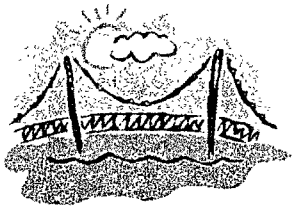
THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 4 | Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond | Dec 2001



This Saturday

Cabin John Bridge Re-Opening Party 2:00 - 5:00 11/17

2:00 p.m. - **Two parades**, one starting in Glen Echo and one starting in Cabin John, that will meet at the bridge. Food & music available at the bridge.

2:45 - 3:15 p.m. - **Remarks, presentations, and ribbon cutting** (occurring on the Cabin John side of the bridge on MacArthur Blvd.) Enjoy this unique opportunity to stroll on the bridge without car traffic.

3:15 - 5:00 p.m. - **Refreshments** will follow on the bridge if the weather is nice and warm, or at the Clara Barton Community Center if blustery.

Photo to be taken of all participants on the bridge.
Attractive Bridge T-shirts will be for sale.

NEIGHBORLY NEWS Dec. 2001

by Barbara Martin

Charley Schollaert, a captain in the Army Reserves, was activated under Operation Enduring Freedom and is now stationed in Rotterdam, Holland, for 6 months to a year. Charley's home is in the Gardens.

Another Cabin John man responding to America under attack is **Eddie O'Connell** of 79th Street. Eddie, an Air Force colonel, is on immediate alert to go overseas.

Chris Davison of Woodrow Place ran in a local marathon last month. Are there other townspeople who are marathoners? Let's hear about them.

continued on page 2

10th Annual Pottery Show & Sale

Sat. Nov.17, 11 – 5 ; Sun. Nov.18, 10 - 5

*Ceramic vases, plates & bowls w/motifs from nature.
Japanese lanterns, incense burners & greentea teapots.
*Great time to buy Holiday gifts made in Cabin John.
Prize drawings!

Nature Pottery by Noriko (301)229-7797
7816 MacArthur Blvd. Cabin John

Next CJCA Meeting -
7:30 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 27th, 2001
at the Clara Barton Community Center:

Agenda: (1) Request by Sprint/MD DOT to put a cell phone pole along Beltway near Carderock Springs, (2) Bike Path issues, (3) summary of Bridge Re-opening Festivities.

Summary of Minutes from Oct 23 CJCA Meeting: To be published in next edition.

Bridge re-opening party -See details in column 1. A special treat during the ceremony portion will be the unveiling of three outdoor panels to be viewed by pedestrians and bicyclists containing photographs and narrative that celebrate the historic and cultural significance of the bridge. These panels were prepared by Gerry Quinn, based in part on earlier work done by Mr. Quinn and Peter Vogt, and were funded in part with a grant of $1070 from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center. The Army Corps of Engineers is constructing the base of the display, based on a design by Mr. Quinn.



Cabin John Annual Holiday Party

Dec. 16th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
at the Clara Barton Center.

Come celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and the festive winter season. Singing, eating and story-telling will be followed by a visit from Santa with small gifts for each child.

Feel free to bring a plate of cookies or other treats to share, though this is NOT required. as there always seems to be plenty.

Volunteers are needed to help make the Holiday Party successful event - please contact Burr Gray if you can help. (burr.gray@alum.dartmouth.org or 703-607-2740 (w)) ≈

NEIGHBORLY NEWS
continued from page 1

Leigh Ann White is a new resident on 79th Street. Leigh Ann is working on her doctorate in public health from Johns Hopkins University. Her thesis is about maternal depression. Leigh Ann moved to Cabin John from Cleveland Park.

Judy Toth lived on 80th Place for many years before moving to Germantown. Judy was our representative in the Maryland Assembly. Now Judy has retired and is moving to Taos, New Mexico, where she has bought a house in the valley. Daughters Adriana and Christina live in the Washington area.

The Potomac Conservancy last month hosted two weekends for visitors to the Canal and to their cabin on Minnie's Island. Minnie's Island is the first property protected by the Potomac Conservancy, and was donated by the **Reuss family**, former residents of Riverside Drive in memory of their son who died in 1986 in a kayaking accident on the Potomac. Minnie's Island is the centerpiece of the Conservancy's Potomac Living Laboratory program, teaching middle and high school students to become stewards of the river's ecology.

The Garden Club meets all through the year. Whether you've been gardening for many years or are just thinking about starting, you are welcome at their meetings which are held on the third Wednesday of each month. Call **Marie Rojas** (301-320-2514) or **Bramman Avery** (301-320-5696) for information.

Do you like oriental persimmons (the size of a tomato, the color of a peach, the taste of the tropics)? Our tree will be giving ripe fruit in a week or so. Give us a call at 301-229-3482.

Call Barbara Martin at 301-229-3482 with any items of news about present or past Cabin John residents. Or drop a note if it's easier.

Great Cabin John Walnut Drive of 2001

At the risk of antagonizing the neighborhood squirrels, the following Cabin John residents participated with great gusto in the great black walnut collection effort of 2001: Dave Murphy & family - 1700 walnuts, Lisa & Elyse Martin - 500, Jim Gilchrist - 1700 (although he had carted away twice that number before hearing of the gathering effort), Nate & Cassie Rabner - 900, and finally, the Queen of Walnuts - Missy Rabner & family - 5000.

Some earned a penny a walnut for their hard efforts, while others decided to let CJCA keep its funds to spend on walnut collecting next year. Congratulations on the effort that will send these nuts to state tree nurseries, and result in the progeny of Cabin John walnut trees spreading throughout the state. The idea and program was sponsored by the Potomac Conservancy.

MEETING TO CONSIDER BIKE PATH UPGRADE

Meeting to discuss improvements to the Bike Path - Nov 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center.

We want to have our recommendations ready soon for the County, and engage the County in discussion this winter so that when spring comes, everyone knows what should be done regarding repaving of the bike path and the implementation of proper safety measures. Recommendations from this meeting will be presented at the CJCA meeting on Nov 27th.

Please contact Susan Roberts (320-4451) if you have any questions.

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LARRY HEFLIN: OUR AMAZING VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara Martin

Like Eloise of children's fiction, Larry Heflin grew up in a hotel. Originally his grandparents' hotel, by the time Larry was 3, his parents were running the only hotel in Warrenton, Missouri (population 1,250).

"We had a small apartment in the hotel, but we ate our dinners in the hotel dining room, where a lady leased the restaurant part from my parents in return for giving us dinner five nights a week. As I remember it, most of the dinners were fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and peas. That's why, now, when anyone offers me fried chicken, I respectfully decline."

Later the restaurant was taken over by the Heflin family, and Larry, the only child, became the official dish dryer. "I am still a champion dish dryer."

"Every night at 9, when business had slowed, my parents would sit down at our kitchen table and talk for an hour. Local happenings, world events, family business--anything and everything was discussed. I assumed all married people did that."

The hotel, once a home built in 1847 by slave labor, was on Main Street, a road once known as Boone's Lick Trail, where Daniel Boone had traveled to trade with the Indians. "We were right in the center of town; every year the town's Christmas tree was in our front yard."

School was just one sled slide away, down the hill, around the corner, and into the schoolyard. There was only one school in town, and everybody in Warrenton knew everybody else. Sometimes my friends and I played in the hotel, or we'd go play in the courtroom where my buddy's father was the county prosecuting attorney, or we played in the church where another friend's father was the minister. I've kept up some of my childhood friendships. Last summer I bicycled across Missouri with a friend I've had since kindergarten."

"Warren County had a predominantly German population, farmers who, lonely in the New World, encouraged more and more of their countrymen to join them. During World War II, my father was an air-raid warden and he pointed out to me a stranger in new coveralls who lurked around the German-speaking residents listening to their conversations; my father was sure he was a Federal agent, and indeed he suddenly left after 3 days."

Warrenton is on the dividing line between the prairie and the foothills of the Ozarks. "I could sit on the hotel roof and see the flat plains stretching out forever to the north, then turn and see the mountains to the south."

When Larry was growing up, the main industrial employer in town was a manufacturing company that made metal parts. But the day after the employees met to unionize, the owner told them if they did, he would close the shop. They did, and he did. After that many of the workers commuted 65 miles to St. Louis to find jobs.

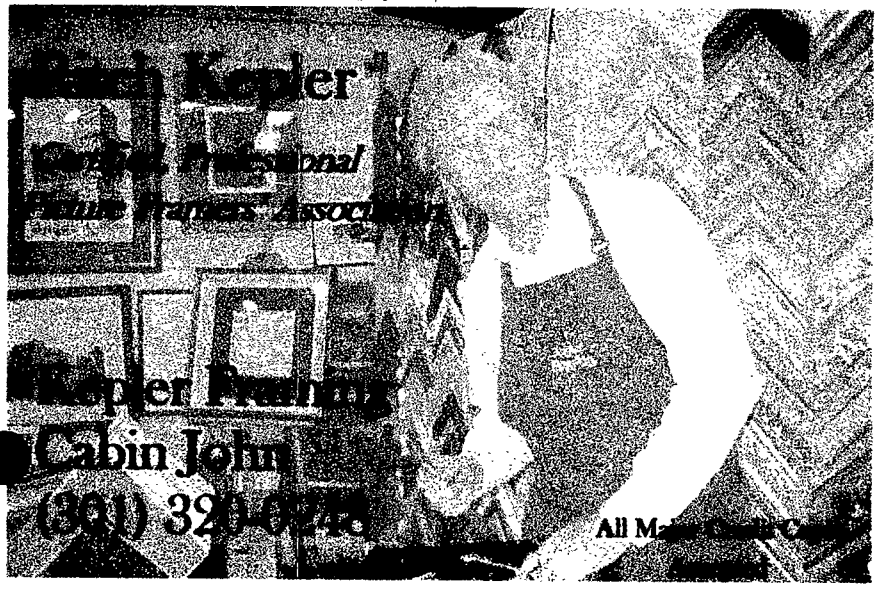
But kids aren't much concerned with business closings. Larry and his friends explored the woods and rode their bikes to nearby towns. "I was given a bike in 1942 and I still have it. It passed around the family and ended up back with me."

In high school, Larry played basketball and softball. "There were so few of us that you could always get on the team; proficiency was not required. In my senior year, I was hit on the nose by a softball in an early game, and spent the season on the bench, and still I got my letter--for attendance, I suppose."

He became an Eagle Scout. He took piano lessons, played the trombone in the high school marching band, and was the paid bass soloist at a big Methodist church during college.

Larry enrolled at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, the place where Winston Churchill delivered his historic "Iron Curtain" speech. After 2 years, he transferred to the University of Missouri, majoring in geology. "I had spent several high school and college summers working on wildcat drillings for fireclay, a natural material

continued on page 4



ALPINE VETERINARY HOSPITAL
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LARRY HEFLIN

continued from page 3

used to line blast furnaces. The company promised me a job if I got a degree in geology. I got a bachelor's degree and then a master's. My master's thesis was making a geologic map of my home county. To do that, I walked every creek bed, identifying the rocks I found and analyzing the economic value of each kind." Though his degrees are in geology, he took a number of courses in civil engineering.

Note from home: While Larry was finishing college, his parents-- who had given up their own educations during the Depression--went back and completed their degrees. Shortly afterwards, the hotel business began to decline. "At one time, Warrenton's Main Street was a major route, and most of our guests were travelling salesmen. Then Route 70 was built 2 miles away and that was the death of the hotel."

Graduate school was interrupted while Larry served his ROTC duty in the Army. "I was an airborne artillery officer. I applied for flight school, but my lanky 6'6" frame couldn't fit comfortably into the cockpit, so I became a paratrooper, bravely serving my country from safely within its borders at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Benning, Georgia."

By now he was married to the girl he fell in love with at college in Fulton, and looking for a job. Finishing graduate school, Larry found that the promised job with the fireclay company had evaporated. "Times were bad for steel, so the need for fireclay dropped."

His first professional job was with a civil engineering firm in Kansas City; his work was siteing ICBM Minuteman missiles under a Federal contract--selecting construction locations in Montana. Other assignments were building power plants in Illinois and Arkansas. Larry is a registered professional engineer (PE); he usually identifies himself as a geo-technical engineer. The family (now increased by a daughter and a son) moved to Leesburg, Virginia, where Larry helped in the building of Dulles Airport.

During that project, his company was hired to supervise the building of the tunnels for the Potomac interceptor (also called the Dulles interceptor), a 34-mile sanitary sewer. Construction on the interceptor started in the early 60's. Its purpose was to clean up the polluted Potomac by intercepting inadequately treated sewage and carrying it in underground pipes to Blue Plains

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LARRY HEFLIN
continued from page 4

treatment plant, south of Washington. Larry was on that job from the beginning, overseeing construction of the tunnels that the pipes went through.

The Heflins were living in a mobile home in Leesburg; Larry often commuted to work via White's Ferry. In the mid-60's they moved to Potomac, where their third child was born. When the Potomac interceptor was completed in the late 60's, Larry's company wanted him to help build the Mid-Continent Airport in Kansas City. But the Heflins liked the Washington area and didn't want to leave. So Larry went job-hunting.

"It came down to two offers. I could have joined the Army Corps of Engineers, designing a drill for sampling on the moon. Or I could go with the National Capital Transportation Agency (later WMATA) in designing and building the Metro system. I chose the second option."

With a fourth baby on the way, the Heflins needed larger quarters and found their dream house in Cabin John, on Riverside Drive overlooking the canal, towpath, and Potomac River. "We wanted to live in a beautiful place--not just on a block of houses--and I wanted a fireplace, reminiscent I suppose of the eight fireplaces in the hotel. And we wanted good schools. This house answered all our requirements."

Larry started his new job. How do you design a Metro system to serve a giant metropolis? "The overall purpose was to alleviate D.C. traffic problems. We studied population density, traffic patterns, polls of where people wanted to go--and found the best locations for stations. (As part of its program, to reduce road traffic, WMATA incorporated all the area's bus lines into an interstate coordination.) Then we built the underground/above ground train system. It's designed as a wagon wheel, with the hub in downtown Washington, and spokes extending in several directions into the suburbs."

Larry stayed with WMATA for 32 years as Design Manager and Senior Geo-technical Engineer, retiring in June 1998. Now he does consulting. He has travelled to work on metro systems for Bogota, Colombia; Caracas, Venezuela; and Buenos Aires. Current projects include the automated people-moving subway tunnel to replace the mobile lounges at Dulles Airport, tunnels for an enlarged sewer system for Georgetown, and tunnels to contain additions for Brooklyn, New York's sewer system.

Retirement has given him more time to pursue the many interests he has followed for most of his life. He scuba dives--in Central America, Cozumel, Bermuda, the Bahamas. His bicycling has taken him all over the U.S., to Provence and the Loire Valley of France (once with his oldest daughter), to Hawaii, and in 1988 to China. He plays tennis regularly. He kayaks and canoes, primarily on the Potomac but also in Colorado, North Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and southern Virginia. He hikes and camps. He skis, often in the Rockies of Colorado, and in California, Wyoming, Canada, and France.

His travelling tends to be to exotic places: Egypt, where he climbed the great pyramid, Australia, and New Zealand for a 5-day hike over ancient glacier fields.

When he was working for WMATA, he commuted various ways: most often on his 12-year-old Suzuki motorcycle, sometimes biking, occasionally rollerblading, canoeing, or running, even ice skating.

Larry is a longtime volunteer. At Kennedy Center, National Theater, Ford's Theater, Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theater and Olney, from a sound booth he narrates the stage actions for blind patrons who are fitted with special earphones. Recent productions for which he supplied vocal descriptions are Tales of Hoffman and Madama Butterfly. He has been giving this service for over 20 years. He also ushers at Arena and Shakespeare Theaters.

For Cabin John residents, perhaps his most important volunteer work is serving as Citizens Association vice-president for the past 3 years. For Cabin John's annual down-river canoe trip, Larry erects a flag on his canoe reading "Commodore, Cabin John Yacht Club." Do the trip and you're a lifetime member of the Yacht Club.

Divorced in 1971, Larry is now a grandfather of three boys. Daughter Holly works in Manhattan as director of financial sales for a telecommunications company. The other three siblings all live in Redondo Beach, California. Heidi is a registered nurse, with a specialty in newborns; she has two sons and is married to a pediatrician. Mitchell does finished carpentry. Leland is mother to a 2-year-old son; her husband works in finance.

What else should we know about you? I asked Larry. "Well, I sew on my grandmother's sewing machine, mostly mending and alterations. I'm a great frequenter of yard sales, which has led to my New Year's resolution to get rid of 20% of my stuff every year. Oh, and I really appreciate my Cabin John neighbors."

Larry Heflin has been there, done that, and still is.

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The Signs of Fall

In checking the route used for the towpath detour while the Cabin John Bridge is being repaired, the signs were an obvious focus of attention. Their bright, fluorescent color demanded attention, not only to the message, but the spelling of MacArthur Blvd., which is not correct. When I checked out the route, I could not help but notice that the sign at the footbridge to Glen Echo could not be read in the direction of approach.

These observations were a reminder that in the very short distance along MacArthur Blvd. parallel to detour, the street signs also could not seem to agree either. The following composite photos illustrate the problem.

-Fred Mopsik

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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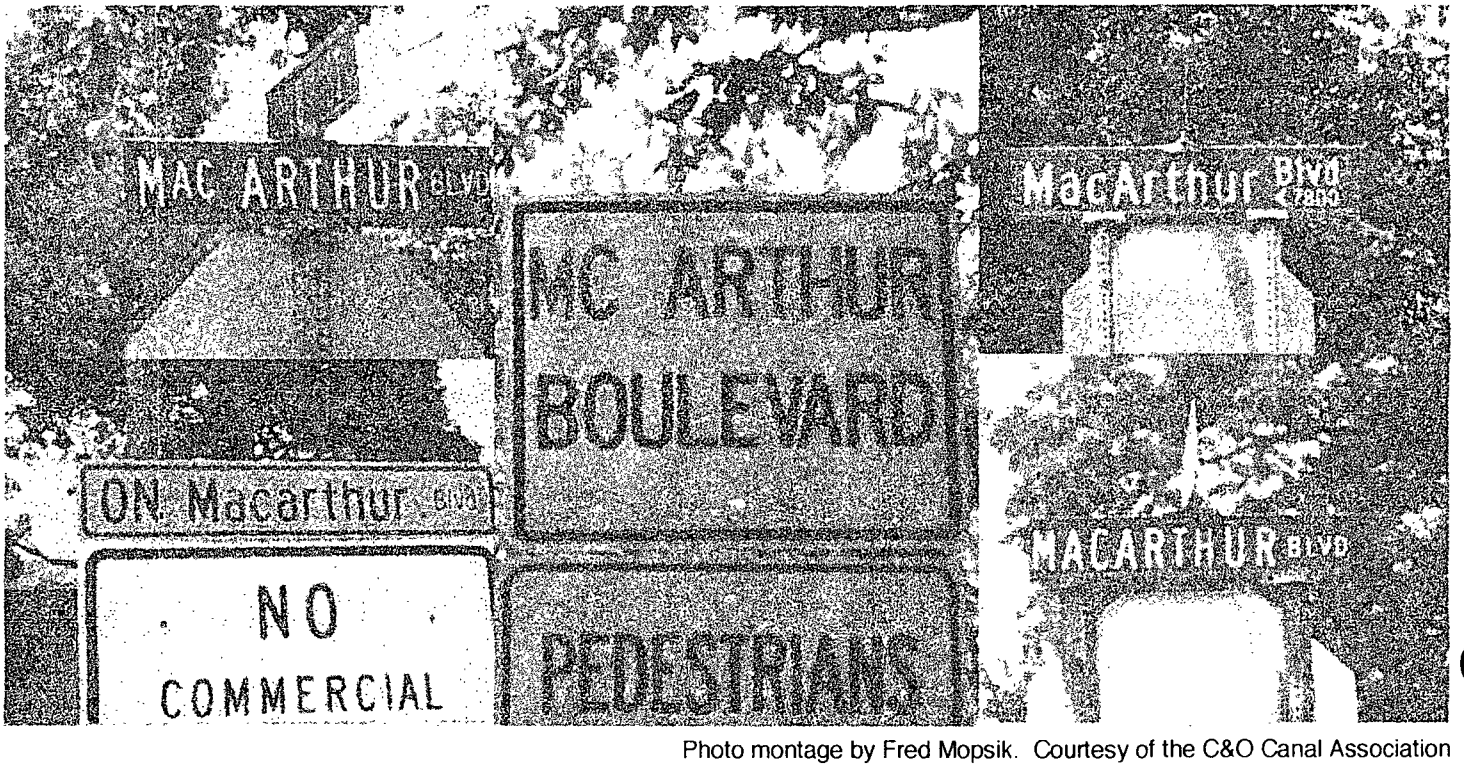


Photo montage by Fred Mopsik. Courtesy of the C&O Canal Association

January 13, 2002 Blood Drive - The Cabin John Citizens Association will be holding a Blood Drive at the Clara Barton Community Center (7425 macArthur Blvd) on Sunday January 13, 2002 between the hours of 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Mark it on your calendar and contact Larry Heflin (301-229-4674 (h), lhheflin@juno.com) to reserve a time slot. We need 60 donors to have a successful drive. The period following the holidays are usually a very slow time for blood donations to the Red Cross, which is why we have picked this date. We had two very successful blood drives in 2001, particularly where the adjoining communities participated, and we hope to have two successful blood drives in 2002.

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FREE DOG WALKING Introductory offer of one week of dog walking at no cost or obligation. Is your pet home alone and bored all day? Wouldn't he love a chance to go outside and go for a walk? Creature Comforts can help. just call Carolyn and a walking schedule can be easily arranged for your pet. Creature Comforts. (301) 229-6643.

TYPIST needed to transfer family recipes written in freehand into Word processing documents. Pay by the hour. Call John at (301)229-6587

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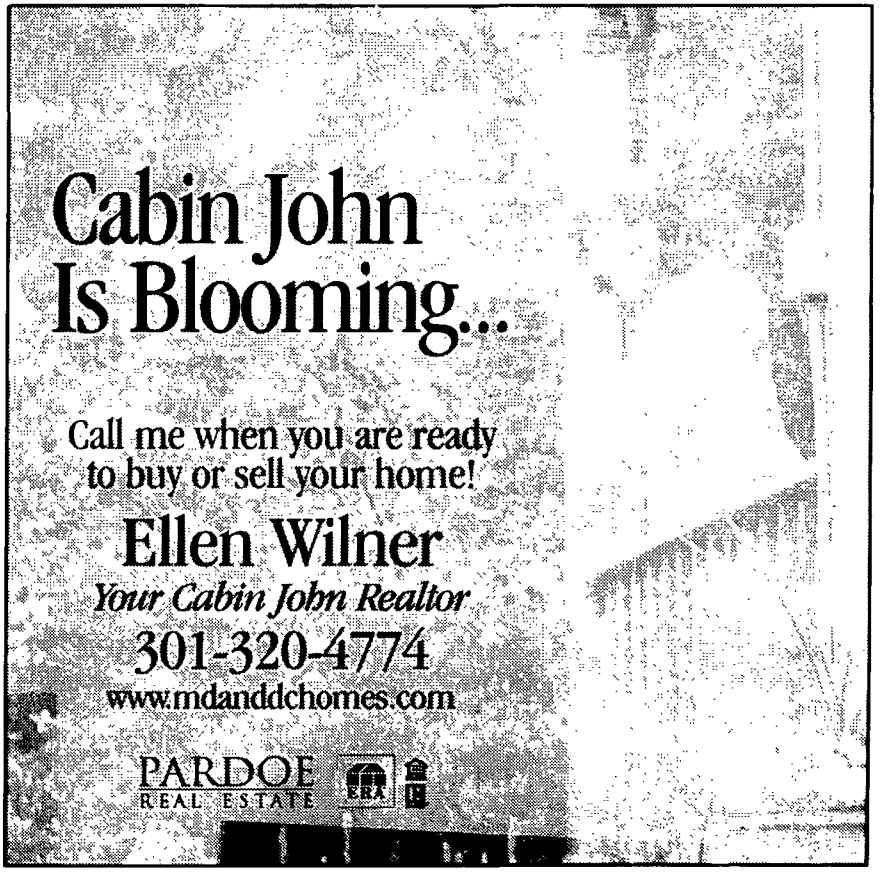
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People who make the village news possible: Barbara and Reed Martin, Lorraine Minor, Heidi Brown Lewis.

Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, and Barbara Martin.
Ads - 301-229-3515. Neighborly News - 301-229-3482,
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4:30 - 6:00 P.M.



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