

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 32 No. 7

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

April 1999

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Apr. 1999

by Barbara Martin

Pearman Marshall died on February 14th. Pearman, 75, lived all his life in Cabin John, and he and his wife, Thelma, were original owners of their house on Webb Road when the Gardens were first built. He served in the armed forces in World War II and in Korea. He was a charter member of the Cabin John VFW post on Falls Road and according to his wishes his memorial service was held there. Pearman was a heavy equipment operator for several local construction firms. His son Philip, his daughters Maria, Cynthia and Lisa all grew up in Cabin John. Thelma is secretary for the Cabin John Gardens.

Mrs. Jessie Williams died in February. Mrs. Williams lived for many decades on Carver Road and was loved by all her neighbors.

Margaret Atwell and **Mike Derian** have moved from the Gardens to Braeburn Place. Margaret is the gardener extraordinaire whose beautiful garden (taking up every foot of space on the lot) was a highlight of the 1997 Cabin John House Tour.

Maria and **Greg Whiteaker** recently welcomed a baby daughter to their family to join brother Byrne. The Whiteakers live on Arden Road.

Celeste Swedenburg and grandson **Everett Mathews** are happily settled in their new house on Carver Road. Celeste's old house was completely torn down and a brand new one built on the same lot.

Marie Rojas, a local master gardener and horticulturist, is proposing the formation of a **Cabin John Garden Club** if there is enough interest. The club would feature monthly meetings, guest lectures, and a chance to swap plants and advice with other local gardeners. Anyone interested should contact Marie at (301)320-2514.

All you mid-lifers who dream of making a drastic career change can look to **Mark Leatherman**, who switched from the linen supply business into education. This is Mark's second year teaching Earth Science to eighth

graders at Robert Frost Middle School in Rockville. Robert Frost ranks with our own Pyle Middle School in excellence, and Mark loves his new profession. The Leathermans live on 78th Street.

New neighbors on 78th Street are **Stefanie** and **Greg Rothschild**. Stefanie works for AOL and Greg is an attorney. Stefanie's brother is Rob Herscowitz who lives just across the creek on Woodrow Place.

Tom Kemp, a life-long Arden Road resident, is now working at our Community Center. Tom recently returned from a trip to India where he visited the Titus family; Reverend Titus was a former minister of the Cabin John Methodist Church.

Milana Dolezal, of Persimmon Tree Road, will receive her M.D. in May from the Thomas Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia. Milana is planning to go into either internal medicine or infectious diseases. She is the daughter of **Vera Dolezal**, who has taught piano and violin for many years.

Margaret Corbin, for many years a resident of the Gardens, has died in West Virginia.

Ryan Davison recently celebrated his fifth birthday. Ryan lives with his parents, **Chris** and **John**, brother **Sean** and sisters **Kelly** and **Kate** on Woodrow Place.

Another new Cabin Johner is **Clare Schmidt**, born 7 months ago to **Karen Melchar** and **Benno Schmidt**. Karen is a fulltime mom and Benno is a software designer. Clare joins sister **Phoebe**, 3.

Please call Barbara Martin at 301-229-3482 with any neighborhood news items, so that we can let our townspeople know about new families, new babies, weddings, deaths of present or former Cabin Johners, honors, etc.

**Third Annual Cleanup/Trail
Repair of Cabin John Creek
April 24th 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
details on page 4**

CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

- February 23, 1999 Meeting
Notes

1. Aircraft Noise - Don MacGlashan (Citizens for Abatement of Aircraft Noise (www.caan.org)) discussed Senator McCain's bill (S. 82) that will add 48 more slots to Reagan National Airport and change the so-called "perimeter rule." The rationale is to add low cost competitive airline flights, probably occurring for the most part during the busy hours. The perimeter rule restricts direct flights to 1,250 miles or less. Eliminating or lengthening the mileage restriction will result in larger noisier flights in and out of the airport. The relevant bill in the House (Cong. Shuster) does not change the number of slots or alter the perimeter rule, and is

thus a better bill for neighborhoods concerned about aircraft noise. A motion was passed to write a letter to Senator McCain in opposition to his bill and to copy the Montgomery County Council, the Maryland Congressional representatives, the CEO of the Airport Authority, and other local civic groups. A motion was also passed to request that Montgomery County provide CJCA with any studies done on the health impacts of aircraft emissions, and, if no useful study exists, to request that the County conduct a health study on the effects of the aircraft emissions over the Potomac River corridor. Cabin John residents are encouraged to voice their individual opinions on the issue by calling the Maryland Delegation (Senators Sarbanes (202-224-4524) and Mikulski (202-224-4654), and Representative Morella (202-225-5341).

2. CJCA Incorporation - John Fiegel made a presentation on the pros and cons of incorporating the Citizens Association, which has been in unincorporated existence for 80 years. Incorporation would provide additional protection to the officers and members of CJCA against law suits stemming from CJCA-sponsored events or CJCA actions. The only drawback is the minimal filing fee. A motion was passed unanimously to incorporate. (Let it be noted that the officers breathed a sigh of relief following the vote.)

3. Community Preparedness - Harriet Crosby provided literature and gave a presentation

on the desirability of being organized as a community to deal with potential disruptive events, such as major snowstorms, power outages, the Y2K issue, etc. CJCA will consider in the future how best to address this important issue without replicating resources already in place.

4. Local Filmmaking - Bob Mattia of Barking Dogs Video Productions mentioned that his company will be filming a movie at various locations in Cabin John for a period of eight months starting April 1, 1999. We're told that the movie involves a scary spider, among other things.

Addition to Last Month's Minutes - The design for last fall's sophisticated landscaping done on 75th St. just before the Community Center was provided free of charge by Margaret Atwell, Margaret Atwell Design (301-229-6976). Margaret is a former resident of Cabin John and has a landscape design business. Look for an article in the next newsletter describing the project and team effort involved.

CLASSIFIEDS

LOOKING FOR HOUSE:

We're a Cabin John family looking for a house/apt. to rent or housesit while our home is renovated. Project is scheduled to begin in June. 301-229-0129.

CAR FOR SALE: 1995 Saturn Station Wagon with 5 speed manual transmission in excellent condition, only 55,000 miles. Asking \$8500. Call 229-9049 before 8:00pm.

To place an ad in the Village News classifieds, send us your ad before the first Saturday of the month. The cost is \$0.25 per word. If you have questions, call Lorraine

The Glen Echo Baptist Church

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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.

LOOKING BACK- WARD IN CABIN JOHN

By Andrew E. Rice

Every day *The Washington Post* gives us a glimpse at the big news in the paper on that day in an earlier year of the 20th century. While *The Village News* doesn't go back that far, it has been around for almost one-third of a century, so it has covered quite a bit of local history. Last month's "Looking Backward" column recalled some of the stories which appeared in January-February editions of our community paper since 1967. This column reports on stories in April issues of past years.

The biggest news of course was the very first issue of the paper which appeared in April 1967. It looked quite different from today's paper, since it was mimeographed (anyone remember what that was?) on legal-sized paper and didn't even have a name. In fact, the editor, Judith Toth (who later represented this part of Montgomery County in the state legislature in Annapolis) appealed to readers to suggest possible names and offered "a buck and two pounds of Cabin John Sausage" for the best entry. (Some years back, in an earlier article, I asked if anyone knew what "Cabin John Sausage" was, but so far no-one has identified it. Perhaps I should offer a reward?)

By April 1972 issue, five years later, the paper had acquired its still current name and a new editor (Susan Vogt). The stories

in it sounded not too different from some we still see today -- concern about traffic "bumps" on MacArthur Boulevard, excessive noise from aircraft using National Airport, bus service to Cabin John, etc. -- and there was also a call for volunteers to help produce the first community directory of Cabin John residents. Our town was also engaged in a major community planning process.

In April 1975 the first printed issue of *The Village News* appeared in its current 8-1/2 x 11 inch size, with Shelley Keller as editor. Much of it was devoted to the then intense community debate on proposed "downzoning" of some lots from commercial to residential use.

Continued on Page 4

CABIN JOHN PARK PLAYGROUND UPGRADE -- FUNDING APPROVED

Our own Cabin John Park playground, located behind the tennis courts on MacArthur Boulevard, is scheduled to be renovated according to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission has budgeted for new equipment for both toddlers and older kids. A design for the playground is in the works now, and a copy will be sent to the Citizens Association for community input as soon as it is completed.

Interested in putting together comments or suggestions for this long needed playground redesign/renovation? Call Karen Melchar at 229-9049.

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Third Annual Cleanup/Trail Repair of Cabin John Creek

April 24th 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the MacArthur tennis courts parking lot near Union Arch Bridge (one lane bridge). Mark the date on your calendar.

Each of the last two years has produced very successful and enjoyable efforts to clean up the Creek and its environs. Unfortunately, there is still a fair amount of work to be done. As part of Earth Month, the Citizens Association has planned a cleanup/trail repair of the Creek on Saturday, April 24. This year, a number of Bannockburn Elementary School kids and parents will be joining us.

Montgomery County Park and Planning has provided gloves, but it's probably best to bring your own gloves (and a pocket knife) if you have them. CJCA will provide trash bags and refreshments. Please wear a pair of shoes that you won't mind getting wet. Please call Burr Gray (301-320-2918 (h), 703-607-2740 (w)) if any questions. Hope to see you there. (If it's pouring rain, reschedule to the next Saturday, May 1st.)

LOOKING BACK

Continued From Page 3

Indeed the proper place for commercial development in Cabin John was a continuing issue in community life for several years. Finally, the April 1980 issue (editor, Betsy Cheney) announced that groundbreaking for the new MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center would take place in May of that year.

(Space limitations bring this column to a close here, but we'll be back in the next issue with more backward glances at our favorite community, Cabin John.)

Support Your Local Community
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 \$10/family, \$7/individual yearly membership

Name _____
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(Please cut out and send with check to CJCA, P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818. Include an additional \$7.00 if you would like an extra copy of the 1998-1999 Cabin John Community Directory.)



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MOWER IS BETTER

By Ger Quinn

A few years ago I saw a news article about efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce pollution from lawnmowers. My upbringing and experience have taught me to mistrust every government pronouncement -- especially if they were trying to extend their authority to personal matters like lawnmowers. So I wrote it off as just more bureaucratic absurdity. But I was curious about the pollution claim so I started to pay closer attention to the nuances of the power mower. First you fuel the thing, and always spill an untidy little puddle. There's the phenomenon of "old gas," that fuel left over from last year. You can try using it, but it can leave both you and the mower sputtering and fuming. So where does old gas go? Whenever I'm about to yank the cord to fire up the motor I remember my friend with the mangled toes, so I run indoors to exchange my sandals for a pair of steel-toe construction boots. After walking around behind the mower in a cloud of engine exhaust my clothes are unfit for even the laundry basket. I leave them outside to air for a while. I don't know if this warrants a Federal case or not, but it's become a personal case for me.

Many of us remember hand-powered mowers from our past. But the one you are remembering was probably a rusty old junker that had spent too many winters in the weather. Somebody gave me one once. He had been "storing" it among the old

refrigerators in his back yard. The blades would barely spin. I ended up storing it in a patch of waist-high weeds. That's not the mower I'm talking about here. When that first power mower came along, with its 3 hp Briggs

doesn't foul the air.

I hear your derisive laughter, all you internal combustion cowboys with acres to mow. I admit
Continued on Page 7



Lil' Nipper

and Stratton, it seemed like life had taken a great stride toward perfection, and we knew there would be no going back. But a couple of years ago my family stayed at a summer house that came equipped with a hand mower. It was a new, well oiled and sharpened little machine. It cut beautifully. I could even cut the grass barefoot.

It was lightweight and easy to push. And the sound! The mere absence of noise would have been enough, but this machine made a sound that was actually pleasant! The swish of the shearing blades sound a lot like scissors. The gears murmur quietly and precisely, and when you stop pushing there's a lingering whoosh of air propelled by the still-spinning blades. And it



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LAWN MOWING and YARD WORK Amoruso's Lawn Service. Cabin John Resident. (301) 320-2685.

BLACK BIRD FLY AWAY

An interview with Hugh Gallagher, continued from the March issue of *The Village News*

By Lee Lawrence

So who is Hugh Gregory Gallagher? He writes lively, readable books on Eskimos, the U.S. Senate, FDR, the Holocaust and laws on civil rights for individuals with disabilities. The answer can be found in his new book, *Blackbird Fly Away, Disabled in an Able-Bodied World*. In the afterword of his book he wrote:

"Forty-five years ago I entered Bryn Mawr hospital. I did not expect to stay long for I had a term paper due. The subject of the paper was "Kant's Categorical Imperative." I never finished it. Now, perhaps it is time to do so. My life has been full. Happiness is made, said Freud, of love and work. I've had my share of both. I have tried always to learn all I could, to be as fair as possible, and to treat all men with honor and hon-

esty."

He closes with this: "Like Odysseus I will continue to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."

Blackbird Fly Away, Disabled in an Able-Bodied World is now available at local bookstores.

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, MD 20818

Note New Deadline Day
The next deadline is **10AM THURSDAY** Apr. 15th for the issue mailing Apr. 22nd.

People who make The Village News possible: Barbara and Reed Martin, Lorraine Minor, Heidi Brown Lewis.

Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, Diane Leatherman, Ger Quinn, and Barbara Martin.



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MOWER IS BETTER

Continued From Page 5

that human power has its limits, but in a community of quarter-to-half acre lots those limits are not strained. My yard, a fairly average one, takes less time and less exertion to mow by hand - especially if you account for the overhead of a power mower: fixing and maintaining or else lugging them somewhere to be fixed, getting gas, pulling the damn cord half the day.

You can get them at the usual places - Sears, Glen Echo Hardware. The prices range from less than a hundred to two hundred dollars, depending on the size of the mower -and the store. The paint job and decals vary but they all appear to come from the same factory located out in the heartland where people still make actual things. Of course if you are a more upscale type of person who likes to feel especially good about themselves you can get one with gold plated hubcaps from a mail-order boutique for about four times the price.

Using a push mower is different. It feels like a tool instead of an adversary. There's none of the snarling and threats that you get from a power mower. Using my power mower was like pushing a

Harley Davidson around the yard, so at first the hand mower felt a little insubstantial. You just walk along and it rolls ahead of you. Like walking to the mailbox. Now the power mower seems like gross overkill, like using a chain saw to trim your fingernails. You do have to pick up sticks from your yard before you mow. Even a small stick can stop the blades, but it leaves the grass looking well groomed. The grass doesn't get that wounded look that power mowers impart. That's why golf courses use reel mowers, because they're better. But if you like to postpone mowing until -well you know-until it *really* needs it (Honey, have you seen the kids this week?), then a hand mower is not your ticket. When the grass gets so long that it starts to fall over, it's time for the old bush hog.

You will need to verify all this for yourself. I know you can't give up the convictions of a lifetime because of something you just read in *The Village News*. So come over to my house someday and try it out. I'll be taking reservations from people who want to cut my lawn starting in April. But hurry, the calendar is filling up fast.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAYS

Pesticides, paint thinner, oil-based paint, used antifreeze, motor oil, and other automotive products, "dead" rechargeable batteries, or burned-out fluorescent light bulbs ... Does your home harbor a supply of these types of leftovers?

Proper disposal of these and similar products is important to protecting the health of humans, pets, and the environment. Never dispose of these products by putting them into your regular trash or by pouring them down the drain.

Montgomery County holds regular Household Hazardous Waste Collections through most of the year. There is no charge to County residents. The collections most convenient to Cabin John are:

- April 11, 1999** at the Shady Grove Transfer Station (SGTS)
- May 2, 1999** at the SGTS
- June 6, 1999** at the SGTS
- June 19, 1999** at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda (Rockville Pike at Wilson Drive)

All sites operate from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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**Next CJCA Meeting -
Tuesday March 23d.**

7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Commu-
nity Center

Agenda - (1) Presentation by County and
State personnel (Mr. Tom Robertson
(MNCPPC) and Ms. Suseela Rajan (MD
DOT)) of long term plans for the Beltway, i.e.
HOV, heavy/light rail, etc., (2) Presentation
on ways to make it easier/safer for pedestrians
to cross MacArthur Blvd., and (3) Announce-
ment of Third Annual Cabin John Creek
Cleanup/Trail Repair on April 24th.

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