



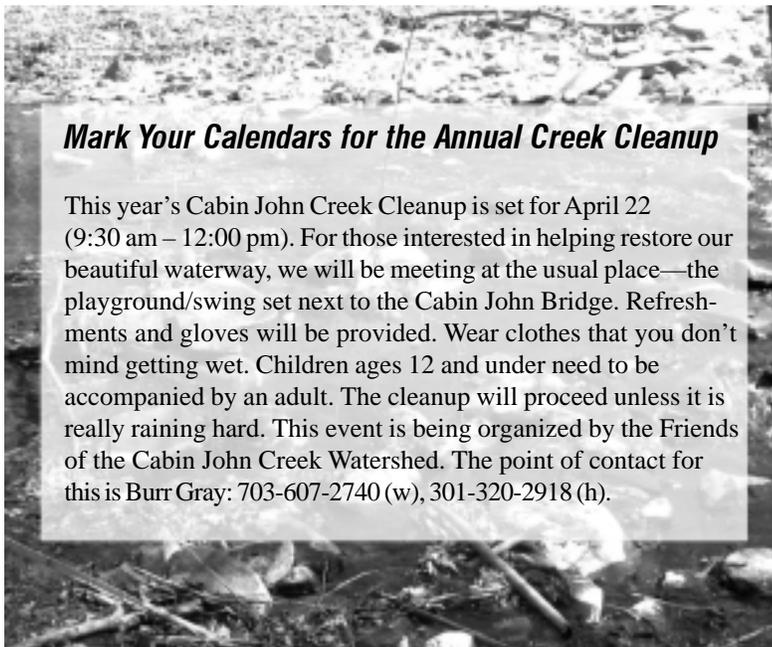
# Village News

Volume 39 Issue 7

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

## Painting Day at Community Center on April 22

Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center, Cabin John Citizens Association, and the Clara Barton Center for Children are teaming up to paint parts of the inside of the Community Center on the morning of Saturday, April 22 from 9 am til noon and we need lots of volunteers! This is in coordination with the County's recent commitment to put new windows in the Center and to paint the outside doors and trim. Please contact CJ resident Mac Thornton (229-7430) if you can help with this important effort. Paint and brushes will be provided. —



### Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Creek Cleanup

This year's Cabin John Creek Cleanup is set for April 22 (9:30 am – 12:00 pm). For those interested in helping restore our beautiful waterway, we will be meeting at the usual place—the playground/swing set next to the Cabin John Bridge. Refreshments and gloves will be provided. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting wet. Children ages 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. The cleanup will proceed unless it is really raining hard. This event is being organized by the Friends of the Cabin John Creek Watershed. The point of contact for this is Burr Gray: 703-607-2740 (w), 301-320-2918 (h).

## Volunteer Docents Needed for River Center

by Judy Welles

If you are interested in history or nature and enjoy talking with people, volunteers are needed as docents at the River Center at Lockhouse 8 on weekends from May through October. The River Center is located in the historic lockhouse, restored and operated by the Potomac Conservancy, at Lock 8 on the C&O Canal in Cabin John.

Sign up for the orientation at the lockhouse during Earth Day celebration on April 22 (see pg. 7) or by contacting Judy Welles in advance at [welles@potomac.org](mailto:welles@potomac.org) or 301-229-8110.

Being a docent is an opportunity to meet and interact with visitors to the C&O Canal National Historical Park and gain a greater knowledge of the C&O Canal and Potomac River. Docents also have unique access to the historic Lockhouse 8. With volunteers, the lockhouse will re-open to visitors officially on May 6.

Over the past four years, volunteers and members of the Potomac Conservancy, a regional non-profit organization, have brought the lockhouse, built in 1830, back to life. Now serving as an educational River Center, this year it will feature nature activities for children and families, cultural events for adults, and information on the connection between the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Restoration of the lockhouse is continuing with plans for electricity, an enclosed back porch, and development of professional educational exhibits. —

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Docents dedicate three to four hours once a month, on a Saturday or Sunday, to greet River Center visitors and answer their questions. Docents must be at least 18 years old and must attend an orientation meeting, which will be held on Saturday, April 22, at 2 pm at the River Center.



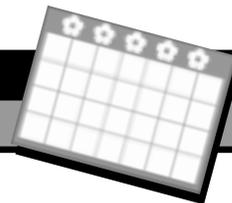
# Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

*There is no Neighborly News column this month because Barbara Martin is on vacation. But she'll be back! Please send any news items (births, deaths, new neighbors, etc.) her way for publication in next month's issue. Email barbmartin@comcast.net or call 301-229-3482.*



## Community Calendar



MAR

28 ..... CJCA meeting  
Clara Barton Center  
7:30 pm (see p. 4)

APR

22 ..... Painting Day  
Clara Barton Center  
9 am - noon (see p. 1)

22 ..... Cabin John Creek Cleanup  
MacArthur Tennis Courts Playground  
9:30 am - noon (see p. 1)

22 ..... Earth Day Celebration  
Lockhouse 8 River Center  
10 am - 2 pm (see p. 7)

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# Cabin John Neighbors Mourn The Loss of Pete Hunter

by Susan Gelb

Longtime Cabin John resident Reuben "Pete" Hunter died on February 17. Pete and Jane, his wife of 56 years, lived on Arden Road in a home that Pete built himself in 1958. He lived his entire life in or near Cabin John.

Pete was well known in the neighborhood as the go-to man when you needed help. He was always ready and willing to lend a hand. Car or lawn mower not working? Pete would fix it. Tree blown down in the storm? Pete would bring his chainsaw. Black snake in the mailbox? Pete returned it to the wild. He will be greatly missed.

Back in 1952, Pete joined the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department as a volunteer. In 1958 he was the first career firefighter hired. After 15 years, he retired as a paid firefighter with the rank of captain. He continued to be a volunteer member until his death.

Because of his long service to the fire department, he was given a fire department funeral with honor guards from several fire departments. The long funeral procession was led by the 1930 "Brockway" fire truck which Pete had helped restore a few years ago. The antique truck, carrying Pete's flag-draped casket, was driven by sons Robert and Lee Hunter and

escorted by grandsons Chris and Bobby Hunter, all wearing their fire department dress uniforms. A fire department piper played at the gravesite.

Pete is survived by his wife Jane Hunter, sons Robert and Lee, daughter Penny Aubertin and five grandchildren. Jane has recently moved to a retirement community in Frederick and will also be missed by her Cabin John friends and neighbors. —



*Pete Hunter's casket was carried on the vintage fire truck he recently helped to restore.*

© John Gelb

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# CJCA News

by Burr Gray

*The next meeting of the CJCA will be Mar. 28, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.*

**Next CJCA Meeting Agenda**—Presentation by new owner of plans for the property located in the middle of Cabin John across from the Shopping Center on the SW corner of 79<sup>th</sup> and MacArthur Blvd (currently has three older homes on it).

**Meeting Minutes from Feb 27, 2005 CJCA Meeting**

1) The attendees voted to assist the Bethesda Co-op in obtaining a permit for a one-day beer/wine tasting event, provided the event supported the Clara Barton Community Center. 2) Mario and Elaine Tama provided an update on the state’s proposal to widen the Beltway, which in turn will involve widening the American Legion bridge. Current plans would likely entail adding a lane on either side; one of the lanes on each side would be turned into a fee-based lane. The state plans to look at potential impacts during the spring and prepare an environmental impact statement over the summer/fall. The attendees declined to take a vote on whether to support or oppose the state’s proposal, but voted to send a letter listing the various concerns that need to be addressed if the plan proceeds, including stormwater runoff, need for sound barriers, etc., and to receive info from both the state and the opposition in order to make a more informed decision. 3) The attendees voted to

support the effort by local communities to develop and promote tree-save legislation. County Councilmember Howard Denis is working on legislation to provide more protections for individual trees on typical homeowner-sized lots. CJ resident Dave Murphy agreed to act as the Cabin John point of contact for the effort.

**Spring Flea Market & Yard Sale at Clara Barton Community Center**

– Saturday May 13 (10 am – 3 pm). Vendors may set up at 9 am. Spaces are 7 ft. x 7 ft. and cost \$25. 6 ft. tables may be rented for \$5 each. The event will take place in the large room (Social Hall) at the Center. Vendors may not sell food items, but there will be a separate bake sale. This event is being sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center (FCBCC), in conjunction with the Montgomery County Rec Dept. We hope you will seize the opportunity to either make or spend millions of dollars while clearing out or cluttering up your home. If you plan to be a vendor, please fill out the vendor application one-page sheet available at the Center. Checks for spaces should be made payable to FCBCC and sent to the Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd, Cabin John. Checks must be received by April 28 to ensure getting a spot.

**Report of CJCA Expenses and Income for 2005  
(does not include Village News financials)**

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Three Blood drives (reading materials, refreshments, lunch for Red Cross workers)	\$798.83	Annual Dues	\$4035.00
Superbowl Party (pizza, drinks)	\$97.95	Crab Feast income	\$8225.00
Copying of Past Village News Issues	\$200.18	CJ House Tour	\$1599.00
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade Event - (refreshments, posters, handouts)	\$584.21	Other (Bumper sticker sales, book sales, holiday party raffle, Canoe trip fees, etc.)	\$1086.00
CJ History Event at Lockhouse 8 (6/25)(food and posters)	\$251.73		
Monthly meeting refreshments	\$64.12	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,945.00</b>
CJCA Summer Cookout & Video/Potomac River Slide Show	\$304.34		
CJCA Canoe Trip	\$605.63		
Donation to Friends of Allison (marrow drive)	\$250.00		
CJ December Holiday Party (food, drink, kids’ gifts, etc.)	\$1401.14		
Printing/framing of CJ Historical Panels	\$2513.10		
Cemetery Historical Panel (includes insurance, printing)	\$490.75		
Crab Feast	\$3244.69		
Printing of Cabin John bumper stickers	\$384.00		
Publications of “Time Was” booklets	\$715.00		
CJ House Tour	\$113.94		
PO Box rental (two years)	\$200.00		
Flags for MacArthur Blvd	\$113.86		
Misc. (egg hunt, postage, walnut collecting, picture frame)	\$134.32		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,467.79</b>		

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# Local Adventurer Finds Great Falls Great

by Larry Massett

The house Tom McEwan is busy renovating on Ericsson Road in Cabin John Gardens may be small, but the location is huge: close to the Potomac river. "The yard is too small for a swimming pool," he says, "but I can walk down and dive in the river anytime." Of course, he adds, with a life jacket, lest anyone think he's reckless.

Not reckless but adventurous. Tom grew up in Silver Spring, where his family ran a summer day camp called Valley Mill (located nowadays off Seneca Road near Darnestown.) His mother was an avid kayaker, and both Tom and his brother Jamie picked up a love for the sport. They were good enough to make the U.S. Olympic teams. Tim competed in wildwater races and Jamie ran the slalom, nailing a bronze in the 1972 Olympics. It was great fun. Still, Tom wished the sport had more...adventure.

"In the 70's we wanted to expand kayaking to be a bit more like mountaineering," he explains. "You can explore mountains and climb to the top; why not the same with rivers?" Trouble was, thirty years ago, nobody was sure how rough you could get with a kayak. Could you, for instance, go over a big

waterfall? No one had ever done that, except by mistake. So Tom and his friends began to experiment. They swam into the bottom of waterfalls to see if they'd get stuck. They tackled small falls, then bigger ones. They ran a 20-foot waterfall in West Virginia. No problem. Finally, in the summer of 1975, they set their sights on Great Falls.

Tom calls the giant drop on the the Virginia side of Great Falls "the Spout." "The Spout was difficult," he says, "because you couldn't just go straight off the waterfall. The water would carry you onto rocks if you went with the flow. You'd have to cut across the flow. It was tricky. We didn't know what would happen." They spent hours climbing the cliffs around the falls, studying the water, planning their moves, til one day they figured they were ready.

They waited out the night on an island in the river above Great Falls. At dawn they paddled to the edge of the Spout. They went over it. They lived. They did it again. Again, they

*(continued on page 10)*



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**Celebrate Earth Day! Saturday, April 22, 10 am 'til 2 pm  
River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal, Cabin John, Md.**

Join the Potomac Conservancy for the first-ever Earth Day celebration at the River Center at Lockhouse 8! Children will delight in an up-close look at reptiles and birds of prey during "Scales & Tales" educational programs offered by Maryland Department of Natural Resources naturalists. Additional activities for youth will include a nature scavenger hunt and a plant-your-own-wildflower project.

Adults can enjoy an in-depth spring wildflower walk led by a seasoned naturalist, as well as the opportunity to have certified Master Gardeners answer their landscaping questions. At 2 pm, adults interested in volunteering as docents to staff the River Center throughout the year can attend an orientation.

Since 1993, the Potomac Conservancy has been protecting the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. In 2005, in partnership with the National Park Service, the Conservancy officially opened the River Center at Lockhouse 8 in Cabin John as an educational outreach facility. Visitors to the River Center can learn about the important connection between their backyards, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay, as well as nearby recreational opportunities and the history of the C&O Canal.

Visit [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org) for a detailed schedule of Earth Day events. — 



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*Dear Cabin John Resident,*

*CJCA is looking for individuals who will take responsibility for organizing and overseeing any one of the projects listed below. If you are willing and able, please contact Burr Gray ([burrgray@aol.com](mailto:burrgray@aol.com), 703-607-2740 (w), 301-320-2918 (h)). The Crab Feast, in particular, is important to the community.*

*(1) Annual Crab Feast—occurs on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> of this year (first Saturday after Labor Day). CJ resident Frank Ritzenberg ran this the past two years and has assembled a "How To ..." manual on it so you won't be starting from scratch. Also, we are always able to get a strong volunteer turnout to assist with individual tasks. We just need someone to be the head. This is an annual Cabin John tradition so we will keep pushing until we find someone for this project. Taking on this role is very important to the community.*

*(2) Cabin John Creek Trail Repair—this effort will entail repairing certain parts of the trail along the Cabin John section of our creek that now present a risk to hikers. In some spots, it is becoming a little too easy to slip and slide down the trail toward the creek. In certain spots, trees have fallen across the trail. Part of the effort will be contacting/coordinating with the Potomac Section of the Appalachian Trail Club who, in theory, are responsible for trail maintenance. It would be nice to do this project in the spring.*

*Thanks,  
Burr Gray - CJCA President*



## Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

### A Community Plans For Its Future

In previous columns I've mentioned the Cabin John Community Plan of 1973. I've had some questions about it, so I thought I would describe a little more how it was developed and why it is often cited as an outstanding example of a community planning its own future.

Cabin John had been growing since 1912 when the American Land Company bought up much of the land, divided it into lots, and began selling it off at reasonable prices. The formation of the Citizens Association in 1919, and of the Volunteer Fire Department in 1931, helped build a sense of community, but it was not until the 1960's that, pushed by some of the newer residents, a group of citizens began actively thinking about how they wanted the town to develop. Through the Citizens Association, contact was made with the Montgomery County Department of Community Development, which in time assigned one of its staff to work with the community in charting its future.

surveys of this type. Not unexpectedly, there was by no means a unanimity of views, although basically it was clear that the majority wanted to preserve Cabin John's unique character of a mixed socio-economic population in a rather rural setting, although with some definite improvements in public services.

The next step was to set up Survey Action Committees that would take the survey results and other information and propose specific courses of action. Five such groups were established—on land use, housing, natural resources, public improvements, and public services (which in turn had sub-groups on education, health, day care, library, and recreation). Working with the County planner, these committees spent many months in defining priorities and setting targets. In 1973, a draft plan was completed and presented to the entire community at two town meetings in March and April. Discussion at these meetings was not perfunctory, and a number of changes in the draft were adopted.

An open town meeting was held in October 1970 and a second in January 1971 at which anyone could bring up issues of concern. At that time, the town still had considerable undeveloped land, so land use was a major concern, together with roads, schools, and other public services. From these meetings emerged a questionnaire that in June 1971 was distributed to all 505 Cabin John households.

The questionnaire produced a 55% rate of return, not as much as hoped, but far better than the 30% average rate of return on

Space does not permit a listing of the many dozens of recommendations that it contained, ranging from major ones (on the zoning of undeveloped tracts and the development of a shopping center) to minor ones (such as coin-operated lights for the tennis courts). The land use section, which in due course became part of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan as adopted by the County Council, has guided our town's development ever since, and many of the recommendations to other County agencies have been implemented, such as making major safety improvements on Seven Locks Road. Others did not fare so well; although the plan strongly supported the continuation of Clara Barton Elementary School, the very next year the Board of Education voted to close it because of its low attendance.

As we look back to the 1970's, I think we can all be grateful for the civic commitment of the Cabin John community of that day in planning for the future—a commitment that has been cited often as an outstanding (and all too rare) example of citizen participation at its best. The Cabin John that we love today owes a tremendous debt to the foresight of our predecessors. —



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## Real Estate Activity in Cabin John Feb/Mar 2006

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7713 Tomlinson Av	\$1,695,000	5	4	1	4	0.29
6525 79th Pl	\$1,599,000	5	5	0	4	0.31
7833 Macarthur Blvd	\$1,299,999	6	6	0	3	0.37
6416 83rd St	\$799,000	2	1	0	3	0.14
6703 Tomlinson Ter	\$1,450,000	5	4	0	3	0.42
8013 Cypress Grove Ln	\$999,000	4	3	1	3	0.34

### UNDER CONTRACT:

6528 79th St	\$1,599,000	6	4	1	4	0.41
6421 83rd Pl	\$899,000	4	3	1	3	0.09
6522 77th St	\$1,725,000	6	5	1	4	0.28
7992 Riverside Dr	\$1,695,000	5	5	1	3	1.04
6401 81st St	\$925,000	4	3	0	3	0.41

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McEWAN  
cont. from page 5



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Tom McEwan, right, with Sarah Park.

lived. So they did it again. "Three times," Tom says, "Three times over that day, to prove it wasn't just a fluke we survived the first time."

They realized they'd better give the Park police a heads-up. They promised they'd run only in the early morning, so as not to attract attention. Eventually the Park got used to them. "So even though it's illegal in many places around the country to run waterfalls," Tim says, "at Great Falls it's legal." "Legal" is not the same as "easy," though. Over the years several experienced kayakers have died at Great Falls. Beginners? Don't even think about it.

For beginners, Tom's started a business he calls Liquid Adventures Kayak School. The school opens with a swimming-pool course, then moves to the river, where students can roll a kayak in easy-moving water. "We start people on the Potomac learning the basics," Tom explains, "and then we take them farther afield if they're interested in getting into the adventure of it." There are river-running trips to Colorado and Canada in the summer, and to Mexico in the winter. "I'm lucky to be doing what I love to do," Tom concludes. "And to be able to pass it along and communicate with friends in the area."

But now that he has a business, and a house he shares with a significant other (Sarah Park, also a kayaker), does he ever miss that youthful thrill of plunging over Great Falls? No, of course not. Because he still does it. He's only waiting for the water to warm up. Come May, early one morning when most of us are still asleep, and no one's looking, Tom McEwan will hit the water. —



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**CHILD CARE.** Licensed Family Day Care. 17 yrs. experience, references. Call Siew at 301-320-4280.

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**GET THE STRESS OUT!! MASSAGE THERAPY.** Receive a soothing Swedish/Deep Tissue Massage in your own home. Only \$75/hr. Gift Certificates available. Call Dominique at 301-263-2783.

**MUSIC LESSONS—VIOLIN, VIOLA AND PIANO STUDIO.** All ages, all levels. Ensemble workshops. Vera Dolezal. 301-229-5685.

### Dumpster Day/Hazardous Materials Collection

Michaela Palumbo (320-9423) and Werner Schumann (229-3196) have stepped forward to organize this event. We have not done this event for a few years primarily because it is no longer provided for free by the County. The main feature is arranging for three large dumpsters to be located (one at a time) at the Community Center over a Fri - Sun period to be available for people to just throw things out. Equally important, CICA also rents a truck to collect paints and other hazardous materials from individual homeowners and brings those items to County waste facility. We'll need to line up volunteers to help with the paint/hazardous materials collection and to help pick up items from homes of older CJ residents who can't bring the stuff to the dumpster, so please contact Michaela or Werner if you are interested in helping. Stay tuned for news of this event in the next few months.

—Burr Gray

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# Classifieds

Drop in any time to a **Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class** with Neva (E.R.Y.T.500), **Mondays till the end of March and Mondays and Fridays starting April 7 from 9:30 -10:45 am**, The Church of The Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive (MacArthur & Goldsboro), Bethesda, MD 20816. Neva brings the wisdom and compassion of 25 years experience teaching yoga and dance to this fluid, empowering and relaxing style of Hatha Yoga, emphasizing deep breathing and mindfulness. All ages and levels are welcome. Drop in for \$15. Neva also offers private yoga, massage therapy and Jin Shin Jyutsu sessions, and sells home-practice instructional yoga and yoga/dance CDs. Contact: [nevafusion@earthlink.net](mailto:nevafusion@earthlink.net), 301-263-0105, [www.nevafusionyoga.com](http://www.nevafusionyoga.com). **A second class on Friday mornings (9:30-10:45am) will be starting on April 7, 2006.**

**SEEKING HOUSING:** One bedroom with private bath. Please call Carolyn. 301-257-1076.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CLARA BARTON COMMUNITY CENTER.** The Center needs camp counselors for the summer. Minimum age is 16 yrs

old. If you enjoy the outdoors, sports, performing arts, fitness or crafts, then this job opportunity is for you. Staff will be selected based on activity skills, enthusiasm, and ability to work with children. For more information, please contact the Center Director Modestine Snead – 310-229-0010. Part time seasonal positions are also needed.

### WONDERFUL BABY & TODDLER ITEMS.

New stroller, new hardwood toy storage chest, like-new bike trailer for babies or toddlers, baby jogger, indoor wind-up swing, new tubsides, like-new portable playpen, toys, adorable clothing for baby girl and baby toddler, crib and lots more (also new adult stair stepper). Reasonable prices. Eva. 301-229-4222.

*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.*

THE VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly except in July and December 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 PO Box 164 Cabin John, MD 20818 [or [heidblewis@earthlink.net](mailto:heidblewis@earthlink.net)]

**The next deadline is 10 am, Wednesday, Apr. 12, for the issue mailing Apr. 21.**

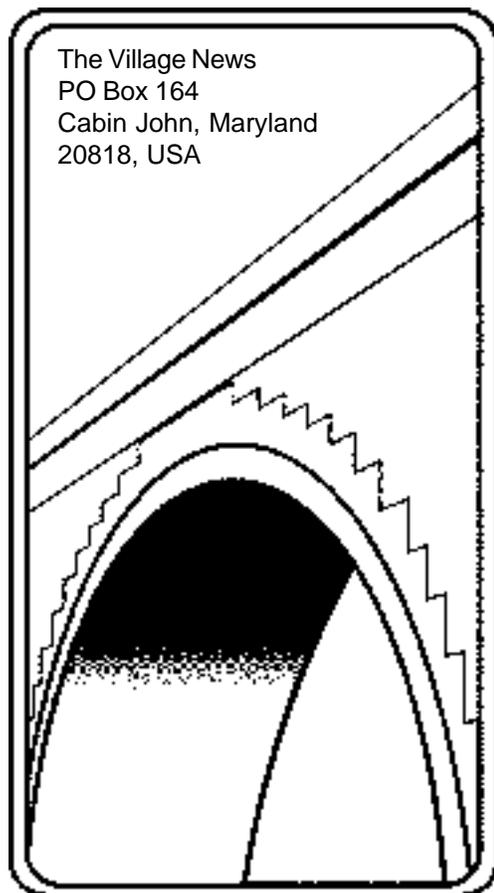
Volunteers who make the Village News possible: Heidi Brown Lewis—editor, Barbara and Reed Martin—distribution & proofreading, Lorraine Minor—business manager, Tim Weedlun—layout editor.

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

Ads: 301-229-3515 or mail to *Village News* at above address

Neighborly News: 301-229-3482 or [barbmartin@comcast.net](mailto:barbmartin@comcast.net)

Features/News: 301-320-0918 or [heidblewis@earthlink.net](mailto:heidblewis@earthlink.net)



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