

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 31 No. 8

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

May 1998

100 YEARS FOR GIBSON GROVE CHURCH

This year the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church on Seven Locks Road celebrates 100 years in Cabin John. This very special anniversary will be observed on Sunday, May 10 at 3 pm at the church, just beyond the Beltway. All friends and neighbors are most welcome to attend.

Last month our town was featured on Tony Perkins' series of visits to neighborhoods—Fox Morning News, WTTG. As narrator/guide Andy Rice conducted a tour of some Cabin John highlights, footage was shot in front of Gibson Grove Church. Gibson Grove is the oldest Black congregation in Cabin John, and the second oldest congregation. (Hermon Presbyterian Church on Persimmon Tree Lane was established in 1874.)

The following paragraphs are excerpted from a history of the church.

It is from the darkness of American slavery and the desire of one of its captives to bask in the light of freedom that Gibson Grove owes its beginning. Sarah Gibson, a former slave from Virginia, known by some as "Nanny," migrated to the Montgomery County area shortly after the Civil War.

Forced to leave the Virginia plantation, Sarah and her two children were separated from her husband. Some time later they arrived at Shiloh Baptist

Church in Washington, a destination for many ex-slaves coming north.

Sarah (a seamstress by trade) and her family worked on a farm in Potomac, Maryland. Sixteen years later they were able to purchase 4 1/2 acres of land on Seven Locks Road. This area was known then as "Number 10," a voting district inhabited mainly by Blacks and known today as Cabin John.

A very spiritual person, Sarah Gibson saw a need for a place to worship God in her community. As a demonstration of her faith and belief, in 1898 she gave a portion of her land for that purpose. The first pastor was Reverend

Continued on page 2



2nd Annual Cleanup of Cabin John Creek

Saturday, April 25th 9:30 a.m. - 12:00

Meet at the MacArthur tennis courts near Union Bridge (one lane bridge). Bring gloves and a pair of shoes that you won't mind getting wet. CJCA will provide trash bags, refreshments, and extra gloves. Kids welcome. Hope to see you there. Please call Burr Gray (301-320-2918) if you have any questions,

**Next CJCA Meeting - 7:30 p.m. April 28, 1998
at the Clara Barton Center:**

Agenda: (1) Prepare Cabin John Directory mailing, (2) recap (possible video) of Fox Channel 5 Morning News visit, (3) slate of officers for next year, (4) summer lecture series.

Dave Murphy

Gibson Grove, continued from page 1

Wright. As a tribute to Mrs. Gibson's generosity, the members named the church after her. This was the beginning of Gibson Grove AME Zion Church. Because she wanted children of her race to be educated, a one-room school was built beside the church. This school was eventually turned over to the State of Maryland and was moved to Moses Hall, a building (now gone) behind the church.

Gibson Grove's first structure was a modest log cabin on the lower south side of its present location. At one time, the church's grounds were used for burials, the last one in 1912. (There is a now unused cemetery near the former Moses Hall. An article about Moses Hall, the Moses family, and the cemetery will appear in a future issue of the Village News.) A nearby creek was used for baptisms. In 1923, under the leadership of its pastor, the Reverend N.G. Stevenson, the church was rebuilt on its present site. In January 1929, Mrs. Gibson died and was buried at Moses Hall.

Some of the pastors who have served Gibson Grove are: Reverends Cook, Pagan, Covington, French, Gordon Grant, Watkins, Proctor, Maurice Wallace, N.G. Stevenson, J.J. Howard, Mitchell, Howard Diggs, Linder, Elsie Cooper, William Truss, Robert White, Dr. Joseph Davis, Maxwell Minnis, James F. Patterson, Paul Hoggard. The present minister, Reverend Dr. Wilmer Frazier, was appointed in 1994 and is the church's 22nd pastor.

During the pastorate of Reverend Robert White, an addition to the church was constructed, including central heat/air, indoor restrooms, and new kitchen and dining facilities. For this construction the church took out a mortgage of \$30,000. In 1989, during the pastorate of Dr. Joseph Davis, the mortgage was liquidated, culminating with an anonymous gift of \$12,000.

Most of the Black families of Cabin John have long-lasting ties with Gibson Grove, and family members who have moved elsewhere often return for visits to their "home" church. At any service you may well see a great-grandmother with her children, grandchildren and a fourth generation of worshippers. The 100th anniversary observance on May 10 will indeed be something for our community to celebrate.

Post Office Celebration To Take Place on May 19

The "Grand Opening" of the remodeled and expanded Cabin John Post Office will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 1998—a date which is, in fact, the first anniversary of the day when the doors were actually opened. The date will also mark the beginning of 24-hour lobby access for boxholders. The new Cabin John Postal Store brings you a convenient way to make your mailings easy, and fast. The Postal Store offers a variety of mailing supplies, stamp collecting kits and licensed postal products. Commemorative stamps and products are on display for self service.

The opening ceremony will take place at 11 a.m., with various officials on hand to make celebratory remarks, says Postmaster LaVerne Baptist, who is organizing the event. There will be refreshments and music and little souvenirs, and there will be an "open house" welcome all day long, since the day has also been designated as Customer Appreciation Day. Actually, says Baptist, the whole week will be Customer Appreciation Week. If there are any school groups interested in touring the Post Office, that will be a good week to do it.

There will be an exhibit on Cabin John history in the post office lobby. "On behalf of all our staff, I hope all our customers can drop in on May 19 and join the celebration," says Postmaster Baptist.

Dr. Steven E. Clark
Chiropractor



CLARK CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

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301/926-1500 • Fax 301/926-0462

What's Happening

Cabin John potter, **Noriko**, will open her studio to show and sell pottery inspired by animal forms. Sunday, May 17, 10 am to 6 pm, at 7816 MacArthur Blvd. 229-7797

The Bannockburn Spring Show happens again starting May 6. Show time is 8 pm for the Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday shows, and 9 pm Friday and Saturday. Get tickets at the Bannockburn Clubhouse on Sunday, April 26 between 4 and 5:30 or on the 28th and 29th between 7 and 8:30 pm.

Clara Barton House will host a Lamplight Open House on Saturday evening, the 25 of April. Learn how Clara Barton's home functioned as the headquarters of the Red Cross during the Spanish-American War. Also, historian Gary Scott will discuss the recent discovery of Civil War era materials in an office on 7th Street NW, once occupied by Clara Barton. Hours are 7 to 9 pm.

Glass Art Festival at Glen Echo Park. Sunday, May 17, noon to 4:00. 25 glass artists will demonstrate glass blowing and other techniques. Finished works will be on sale.

Irish Festival at Glen Echo Park on May 24th.

Clinic on the **care of antique textiles**. Bring your quilts, gowns, etc for professional recommendations about proper care and storage. Sunday, May 3, 12:30—3:30 at Beall-Dawson House, 103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville. Sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society. More info—301 762-1492

At The Clara Barton Center...

The next time you visit the Clara Barton Community Center notice the paint job in the Community Room, then thank your friend and neighbor **Ray Kemp**. Mr. Kemp came and volunteered his time and expertise to keep your community center neat and trim.

Our successful **Senior program** continues to prosper. The exercise class meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00am to 11:45am. Stop in on Mondays for **Drop-In Bridge**, from Beginners to Advanced, there is a table for you. Wednesday is the Club day with a program from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

Two special new programs are beginning at the Clara Barton Community Center. On Thursday night from 7:00 - 9:00pm there will be a **Adult Drop-In Night**. Billiards and Table Tennis will be featured. The other new program is **Drop-In-Dance**. This program will be held from 4:00 - 5:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for teens and adults. Music will be playing, come on out and let your feet start moving.

Once again the Clara Barton Community Center will be selling **amusement park tickets** for the local theme parks. We can answer most questions and have brochures for most of the nearby parks. While it is possible to sometimes just drop by and purchase the tickets, to avoid disappointment please call first. We can inform you about special discount days, opening and closing times, parking fees etc. Let us help you plan your vacation. Usually our rates are the best around.

For further information on any of the above programs, please call the Clara Barton Community Center at 301-229-0010.

ISO CABIN JOHN HOTEL BENCHES

In 1900, 50 or more park benches were made for the Bobbinger Hotel and grounds, then located just this side of the Union Arch Bridge. On the iron castings at either end of each bench are the words "Cabin John Park 1900." I have located six surviving benches, and I'm curious to see how many more there are. Please call me if you know of any. Reed Martin 301-229-3482

MacArthur MotoPhoto

\$4.00 Off Processing

35mm Color Print Film \$5.00 off for Club Members
5185 MacArthur Blvd NW 202-686-7618

CJCA Minutes

March 24, 1998

MacArthur Blvd. Bike Path

CJCA requested, by letter, that Montgomery County provide for bike path repair funds in its annual budget, and review repair and safety issues concerning the bike path from Old Angler's Inn to the Capitol Crescent Trail (informal estimate for resurfacing is \$1,000,000). This seems a particularly good time to do so in light of the ongoing aqueduct relining project along MacArthur.

Cabin John Directory Update

Approximately 130 green information forms have been received to date, with an additional individual mailing planned to those addresses that have not yet responded. Please send the form back when you get it in the next couple of weeks. Solicitation of advertisement is underway. Printing will be in May for distribution in June. The directory will contain Cabin John features and history, along with important County phone numbers.

Clara Barton Center for Children (CBCC) Lease Renewal

CJCA wrote a letter of support for renewal of the CBCC's lease. Montgomery County conducts such a review every four years and CBCC is optimistic that a renewal will be granted in May.

Glen Echo Park

CJCA sent a letter to the National Park Service in support of maintaining ongoing programs and facilities at the Park. CJCA offered to do what it could in support. The Park Service's has revised its schedule for making decisions as follows: public comment—Sep. 98, evaluation of options and drafting of proposed decision—winter 98-99, final decision—spring 99. Diane Leatherman (229-7412) is the CJCA contact for this issue.

Anti-Mansionization Legislation

The County working group has finished their review of the issues, and apparently were able to resolve certain issues but not some of the hard ones. Among the group's recommendations—new construction permits must be posted within three days, and any appeals must be made within thirty

days of issued permits. Pre-1954 lots come under the same law as post-1954 lots. There is no "grandfathering" for new construction on old permits. Tina Rouse (229-6537) is the CJCA contact on this issue.

Cabin Road Development Issue

The owners of the Cabin Road house that has not sold have apparently sued their neighbor, Mr Rosenthal, based in part on the presence of the animals that Mr. Rosenthal has kept on his property for many years.

1973 Cabin John Community Plan

This is the 25th anniversary of the Community Plan, which recommended that certain things be maintained to keep the quality of life high in Cabin John. Currently, out of approximately 670 buildings in the 20818 zip code, 539 are dwelling units, 93% of which

are owner-occupied. A motion was passed to solicit documents and memorabilia relating to the history of Cabin John, and to investigate creating a permanent exhibit of that history at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Seven Locks Road Church

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Gibson Grove Church on Seven Locks Road.

C&O Canal Clean-up and 79th Street Access to Towpath

The Park Service is organizing a clean-up on May 3, 1998. The Service is also researching ways to make the 79th Street trail down to the Canal more manageable. It is currently rather hazardous. A motion was passed to set aside up to \$200 for trail rebuilding in that area if needed.

FOX Channel 5 Morning News Visit to Cabin John

On March 25, 1998, Cabin John was featured on the morning news as Fox Channel 5 weatherman Tony Perkins broadcast from the Market on the Boulevard. With Ralph Osborne acting as a gracious host under the hot TV lights, Tony conducted several live interviews and showed some prerecorded segments. The live interviews involved Burr Gray (what's special about Cabin John), Mark Scott and Harry Rieckelman (perspectives on development issues), and Barbara and Reed Martin (concerning The Village News). Tina Rahman and Tina's Art Gallery were featured on one of the prerecorded portions. Andy Rice assisted with the prerecorded segment that featured various unique aspects of Cabin John (Union Bridge, Gibson Grove Church, former Cabin John Hotel, etc.). The third prerecorded segment concerned significance of the C&O Canal to the community and the Park Service's efforts to



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MORE ABOUT FRANK CARPENTER

By Neil Ravin

The notice of Frank Carpenter's death struck me. When my family moved to Bethesda, my father heard rumor of the existence of what, in those days, the mid fifties, was rumored to be an extinct species, or perhaps a never existed species, like the unicorn—the honest automobile mechanic. So we piled into the car, and journeyed out along MacArthur Boulevard, across what was then not a one lane bridge, but a very strange little bridge with a lane divider of concrete (or was it cinderblock?) and the cars came at each other from opposite sides of the bridge at 10 miles an hour. Past the District Grocery Store, (where the Captain's Market now stands), we finally arrived in Frank Carpenter's driveway.

He didn't look like any mechanic I had ever seen. He walked toward us wearing a white T-shirt and dungarees, and he scratched behind one ear, listened without smiling, asked one or two questions, looked under the hood, crawled under the car, fixed whatever it was in fifteen minutes and charged my father so little, my father insisted on giving him more.

"What a guy," my father said as we drove home. "An honest guy."

Coming from my father, I was stunned. To my memory, my father had spoken glowingly of only two people up to that point in my lifetime: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Frank Carpenter. Even now, when I told him of Frank's death, my father, now 85 himself, said simply, "What a wonderful guy."

When my brother, as a freshman in college, wanted to buy a pink and green Ford convertible, we all drove it out to Frank Carpenter, who fiddled, disapprovingly, with the power windows (then a very unusual luxury) and crawled underneath and found a leak, a red fluid, which he tested by tasting it! He advised against the car. The power windows were just something else to go wrong, and the leak, well that leak might not mean big trouble, but it might. My brother wanted that car. That car was the ticket to a hot social life at college, but Frank Carpenter had spoken. And Frank Carpenter, in the Ravin household was not only a good man, but an unimpeachable source.

Watching Frank Carpenter pursue a diagnosis was a real education. Until the Click and Clack brothers of Car Talk, I never learned more. In medical school, I thought of him more than once, a man who took your problem seriously, who thought

about it and who wanted to solve it. There was value in that sort of life. Maybe you wouldn't get rich, but you were useful. And you were helping somebody past a bad spot. That's worth something, when you look back.

So the Ravin family will miss Frank Carpenter. I feel privileged to have known him.

NEIGHBORLY NEWS May 1998

by Barbara Martin

Apparently no Cabin Johners past or present have recently been born, died, married, moved out or in. At least I haven't heard any news. Ergo, no Neighborly News column this month.



Nature
Pottery
by Noriko



Noriko Hoge
(301) 229-7797
7816 MacArthur Blvd.
Cabin John, MD 20818 USA

1st Annual Open Studio & Sale
Sunday May 17
10 am - 6 pm

Potomac Village School moves to Wilson Lane

Potomac Village School, which opened its doors in 1975 in Potomac Village, moved to the Trinity & Korean Presbyterian Church, on Wilson Lane last September.

The school offers two, three, and five day preschool and kindergarten programs for ages two through five.

Special activities offered in the Afternoon Enrichment (12:30-3:30 p.m.) include cooking, computerize, Creative Dancercise, Arts and Crafts, field trips or an afternoon of fun with a clown, puppet show or magician.

Potomac Village Summer Fun Camp operates from June through mid-August. The camp features swimming, junior sports, arts and crafts, and theme weeks. Some themes are Under the Sea, Insects, and Circus Week. The themes are incorporated into Arts and Crafts projects and field trips including children's shows at Strathmore Hall and Wolf Trap. The rudiments of several sports are taught using equipment suitable for young children; i.e. tee ball, soccer, and basketball.

Potomac Village School is happy to be a part of the Bethesda neighborhood. We welcome visitors Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The school can be reached by phone at (301) 263-0337 during the day and (301) 299-5779 in the evenings.

WEALTH FAME GLORY

...none of it will be yours when you volunteer as a guest editor of the Village News.

The editorial staff will be on the road during the next few months, and needs some help getting the Village News out. If you can pitch in with some light editing or layout for a day in the middle of May, June, or August, give us a call. Your neighbors will appreciate your help.

Ger or Barbara Quinn 229 8030

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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.



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Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 7:00 pm
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6431 79th Street

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Join the Cabin John Citizens Association
 \$10/family, \$7/individual yearly membership.

Name

Address

Phone/e-mail

Check here if you would like a copy of the 1995 Cabin John Phone Directory.)

Classified ads cost 25 cents per word. If you have questions or would like rates for display ads or for listings under Neighborhood Services, 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.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

SALE: Gray Tropitone outdoor furniture. Dining table, six chairs, umbrella, lounge, small table. Burgundy cushions. \$500. 301 320 3840.

COTTAGE FOR SALE or possible rental in Cabin John. Updated, charming; walk to Canal. 301 229 4222.

CONDO FOR SALE: Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 bath unit in MacArthur House, 7630 Tomlinson Avenue. 2 Parking spaces. \$126,950. For appointment call 301 460 5073.

MATH, CALCULATOR TUTOR.

Experienced, part-time teacher available after school, some evenings. Nancy Shaw, Tomlinson Ave. 301 320 6342.

FOR SALE. 8 Dining Room Chairs. Scan Contemporary. Teak, cane back, upholstered seats. \$225 B/O 301 229 9611.

HOUSE/PET SITTERS AVAILABLE:

Responsible family of 3 available to house & pet sit July 13 - August 21. Please call Igor 202 482 1832 or 202 337 7538.

LAWN CUTTING SERVICES. Local resident. Call Amoruso's 301 320 2685

MUSIC INDUSTRY INTERNSHIP.

Marketing Director with major record label looking for intern. High School Jr or Sr. 2-4 hours/week: Cabin John office. No pay, but experience & free CD's. Send resume & cover letter to: Epic, 7507 MacArthur Blvd 20818.

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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
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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, Neil Ravin.



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