

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 33 No. 4

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

Dec 1999

## NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Dec. 1999

by Barbara Martin

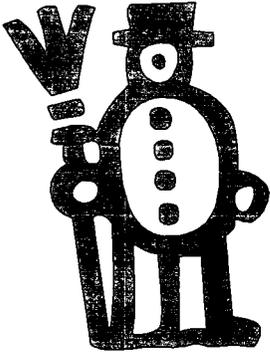
Dana Hyde and Jonathan Chambers have moved into the "Reed's Delight" house on MacArthur Boulevard while their new house is being built behind it. Both husband and wife are attorneys. Dana works for a private law firm in Washington; Jonathan does legal work for a company. They moved to Cabin John from Capital Hill.

On 80th Street, we welcome Shellie Gainsburg, Ralph Sonenshine, and 9-month-old daughter Rachel. Ralph is a consultant, and Shellie's at home with Rachel. The family came from Silver Spring and are glad to be in Cabin John where their love for the outdoors has found a happy home.

If you're over 60, you may want to be part of NIH's Shingles Prevention study. It just takes one injection, plus monthly telephone check-ins. If you've ever known anyone who has suffered from this condition, you will want to do what you can to avoid it for yourself and others. Call Marilyn Kelly at 301-402-4681.

Free strawberry plants to anyone who wants them - these are 'daughter' plants of a well-established patch that likes the climate here in Cabin John and has been bearing well for 2 years. Plant them now and enjoy sweet homegrown berries in June. Call Heidi at 301-320-0918.

PLEASE CALL BARBARA MARTIN AT 301-229-3482 WITH ITEMS ABOUT OLD AND NEW RESIDENTS-- DEATHS, BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, KIDS OFF TO COLLEGE, NEW JOBS. YOU ARE THE REPORTERS; I JUST PUT IT TOGETHER.



## CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION Meeting Minutes Oct. 26, 1999

- (1) Benches for Ride-on Bus Stops - Roy Seidenstein (320-9880 (h)) made a presentation about having benches at the Ride-on Bus stops along the river side of MacArthur Blvd. The meeting participants supported the concept of benches but noted the potential problems with vandalism, etc. Roy agreed to obtain a suitable and appropriate bench himself for one stop, with the possibility of benches for other stops to be evaluated in the future.
- (2) Aircraft Noise - Annette Davis (301-229-0754 (h)) discussed the ongoing effort by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to revise the air traffic control procedures and aircraft routings in the D.C./Baltimore area. The FAA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on revising the so-called Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facilities, which include the Dulles, National, BWI, and Andrews airports. While it is unclear whether a revision of the TRACON facilities will affect aircraft landings and takeoffs within 10 miles of the various airports, the opportunity exists for Cabin John to voice dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs. Cabin John residents attended several of the open house meetings held by the FAA over the last month on this issue and voiced their objection to the status quo, which has planes and helicopters following the Potomac River on takeoffs and landings. A motion was passed to prepare and submit comments to the FAA describing the impacts of the current landing/takeoff scheme on the Cabin John community and to advocate for a different pattern. Residents are encouraged to write their own letters, which must be received by December 2, 1999, to Mr. Joseph Champley, Project Support Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, FAA Air Traffic Control Systems Command Center, Potomac Program Office, 13600 EDS Drive, Suite 100, Herndon, VA 20171-3233 (Tel # 800-762-9531) (e-mail joe.champley@faa.gov). Additional information can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.faa.gov/ats/potomac>, or from the web site of Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise (CAAN) [www.caan.org](http://www.caan.org).
- (3) Montgomery County Civic Federation - Jorge Ribas (301-258-1910 (h)), President of the Civic Federation spoke about the activities of the Federation to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County. The Federation has a large membership of various citizen associations and holds its meetings the second Monday of each month in the Rockville City Council office building. The new Montgomery County Chief of Police, Charles Moose, Ph.D., will be speaking at the Jan. 10th meeting. The Civic Association works hard to hold public officials accountable for their actions, and recently was instrumental in the selection of an outstanding Superintendent of Schools. Interestingly, CJCA was one of the charter members of the Civic Association. A motion was passed to rejoin the

Civic Association (dues are \$65/year). CJCA is looking for a Cabin John resident who would be interested in attending the Federation's monthly meetings.

"The Y2K  
issue"

The entire  
production facility  
of The Village News  
was hit by a  
massive and  
uncorrectable  
computer failure  
during assembly of  
this issue. Please  
excuse the decided by  
pre-desktop publishing  
look of the layout

The editor

cont. on page 2

(4) **Beautification Grant** - Montgomery County will match up to \$250 of community dollars/labor for projects that beautify the community. Helen Daniel (229-1521 (h)) offered to investigate possibilities in Cabin John, including assisting Gladys Richter who is responsible for the nice flowers at the corner of Persimmon Tree Rd. and MacArthur Blvd.

(5) **Permanent Cabin John Historical Exhibit** - The Clara Barton Community Center has offered the Senior Room (just behind the office) as a location for a permanent exhibit of Cabin John's history. There is support to develop such an exhibit and CJCA is soliciting photographs, memorabilia and artifacts that would be useful in preparing such a permanent display. It was noted that some funding might be possible from the County Historical Society and that some nice display cases might be available from the Smithsonian Institution. The following residents, who it must be noted have always expended a large amount of time on the community's behalf, have agreed to help: Rich Kepler, Andy Rice, Barbara Martin, and Ger Quinn (with Peter Vogt acting as a consultant). Please contact Burr Gray (320-2918 (h)) if you would like to be involved in the effort or have items that could be included in the exhibit. A meeting is planned for early December to plan the project. (As part of the discussion, a motion was passed to request the study done by the County in the past year on the possible rehabilitation of the 2nd floor of the Community Center.)

Addendum to CJCA 9/28/99 Meeting Minutes - CJCA voted to make a donation to The Village News of up to \$1500 over the next year, as necessary.

**Neighborhood Services . . . . .**

**CABIN JOHN AMERICAN-CHINESE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 7703 MacArthur Boulevard. Mixed cultural and traditional backgrounds, American and Chinese, united in worshipping and serving God together. Residents of Cabin John and surrounding areas: you are warmly invited to share with us. Come and experience the Blessings!!!! English service 10.00 AM, Chinese service 11:15 AM on Sundays. Fellowship groups on Fridays at 8:00PM for youth, young professionals, families and children. Call church office at 301-229-8233 or Pastor Shih at 301-977-8927.

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Dan Sullivan was born in 1921 and grew up in Boston, in a lower middle class neighborhood of Irish and Italian immigrants. His parents, both from Ireland, met at an Irish dance. "My dad had a third-grade education; he worked as a laborer in a brewery, in an oil company, wherever he could get a job. My mother, like most of the neighborhood women, was the strength of our family."

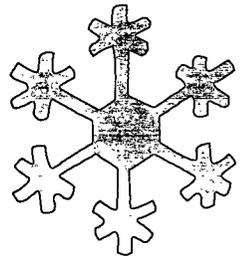
An  
Interview  
with  
Dan Sullivan  
by  
Barbara Martin

Dan was the second child of five, the oldest boy. He went to parochial grammar school, then to public high school. "I wasn't a good student. My eyes were bad and I couldn't see the board; there were too many things besides glasses that my family needed to spend money on. So I didn't do well in school." But in sports he shone. A good athlete, he was in demand to play on league teams--football, baseball, distance running. "All the boys I played with were Irish or Italian; we all got along--there were no gangs."

Somewhere along the line, Dan got his first pair of eyeglasses. "It was one of the most astonishing moments of my life when I walked out of the optometrist's office; I looked down at the road and for the first time saw those sharp, fine grains of sand." When he was 15,

Dan dropped out of high school and began working at odd jobs. In the time immediately before the United States entered World War II, the Boston Navy Yard was increasing ship production and Dan worked there. On the day after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Dan, along with many of his friends, rushed to enlist. Turned down by the Navy and the Marines because of his poor eyesight, he was drafted into the Air Force.

"The first thing that happened was that I was given a battery of tests and to my great surprise I scored high in all of them. It seems it was my eyes--and perhaps some ornerness--that had held me back in school, not my intelligence. Realizing this was a great breakthrough for me."



Of the several specialties offered him, Dan chose aerial and ground photography. His training in this--including flying and the making of maps--was primarily at Wendover Field, in the Great Salt Desert on the Utah-Nevada border. He joined the boxing team ("mainly to go to the tournaments in Salt Lake City, 100 miles away"). After a year at Wendover, Dan saw an ad for a physical instructor training position, applied, and got the slot; that meant 3 months' training in Miami, then eventual assignment at March Field in Riverside, California. "I worked out a deal where I taught the early morning, late afternoon, and weekend physical education classes--slots nobody else wanted. That left me free to attend Riverside Polytechnical High School during the day, and that's how I got my diploma."

But then, in 1944, in one of the mysterious decisions from on high, Dan was transferred to an aviation engineers unit and trained as an electrician, before being shipped to the Pacific, to Guam. It turned out they didn't need an electrician as much as they needed a demolition specialist, so with very sketchy training, Dan got a new job. "We were blasting coral to get material for runways--landing strips for the B-29's that were bombing Japan. We also blasted trees that were too big for the bulldozers to clear. Every part of it was very dangerous." Once, due to a mistake by his working partner, Dan was knocked unconscious and his left arm splattered with copper from a blasting cap.





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By Diane Leatherman

Nope, not yet. Funding to rebuild or renovate the buildings to the tune of almost 18 million, divided equally between federal, state and county, is on track now. But there's also the question of future operations. Who will operate the arts programs at the park?

The whole matter was thrown into question a couple of years ago when the National Park Service (NPS) said that they could not continue to operate the park. Buildings were in severe need of repair and the NPS had no funds to do so. They therefore announced that they couldn't continue to operate the park and provided five scenarios of what could happen, including one scenario that would mean tearing down all of the buildings except the carousel and Chautauqua Tower.

George Washington Memorial Parkway (which Glen Echo Park is a part of) Superintendent Audrey F. Calhoun came to our Citizens Association Meeting and filled us in. I offered to be follow-up liaison on the matter and Bur Gray, Association President, accepted my offer.

Many people love Glen Echo Park and the troops were rallied by a loosely held together group, the National Campaign to Save Glen Echo Park. A huge turnout for the February, 1998 meeting called by the NPS at Clara Barton Community Center convinced politicians that a lot of people cared. Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan subsequently convened a Glen Echo Park Study Group to come up with a proposal for future operations for the NPS deadline of September 1, 1998. The group worked very hard and the proposal went in on time. Then....silence.

The NPS said they had to do an environmental impact study before announcing the proposal/s received to the public. My personal feeling was, Why do they have to study it? It's obvious most of the environment will fall down if they don't act. But then I tend to be impatient with the NPS.

Superintendent Calhoun now says that the General Management Plan for Glen Echo Park will be made available to the public this coming winter. There will be a 60 day period for public review.

In the interim, in response to a Congressional request, the NPS paid consultants to come up with three choices of a business plan. The first two choices involved the NPS staying active in operations at the park; in plan #2, in partnership with the county. The third alternative was to have a private for-profit entity operate the park, not a very viable option since the entity would have to pay back all of the millions from the three levels of government to stabilize the facilities.

continued on  
page 6

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**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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Dan Sullivan continued...

After 6 months on Guam, Dan's outfit was moved to Okinawa, the base for around-the-clock bombing of the Japanese mainland. Okinawa was essentially an outdoor warehouse, storing equipment for the expected invasion of Japan. That invasion never happened because, after the explosion of the two atom bombs, the Japanese surrendered and the war was over.

Dan Sullivan was discharged in 1946: 26 years old, having lived a lot of life in the 5 years of the war, and undecided as to what to do next. Under the GI Bill, he started college at the New England Conservatory of Music. "I had always liked music; in high school I played in the marching band--trumpet, bass, the Sousaphone." But after a year, he decided that music was not his future. He transferred to Bentley College of Accounting and Finance, and did a work-study assignment keeping the books for a dental lab. He was less than enthusiastic about that field of work, and finally finished his undergraduate degree in social studies at Boston University.

His next venture was law school, at BU. His GI college benefits had run out, so to support himself he worked summers in Washington, D.C. where he had friends. "I was an instructor at a summer camp in Virginia, and for a short stint I worked as an extra in the Judy Holliday-Bill Holden film, "Born Yesterday." He finished law school at American University, passed the DC bar and found work at one of the pioneer HMO's--Group Health Association. The newly certified lawyer was given a job in marketing and did so well that he was soon named Assistant Director for Member Services, then Director, where his duties included editing the association newsletter, planning marketing strategies, lobbying for GHA at Federal and state levels concerning proposed health legislation, reviewing and commenting on health laws and regulations.

And where did his talent for writing and editing come from? Through osmosis by reading. "I was always an avid reader. In fact, I got caught more than once as a kid, reading under the blankets with a flashlight. And I kept reading intensively all my life." Dan stayed with Group Health for 28 years.

His life wasn't all work by any means. The enthusiastic sportsman was always involved in several fields of athletics. He played competitive handball and did whitewater downriver and slalom kayaking. Vacations were spent kayaking in the western U.S. (twice he kayaked the Grand Canyon) or skiing in Switzerland.

It was boating that brought him together with the woman who would be his wife. Beverly Marsters had come from New Hampshire to Washington to work for the U.S. Geologic Survey. "We were both kayaking fans. background, and within a year of meeting, they were married. "This was quite a surprise to me. I was 47 and was sure by then I was a lifelong bachelor."

The Sullivans moved into a townhouse in Georgetown and produced two sons, Sean and Matthew. But they had their eyes on Cabin John. Dan was very familiar with the area from his years of boating on the Potomac and stopping afterwards at Tuohy's tavern with his buddies: They moved to their home at Macarthur and 78th Street in 1973, into a 1923 frame house with a long front yard. The next year daughter Hannah was born.

Dan retired from Group Health in 1981, then became Director of Marketing for GWU Health Plan. He retired from that job 10 years ago. "For the past decade, I've been a fulltime jock. In good weather I kayak once or twice a week, frequently on the slalom course at Brookmont. I play handball several times a week and Bev and I often walk the towpath." For 25 years he has taught canoeing/kayaking on a volunteer basis.

Beverly retired this spring from her job as production editor for the American Psychiatric Association, so now the Sullivans are free to spend their time in sports or travel or whatever takes their fancy. This year they spent a month in Italy and 3 weeks hiking in Arizona and New Mexico.

Their three offspring are adults now, and are following careers closely related to their parents' professions. Sean is an environmental editor for McGraw Hill; Matthew, an accountant with Clark Construction, is a second-year student at Georgetown University Law School; Hannah will graduate from that school next month and will be working for a law firm in New York.

The Sullivans own some property in New Hampshire and once thought they might live there after retirement. But

there are too many attractions in this area and too many good years lived here. In the spring, they hosted a family reunion with 40 Sullivan relatives and friends, and expect to continue that tradition. Perhaps the strongest New England influence now operating is that unmistakable delightful Boston accent.

### Glen Echo cont.

My feeling for a number of years has been that I would like to see the NPS out of arts administration at Glen Echo Park. While it has been good for Glen Echo Park to have the dignity of a national park, it has not been particularly beneficial to have the NPS administer the programs day to day. What I feel happens is this: NPS staff turns over fairly regularly in the park and does not have a loyalty to Glen Echo Park. To advance in the bureaucracy, they can't, So decisions are made that aren't always the best for the park.

It is my opinion that a body created to govern Glen Echo Park with a loyalty to the programs there and no particular venue beyond would perform more successfully for the parks future. As examples, one could look at operations at Wolf Trap Farm Park and the Kennedy Center. Both are owned by the National Park Service. And this still wouldn't be the end of the story. A period of shake-out and instability would probably result from a new method of operations.

So, don't relax, stay tuned. If you wish to be on the National Campaign's mailing list to receive newsletters or email you can call me or the Campaign at 301-320-TALK.

### CLASSIFIEDS

To place an ad in the Village News classifieds, send us your ad before the first Saturday of the month. \$0.25 per word. If you have questions, call Lorraine Minor at (301)229-3515

**Cat Sitting/House Checks.** Offered by mature Cabin John resident. Lower rates in exchange for laundry privileges. References provided. 301-320-0537.

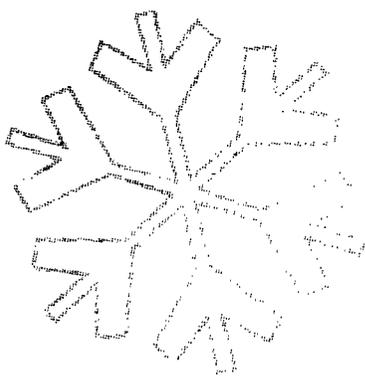
**Nanny wanted** for 2 1/2 year-old child. Monday - Friday 12pm to 6pm, must drive, citizen or green card, etc. references. Generous salary and extras. Call 301-320-3369.

**Floorcloth Workshop.** Learn to make a floorcloth in this one-day workshop offered in the studio of Cabin John artist Barbara Quinn. January 15th, 2000. 10am to 4pm. Call Barbara at 301-229-8030 for details.

**Hands On Science.** Adult leaders needed for PTA-sponsored recreational science program for elem. Children. 1 hr/week for 8 weeks. Training provided. For details call 301-929-2330.

**Babysitting.** Join the Cabin John/Bannockburn Babysitting co-op now in its 24th year. Hour for hour—no money involved. Call Helen Montfort at 301-320-8971.

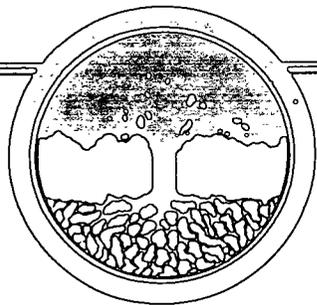
**WANTED- Old leaky rowboat.** Do you have a rowboat that is no longer seaworthy but would make a great make-believe prop for preschoolers? The Clara Barton Center for children is looking for someone who might be able to donate such an item. Please call Linda at 301-320-4565.



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# Stir-up Saturday

by Heidi Brown Lewis

The beauty and warmth of our recent weekends in Cabin John have given them the feel of "bonus days" -- not earned, certainly not counted on, but here for each of us to do with as we please. Many locals have been out on the bike path, the ball fields, the trails and towpath, enjoying short sleeves and fins, kite-flying, mosquito-free breezes. At the end of such glorious days, I sometimes wonder if I did everything I could have with it. Did I use it in a worthy way? And how do you measure the worth of a day?

We spent a recent sunny afternoon at Arlington Cemetery. The Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier uses each moment for precise purpose, his solemn mechanical dance a testament to our collective regard for those who gave their lives for freedom. Down the street, the children of the Clara Barton Center held their annual Halloween Parade: the shuffling line of M&M's, pumpkin farmers and pirates outnumbered by camcorders, Nikons and parents jostling like paparazzi. Over at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, the farm family is threshing the wheat and rye, carefully gathering the seeds that mean their survival through the winter. In hundreds of ways, rituals and traditions help our country and our families mark our days and bring meaning to how we spend them.

Last weekend on 81st street, some of our neighbors were engaged in one of their traditions, and they were up to their wrists in batter. In a bowl that took two to hold while a third stirred, Lorraine and Forrest Minor, their sister and brother-in-law Dr. Sylvia Dutcher and Phil Gagner mixed the ingredients for twelve 2lb. fruitcakes. This is around the 18th year that these four have gotten together for an all-day cake-baking social prior to the holidays. "Production at this level takes four people - except for the year Phil was sick and we somehow managed with three," said Forrest. They tried making sixteen cakes once, but found that pushed the whole operation beyond the point of enjoyment, which is really the point in the first place.

On this Saturday, the scent of nutmeg was in the air and Crosby, Stills and Nash was on the stereo. Other music to mix by ranged from Allman Brothers Band to Bach and Pachelbel. Loaf pans (greased, then lined with 3 layers of waxed paper and greased again) towered on the counter next to a kitchen scale used to bring the filled pan to exactly 2 pounds. "I buy my spices at the co-op because I know they are fresh," said Lorraine as she started writing down the recipe for me.

*Mix 3 1/2 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoons baking soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon mace and 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves. Set aside.*

The side attraction to the baking is the bridge. "We play boys against girls so you don't have partners taking arguments home with them. We used to tally the score from just this day, but the girls always said they won, so now we keep score for the whole year," Forrest explained as he pretend-pinned the nose off my baby to delighted gurgles. They all say their bridge game is strictly for fun and no one really takes the bidding too seriously - it is just another way to enjoy the company.

*In a bowl with 1 cup of the flour mixture (to keep the fruit from sticking together) mix 4 oz candied orange peel, 5 1/2 oz currants, 8 oz dates, 4 oz pineapple cut in thirds, 6 oz citron, 1 1/2 cups raisins, 8 oz cherries and 1 1/2 cups walnuts.*

"Choose people you can trust with sharp objects to cut the cherries and pineapple," advised Phil. Phil also recommends a good Sauterne as refreshment during the baking. The Minors don't use any spirits on their cakes because they keep beautifully without them. I tried a piece of last year's vintage and it was moist and delicious. "Most people think they don't like fruit cakes because they've only tried the concrete stuff sold in stores," said Phil.

*Cream 1 1/2 cups margarine and 1 cup brown sugar. Add five eggs. Mix separately 1/2 cup molasses, 1/2 cup honey, 1/2 cup orange juice. To the sugar mixture, add portions of the flour and liquid mixtures alternately, then stir in the fruit. Fill prepared loaf pans and cook at 250 for 2 1/2 hours.*

Lorraine adapted this recipe from one she found in "America Cooks" by the Federation of Women's Clubs published by Putnam. She prefers cakes with more cake to them - with the candied fruit as more of an accent than the primary component. "These are easy to give away - provided you don't tell people they are fruitcake." This tradition always has to come well before the Thanksgiving to Christmas sprint, as the cakes should settle for a month or so to come in to their full flavor.

They don't have to be fancy, they don't have to be ancient. Add an element of ritual to something your family already enjoys and create a tradition of your own. Cabin John is just the kind of place to make you feel like celebrating the gentle patterns of life.

The Village News is printed monthly except July + December + distributed free to each household in Cabin John. Send news, advertisements, letters + subscriptions to the address below. People who want contribute to The Village News: Barbara + Reed Martin, Diane Leatherman, Burr Gray, Heidi Brown Lewis + Lorraine Minor. PO Box 164 Cabin John MD 20818  
Next Deadline: 10 AM THURSDAY Jan 13th for issue mailing Jan 20th

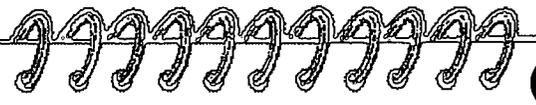
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Next Cabin John Citizens  
 Association Meeting -  
 November 23 at 7:30 pm  
 Clara Barton Comm. Center

**AGENDA:**

1. Planning for Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday PARTY!
2. Summary of recent discussions with Montgomery Co. concerning the bike path
3. Status of efforts to stop sewer smell from Potomac Interceptor next to the canal

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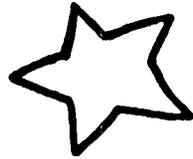


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## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

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guest appearance by Santa Claus

- Drinks provided. Please bring cookies to share.
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- Co-sponsored by the Cabin John Citizens Association and the Clara Barton Community Center.