

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 36 Issue 3

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

Nov 2002

New Hours for the Clara Barton Community Center -

The hours of the Community Center changed slightly after the last issue of The Village News and are as follows: Mon & Wed 9 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Tue & Thurs 3:00 - 9:30 p.m., closed Fri - Sun except for scheduled events. The Cabin John Citizens Association is creating a community organization that will assist the Center with its programs and fundraising, and CJCA hopes to be able to expand the hours that the Center is to the general public. In this era of large County and the State budget deficits, patience and teamwork will be required. If you are interested in assisting with the creation of this entity, please contact Burr Gray (703-607-2740 (w), 301-320-2918 (h), burr.gray@alum.dartmouth.org). We really need some committed CJ residents and residents of other communities to carry this process forward.

Sewer Stink Environmental Assessment Public Meeting & Comments -

A number of Cabin John residents attended the public meeting held by the National Park Service on October 3, 2002 to discuss the NPS's Environmental Assessment regarding methods of eliminating the smelly odors from the Potomac Interceptor sewer. The Park Service is headed in the right direction with the proposal and indicated that they did not plan to locate one of the filter units in Cabin John, but rather would place it near the Beltway. CJCA, and other residents, provided written comments to the NPS on the EA. The CJCA comments are summarized as follows: (1) we strongly prefer putting the carbon filter up by the Beltway rather than at Lock 10 or 8, (2) the permit under which the DC Water & Sewer Authority operates the Potomac Interceptor must be revised so that WASA is required to meet their obligations or face penalties, (3) NPS might think about lowering the height of the filter structures by digging a basement, and (4) if implementation of the project can be phased, then priority should be given to addressing the vents next to residential areas first; the sealing of the vents at Lock 10 and Lock 8 should occur as soon as possible.

Cabin John 9/11 Remembrance - Additional support for purchases of the flags came from Richard & Ilene Ackerman, Jan and Bill Neudorfer, Dave Smith & Potomac Outdoors, and the Johnson Family.

Next CJCA Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday Oct 22nd, 2002 at the Clara Barton Community Center:

AGENDA: (1) Summary of Crab Feast results and dues payments, (2) Approval of costs of CJ Directory publication and remaining Historical Exhibit costs, (3) Update on formation of Community Center support entity, (4) Open discussion of other CJCA goals/projects for the next year

Minutes from CJCA meeting of Sept. 24, 2002:

a. County/State Presentation on Tree Cutting

- County and State personnel described the various regulations and policies that apply to cutting of trees in Montgomery County. Kathy Conlon, Environmental Planner and Mont. County Forest Conservation Program Administrator, started off the presentation by describing how the Forest Conservation program applies to both new development and redevelopment. Loss must be minimized, but development is not precluded.

Priorities are set based on established environmental guidelines ... stream valleys, wet lands, forests associated with the above plus specimen trees are protected. When forest/trees can not be saved, mitigation is required. Mitigation can happen both through onsite and offsite measures.

The restrictions can apply to almost all property, but small lot development (less than 1.5 acres) is exempted from onsite mitigation. However, you cannot clear more than 5000 square feet of tree canopy without a permit. A dangerous tree does not require permission to take down. If you have questions you should call Kathy at 301-495-4542, or e-mail catherine.conlon@mncppc-mc.org

- State Forester Sadem Hakem (Department of Natural Resources) described the state requirements. All trees on the public right-of-way are considered part of the state property. The public right of way

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usually extends about 6-10 feet on either side of the road. Any cutting of trees above 4 inches in diameter in this area requires a \$25 permit (call 301-854-6060 for an inspection), which usually takes 7-10 days to obtain.

Driveway access is permitted; if a tree removal is required in such a case then a permit exception is granted as the default. If a tree is on the public right-of-way but it extends onto private property some accommodation is made with private property owners. The state has several programs to support the planting of trees in a community: Maryland Plant Community Program, Tree City USA program for municipalities, and Tree Tremendous Program that provides tree seedlings up to six feet for right-of-way improvement.

The County no longer plants Bradford Pear trees, which have a nasty habit of splitting without warning all the way down to the ground when they get to be 20 years old or so. If you have branches extending into your yard from a neighbor and you would like those branches removed, best approach is to work with your neighbor rather than just cut the branches as soon as they cross into your property, thus risking losing the tree.

b. Incorporation of The Village News under the Cabin John Citizens Association

- Recently The Village News has been investigating incorporation as a means to provide protection for the volunteers who are responsible for its production and distribution. Over the years, The Village News has been subsidized by the Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA), which is incorporated, because CJCA believes the monthly newsletter provides an invaluable service to the community.

CJCA members recognized the value of providing legal protection and institutional support to the Village News and, at the request of The Village News, voted to make it part of the Citizens Association. The following resolution was passed at the meeting: "In recognition of the fact that the Cabin John Citizens Association has donated funds to keep the Village News viable and in order to convey the benefits and status of incorporation to the Village News, the Village News shall be included as part of the Citizen's Association. The editorial independence of the Village News is recognized, acknowledged, and agreed to by the Cabin

John Citizens Association and shall not be abridged in perpetuity."

c. Cemetery by Gibson Grove Church

- Diane Leatherman gave a presentation on the very old cemetery that is located next to the Beltway up by the Gibson Grove church. Access to the cemetery is difficult due to overgrown foliage that has completely covered the path. After hearing that relatives of individuals buried in the cemetery supported improving the situation, the attendees voted to support an effort to improve the path to the cemetery and to explore the possibility of getting a grant from the County to assist with the process of possible other improvements.

d. Bridge Panel Landscaping

- A motion was passed to provide up to \$1000 for landscaping at the area behind and around the panels next to the Cabin John Bridge. The idea is to add some tall grasses, remove one of the weed trees behind the fence, and further improve the area. The motion requires that we have a one-year warrantee for the plantings. Hughes Landscaping had performed the recent work on the area as a free service to the community, and will handle the additional landscaping. CJCA is also considering requesting WSSA to install a tasteful and discreet water fountain at that location for weary and thirsty bicyclists and pedestrians.

Burr Gray



AUTUMN 18th-CENTURY MARKET FAIR
Saturday & Sunday, October 19&20

11am-4:30pm



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CRAB FEAST - IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

With the 32nd Annual Crab and Chicken Feast behind us we would like to take this time to see how much effort and how many people it takes to make such a great event come to life. This is our only fundraiser for the community and the money goes towards so many good things. Expenses for this year will include publishing the updated Cabin John Directory, finishing the Historical Exhibit for the Community Center, supporting the Village News and the Annual Holiday Party in December, all of which are offered free to Cabin John Residents.

We hope everyone noticed the new banner across MacArthur Boulevard. A lot of thought went into the design and it was decided to go bigger and double sided. Helen Daniel handled ordering and pick-up and David Murphy and his son Jeremiah did the hanging late one night. With the added width came added weight and hanging it turned out to be quite a job. And who would guess just how many people drive along the boulevard so late at night!

Another nice new touch was the umbrella rentals. In past years it has been so hot, and with no shade in the eating area, it was decided to try rented umbrellas. They added a really festive air to the whole feast and made a nice shady spot to eat. Speaking of how hot it can be... this year was exceptionally nice weather. All day was overcast and just warm instead of sweltering. We noticed a few drops of rain about midway through, but the real rain held off until 8:30, bringing back memories of the feast two years ago when the heavens opened at exactly 6:00. Talk about good luck!

We had our traditional menu of crab, chicken and vegetables, but this year saw the addition of wine sales for those who prefer chicken and wine instead of beer and crabs. John Matthews handled serving beer, wine, sodas and water. His helpers: Pat Fitzgerald and Bramman Avery. Lemonade continues to be a big hit and David Murphy and his crew of middle and high school volunteers did a great job of running that. His volunteers were: Mariah Murphy, Drake Patt-Corner, Limaya Atembina, Lavinia Aguião, and Layan Jawdat.

David is always looking for better ways to make and serve his concoctions, last year he added orangeade and a warm water hand cleaning station and this year he added a very nifty serving bar that attached to the fence. One trivia fact that stunned me was how much ice we need... 600 to 700 pounds! Harry Rieckelman and Gene Wright

loaded all that ice and delivered it to John and David in time to keep everything coool.

Each year we begin a week or so before the event by selling advance tickets. This year the organizers of advance sales were Clare Amoruso (who has done this for 9 years!) and Lisa Landsman. The following people were seen going door-to-door helping us buy those tickets: Pepi Bolger, Denise Britti, Deborah Duffy, Juliet Rodman, Elaine Tama, Jean Betz, Melanie Patt-Corner, Jane Hanna, Helen Daniel, Brandon Fortune, Noriko Hoge, Kay Kemp, Diane Leatherman, Lorraine Minor, Alison Ordu, Connie Rice, Susan Roberts, Patty Sieber, Kathy Siefken, Gloria Slayton, Peter Vogt, Bob Wilkoff and Maureen Wiloughby.

Gabrielle Herderschee-Hunter did advance publicity for the feast. She had our event advertised in the local papers and notified various political candidates. This being an election year we thought we might see a few politicians the day of the feast (as we have in the past), however, none were seen that day.

Long before September 14th Barbara Quinn and Susan Fitzgerald were busy designing a new tee shirt for the crab feast. The design was wonderful and 72 shirts were printed for sale the day of the feast. All 72 shirts sold and will not be available again until next year's feast! In the past we have had Cabin John tee shirts, but nothing specifically for the Crab Feast. Also on sale were the Union Arch Bridge tee shirts (a few of those are still available and will be sold at the Winter Party in December), and Prints of the Union Arch Bridge taken on the day of the grand re-opening last year.

The Thursday and Friday before the feast Robin Gurley organized a large group of volunteers to get all the vegetables ready for cooking or mixing on Saturday. Her helpers were: Amal Bekdash, Trudi Bick, Kathleen Black, Heidi Brown Lewis, Angela Coppola, Helen Daniel, Deb Duffy, Lisa Gapra-Norris, Helen Harris, Orla Kastberg, Marlene McConnell, Ping Mei, Karen Melchar, Ruth Rabner, Missy Rabner, Kathleen Stevenson, Siew Tan, and Martha Wilkoff. These men and women snapped, scraped, chopped, cooked and sliced many hours on these two days to get the bushels and pounds of raw food ready for the cookers on Saturday. This year we were dealing with 60 pounds of potatoes and 4 bushels of collard greens! Not to mention the carrots, onions, etc. All

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LOOKING BACKWARD IN CABIN JOHN

By Andrew E. Rice

The Story of The Village News

The Village News – or, as it was originally called, The Cabin John Village News – first appeared in the late 1960's and then, as ever since, was a labor of love for those who produced it. Although the Cabin John Citizens Association had existed since 1919, the idea of a community newspaper sprang largely from people who had become Cabin John residents in the 60's and were moved by a sense of civic concern about future development in their community.

In those earliest days of the paper, it appeared on a single legal-size sheet, mimeographed on both sides. Distribution was not through the U.S. Post Office but by a delivery corps of youngsters, each with a certain territory, who were paid 1 cent for each copy delivered. It wasn't a terribly reliable system but it persisted until the spring of 1980 when the switch was made to delivery by U.S. mail.

The paper was popular from the very beginning and soon expanded to six or even eight pages. Production was done entirely on a typewriter (even the headlines were merely all capital letters), and the advertisements by local merchants – then as now an important source of revenue for the paper – were hand drawn.

A big change came in April 1975 when the paper's name became simply The Village News and its dimensions were reduced to 8-1/2 by 11. The text continued to be prepared on a typewriter, but a few headlines began to appear in larger and bolder type. And, instead of typing or drawing on a stencil, the editors laid out and pasted the typed material on big boards, added some clip art, and sent the boards out for offset reproduction. Today, of course, text and layout are all done by computer word processing.

Although The Village News has been taken by many to be the voice of the Citizens Association, in fact up to now it has always been an independent publication, produced by a changing group of devoted volunteers, without any formal organizational structure. From the beginning it has always been free to Cabin John residents (non-residents, usually former Cabin Johners, originally paid \$3 and now pay \$5 for a subscription).

To meet production costs, it has relied on advertising and donations from citizens and, in more recent years, on an annual contribution from the Citizens Association (largely derived from revenue from the Crab Feast).

It is testimony to the cooperative spirit in Cabin John that The Village News has flourished for close to 35 years in such an informal, unstructured style. Each of the editors, who have succeeded each other as time went by, has enjoyed a remarkable "freedom of the press" but has never abused the position, always keeping the pages of the paper open to all. And, without a doubt, The Village News has lived up to its founders' vision of knitting together Cabin John into a stronger community.

[editor's note: The Village News became part of the Citizens Association in September primarily as a way to secure incorporation for the paper. The independence of editorial decisions is assured in the motion passed by the CJCA. See page 2 for details]

CLASSIFIED ADS

Housing Needed: Long-time Cabin John resident, single female, seeks housing/house share. I'm exceptionally quiet, neat and very helpful. Prefer quiet home with older resident or can also provide part-time child care. I can be a great help around the house if needed. Excellent references who are also long-time Cabin John residents. Anyone in Cabin John or surrounding area who needs an excellent renter, please call Carolyn (301) 229-3308.

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED: Family on MacArthur Blvd. Is looking for a housekeeper one day a week or two half days per week. Please contact Dana at (301) 229-6350.

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

have to be cleaned and cut up in some manner before
CRAB FEAST
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cooking or mixing into potato salad or coleslaw. This seems like a daunting task, but with so many people working together it is a very pleasant and sociable job and a great way to meet new neighbors.

Actual cooking of chicken, crabs and green vegetables is done Saturday in the morning and continues through the afternoon until all the food is either cooked or gone. Kitchen crew (where the collards, green beans and baked beans are cooked) was Lorraine Minor, Diane Leatherman, Linda Green and Bernice Dove.

Early in the morning Lorraine Minor took all those pounds of potatoes and cabbage and mixed up delicious potato salad and coleslaw. Meanwhile, Diane was beginning the collards and green beans. Bernice Dove was on hand to mix and cook the baked beans and share in the other cooking. After Diane left the kitchen, Linda Green took a turn cooking and stayed to do the huge clean up after all the cooking and serving is done.

Jan Smith and Stan Schaper have been doing the chicken cooking for about 5 years and have it down pat. They have developed a good marinade to keep the chicken juicy even while making sure it is cooked thoroughly. This year their helpers were: Marg Fisher, Rob Kibler, Fred and Judy Mopsik, and Jerry Muys.

Crabs were supplied and cooked by Ralph Osborne (owner of Market on the Boulevard) with help from long time resident Pete Hunter. Crabs continue to be less plentiful than a few years ago, but the taste is still sweet. We had such a large crowd this year that we were running out of both crabs and chicken by 5:00. This was definitely a first!

Rounding out the food choices were pizza, popcorn and baked goods. Trudi Bick organized pizza sales this year and her servers were: Chris Bick and Brandon Fortune. Bob Epstein supplies us with a popcorn machine each year and this year the "corn poppers" were: Rick Hatch and Larry West. The Cabin John- Brookmont 3 and 4 Year Old School always does the baked goods sale and this year they had many cookies, cakes, ice cream and brownies for those with a sweet tooth.

Serving all those patrons takes a lot of organizing and a lot of volunteers and Clare Amoruso has been helping

in this department for many years. This was her ninth year getting the serving line staffed and set up. Volunteers were: Catherine and Bob Kapp, Gale O'Laughlin, Tom Heslin, Larry Heflin, Jean Betz, Meredith Griggs, Susan Gelb, Stephanie Smart, Robin Mustain, Helen Daniel, Lu Coleman, Elaine Tama, Mary Kay Young and Blythe Leatherman.

Cabin John resident Doug Hall, and his friend Ed Pozarny, have provided music for the last three years. This year they played from 3:00 until 5:00 and it added a wonderful ambiance for the adults.

Entertainment was provided for the children in the form of face painting by Cabin John Girl Scout troop #3: Katie Barnhard, Lorena Clark, Kathy Giese, Amber Johnson and Mary Sparacino. Also on hand was Chuck Flayhart the Magician, doing magic and making wonderful balloon creations.

Ruth Rabner organized another great Bike Parade to kick off the feast. Many children from the neighborhood were spotted riding down the bike path from 79th Street to the Community Center. Ruth had help controlling traffic and keeping the children on the bike path from: John Rabner, Robin Gurley, Angela Coppola, Heidi and Daisy Lewis, Maris and Ben Miles, Kate Wilkoff and Sara Wright. When they reach the Community Center each child receives a prize for participating.

Andy Rice has been handling recycling and clean up for several years now and really has a great system. We no longer have problems with yellow jackets because of his diligence. His helpers were: Nina Weissberg, Adi Carter and Don Mehlman.

Of course, eating comfortably would not be possible if not for the advance work of Burr Gray and the men and women who pick up, set up and return the tables and chairs we borrow from Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo, Full Gospel Washington Church on 78th Street in Cabin John and Glen Echo Baptist Church. John Hughes Landscaping loaned his large truck for transporting and Mark Leatherman, Don Mehlman, Phil Amoruso, Norman Lizear, Neil Helm, John Rabner, Steve France, Mario Tama, Anne Gehrett, Gabrielle Herderschee-Hunter, Helen Daniel, Steve Cash, Adi Carter and Rick Duffy did the work of setting up and covering the tables with paper for protection. Girl Scout Troop #3 also helped cover the tables with paper.

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Throughout the day, Bruce Wilmarth was on hand to collect Citizen's Association dues, check names and addresses for the forthcoming, updated, Community Phone Book and sell Crab Feast tickets at the door. Catherine Wilmarth and Hannah Wilkoff gave him a break now and then to stretch his legs.

Midway through the event Burr Gray presented Diane Leatherman and Ralph Osborne with Union Arch Bridge prints for their tireless efforts and Lori Rieckelman presented Burr with a gift certificate for his many endeavors as Association president. Diane has been involved with the Crab Feast since it's inception in 1970 and has been doing the veggie cooking ever since we can remember.

And, the very last job of the feast is cleaning the huge grill the day after. Lori Rieckelman, Burr Gray and Tina Adler did this early Sunday morning.

As you can see, it takes many people to make this a smooth and productive event. Hopefully we have not missed anyone and if we have, please know that your

help was needed and appreciated even if my memory failed to call up your name. Many, many thanks to all who worked so hard and did so many different jobs, Lori and I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts. She and I hope you had as much fun getting ready for the feast as you did eating and visiting with friends and family on the big day. This is a big event, but it is also a really fun event to work towards, all of these jobs are really sociable and that makes it so easy to volunteer together.

See you next year!

Nicki Wright



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If you have not done so already, please pay your annual dues in the envelope that was provided in the last edition of The Village News - or your own envelope if you didn't keep that one.

So far, we seem to be going at the same rate as last year. If you have not paid dues in the past, consider giving it a try this year!

Support Your Local Community
Join the Cabin John Citizens Association
still only \$15/family or individual yearly membership

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THE VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly except in July and January and is sent free to all 800+ homes in Cabin John. Others may subscribe for \$5 per year. Send news, ads, letters, and subscriptions to:
The Village News
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Wednesday Nov 13th for the issue
mailing Nov 21st..

People who make the village news possible: Barbara and Reed Martin, Lorraine Minor, Heidi Brown Lewis.

Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, and Barbara Martin.
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