. safer.**

**4. Rixey Chapel (south of MacArthur Blvd., opposite Persimmon Tree Rd) - The property on which the chapel rests**

**was recently sold, raising concern that the structure had no legal protection and could be easily torn down. Although there is no indication that the new owner intends to remove the chapel, a motion was passed to draft a letter to the new owner/builder and the County supporting the preservation of the building for its historic value and value to the community. The chapel was built in the 30's by Helen Hadley to house the ashes of her father, the painter Lawrence Southwick. Mr. Southwick's painting of Jesus was in the 6' x 10' brick chapel. Both the painting and Mr. Southwick's ashes have been moved. The chapel, which was on the Cabin John House Tour last June, was once the smallest consecrated chapel in the United States, and, according to some, is listed in Ripley's Believe It or Not.**

**5. A motion was passed to update the Cabin John Directory, last published in 1995. Bruce Wilmarth (229-8528) is leading this project and would very much appreciate hearing from anyone**

**interested in assisting.**

**Addendum to Cabin John Holiday Party Writeup**

Garrett & Smith were not mentioned last issue, but they contributed two coffee makers that now are available not only to CJCA but to other groups using the Community Center as well. Many thanks. Also, just so you know that good things do happen to Cabin John types, the following families were the winners of the raffle items provided by the local merchants - Stahls (sled from Glen Echo Hardware), Bicks (holiday basket from Eleanor Balaban), Murphys (vet services from Alpine Animal Hospital), Biegels (brunch for two at Inn at Glen Echo), Baumans (gift certificate at Elegant Needle), Bolgers (birdhouse from Wild Bird Center), Strups (certificate at Firehouse Cleaners), Wilkoffs (one year membership at Community Center fitness room), David & Lisa Brown (X-mas tree from Mark Willcher & Co.), and the Grays (golf putter from Maryland Federal Bank).

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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**MISSING:** Two 3D archery targets, a deer and a large black pig were removed from the woods at 81st Street and MacArthur Blvd. Reward for their return. Please call Evan at 301 229 3760 evenings.

**EXERCISE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE,** both like new, Healthglider \$35; Skier, \$25 or best offer, 301 229 7412.

**SECTIONAL SOFA** 6 pieces, 4 corners, 1 center, 1 ottoman, light gray wool, good condition, \$500. 301 320 2429, leave message.

To place an ad in the Village News classifieds send us your ad before the first Saturday of the month. The cost is 25 cents per word. If you have questions, call Lorraine Minor at 301 229 3515

The Village News welcomes letters to the editor or to the community, but we will print only signed letters.

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**Cabin John  
mixed media artist  
Myra Polsky  
will exhibit works at  
Tina's Gallery,  
7945 MacArthur Blvd.  
March 23-30**



**Reed Martin  
Old Time Banjo**

Award-winning musician, Cabin John's Reed Martin, is now on cassette. He plays 19 of his favorite traditional 5-string banjo tunes. \$10. Call Reed at 301 229 3482 6431 79th Street

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 5 pm Friday March 13 for the issue mailing March 19.

People who make the Village News possible:  
Barbara and Ger Quinn, Barbara and Reed Martin  
Contributors: Burr Gray, and Lorraine Minor.



*Let's Talk!*

**Eleanor Balaban**

**229-7990**

## Neighborhood Services

### HAULING

Reasonable, Yard/garage items. Lawn cutting and hedge trimming. Prefer small jobs. Call Ed, 301 229-1195.

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Experienced mother will babysit all weekend (Friday night - Sunday night) in your home; will also housesit. Reasonable rates; references. Cabin John resident. 202 739-8928 daytimes.

### RESUME/ACCOUNTING SERVICES

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# Cabin John Citizens Association

P.O. Box #31  
Cabin John, MD 20818

Organized 1919

Charter Member Montgomery County Civic Federation

## NEW 1998 Cabin John Community Directory

Dear Village News Reader,

The Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) is updating the 3-year old Cabin John Directory that we all find so useful. We would like all of the residents in Cabin John, as well as other members of CJCA, to be included, with accurate information. Please fill out this form and return it either by mail to **CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818**, or by drop-off during business hours (9:00 - 4:00 p.m.) in the box in the lobby of the **Maryland Federal Bank** (located in the MacArthur Blvd. Shopping Center).

Please don't forget to include an e-mail address if you have one. The e-mails will not be published in the in the Directory, but they will be helpful to CJCA for such purposes as polling/alerting residents on issues, reminding people of upcoming events, etc.

Check here if current listing in Directory is complete and accurate. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip if not Cabin John \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if info should not be listed in Directory and is for use by CJCA only.

Listings of Services: As before, there will be a classified listing of services offered locally, such as baby sitters, architects, artists, attorneys, real estate agents, kayak lessons, tutoring, etc.

Type of Service Offered \_\_\_\_\_, work phone \_\_\_\_\_

You may also use this form to send in your dues (payable to Cabin John Citizens Association) for the year June 97-June 98. As always, dues are \$10/family and \$7/individual.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response and cooperation. Getting this information back to us via this form by March 15th will save CJCA effort and postage costs down the road. Please send this back even if your listing in the current directory will remain unchanged. Feel free to call either Bruce Wilmarth (229-8528 (h)) or me (320-2918 (h)) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
*Burr Gray*  
CJCA President

**Return by March 15, 1998**