April 2004

Village News

Volume 37 Issue 7 — Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

Table Tennis/Ping Pong Event/Exhibition At Community Center Scheduled for March 27

The CJCA and the Potomac II Ping Pong Group are sponsoring an event on March 27, 2004 from 2-4 pm at the Community Center that will feature 2-time Olympic Table Tennis competitor Ying-hua Cheng and some of his students from his Gaithersburg training facility. Refreshments will be served. Demonstration of table tennis skills will be followed by the opportunity for attendees to practice their ping pong skills on the various tables set up at the Community Center. Everyone is invited, regardless of skill level or age. The Potomac II Ping Pong Group meets at the Clara Barton Community Center on Monday (6-9 pm), Friday (6-9 pm), and Saturday (1-4:30 pm). Yearly membership is available for $60/person, $90/couple, $90/family (3 or more people), and $40 for seniors (65 and over). You can join by contacting Herman Yeh (301-496-4055 (w), hjyeh@starpower.net).

—Burr Gray

The next CJCA meeting will be March 23, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Center. See agenda on page 4.

CABIN JOHN SPRING EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 10, 2004, 11 am
Cabin John Playground
(below tennis courts)
Rain or shine!

Kids: Remember to bring a basket!
Parents: Please RSVP to Ruth Rabner by Wednesday April 7 with number of children participating at 301-229-0019 or rrabner@hotmail.com

We'll provide the plastic eggs and candy/goodies!

Co-sponsored by the Cabin John Citizens Assocation.

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Great Party, Great Cause, Great Results

by Heidi Brown Lewis

Cabin Johners are known to love a good party, and the fund-raising dance held Feb 28 at the community center was by all accounts one of the best we've had. Planned by the newly formed Friends of Clara Barton Community Center, the event SOLD OUT in advance and brought in just over $4000 to be used to make improvements to the center not budgeted for by the county. In addition to raising ten times as much money as the previous CBCC effort (a bingo and games night) the dance brought together an enthusiastic and eclectic group of people who want to see our center remain open, active, and even improved during this time of county budget cutting.

If you were there, you know the Deanna Bogart band was awesome, the dance floor was packed until the last note, and not even a brief loss of power could stop the music. If you missed it, you might still want to know some of the highlights:

* The event planning started in October and was spearheaded by Burr Gray, Lori Rieckelman, Judy Brookes, Trudi Bick, Leslie Strauss and Bruce Wilmarth.

(continued on page 13)

Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

Dan Sullivan was killed crossing Clara Barton Parkway on March 3. Dan was an accomplished canoeist/kayaker, hiker, and handball player. He was active in the Canoe Cruisers Association and the Potomac Conservancy. Dan lived with his wife Beverly and children Sean, Matthew, and Hannah, at 78th Street and Macarthur for over 30 years.

A fire destroyed the historic 104-year-old Gibson Grove Church on Seven Locks Road. The church has been worshipping in the Community Center since the fire. The fire was determined to have been caused by an old oil furnace that backed up and exploded. No one was in the building at the time of the fire. Donations for rebuilding the $500,000 damage may be sent to the Cabin John Citizens Association, Box 31, CJ 20818. Mark your donation "Church rebuilding fund." See page 3 for more information.

Diana and Adi Carter have a new baby daughter, **Gesina Catharina.** Gesina's big brother is **Josh**, 2. Adi is a research physicist at NIST; Diana is a busy stay-home mom. The Carters live on Riverside Avenue.

Paula and Matthew Curran of Carver Road welcomed their second daughter, **Anna Michelle** in January. Anna's big sister is 3-year-old **Julia Rose.** Matthew is in graduate school at GWU, in the special education program. He is currently teaching government at Magruder High School in Gaithersburg. Paula works part-time for an internet service provider.

And yet another new baby! **Michael Ward** joins brother **Billy,** 2 1/2. Parents are **Nadja and Bob Ward.** The Wards live on Woodrow Place. Bob is the owner of Metalpro, a commercial recycling company.

And another!! **Skip Brown and Jennifer Jordan** and their 3-year-old son, **Ian**, welcomed new brother **Christopher** to their family. The Browns have lived on Arden Road for 8 years. Skip is a free-lance magazine photographer; Jennifer is a nurse practitioner.

Tommy Denell called to report the death of **Ritchie Benson Mathews**, 95, who was his first teacher when the Cabin John-Glen Echo (later Clara Barton) school opened in 1928. Miss Benson taught first grade at the new school. (There was no kindergarten then.)

Tresa and David Moulton have sold their house on Tomlinson Terrace and are moving to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. David is newly retired, and the Moultons will be living in the midst of winter sports territory, enjoying skiing and kayaking.

Mary Tyszkiewicz has become a permanent resident in the Gardens, buying a home on Thorne Road. Mary first became acquainted with Cabin John when she participated in the 1999 CJ Canoe trip. She has been sharing a house on Russell Road and now is a genuine homeowner. Mary is a policy analyst for Rand Corporation.

Lisa Williams of Seven Locks Road is interested in starting a group for children who will be starting kindergarten at Bannockburn next September, and their mothers. Lisa wants to start with a get-to-know-each-other coffee and playtime, so that the families will already be friends when school starts. Please call Lisa at 301-229-2294 if you have a child of that age.

Please send your news to barbmartin@comcast.net or phone 301-229-3482.

"The dance at the Clara Barton Center was a fabulous event! Although I'm sure that the event raised money, even if it hadn't, it would still be classified as a terrific success. It was great to look around the place and see so many Cabin John faces, some overlapped with school, some with exercise class, some church. And, all were there because they are part of our community. The community center never looked better. We certainly live in a great neighborhood!"

— Lisa Gappa-Norris

Community Calendar

MAR

21 ..... Theodore Roosevelt Presentation
at Clara Barton Historic Site
1 – 3 pm

23 ..... CJCA Meeting
Clara Barton Center
7:30 pm

25 ..... Parent Education Series on Music
Clara Barton Center
7:30 – 9 pm

27 ..... Ping Pong Exhibition
Clara Barton Center
2 – 4 pm (see pg. 1)

APR

3 ..... Potomac/C&O Canal Cleanup
Lockhouse 8 & 9
9 am – noon (see pg. 4)

10 ..... Cabin John Spring Egg Hunt
Cabin John Playground
11 am (see pg. 1)

Historic Cabin John Church Devastated by Ash Wednesday Fire CJCA to Coordinate Community Response

by Angela Coppola



Tarp now covers most of the destroyed roof at the Gibson Grove church.

The historic landmark Gibson Grove Church on Seven Locks Road was ravaged by fire on February 25, Ash Wednesday. The once stately white church with its tall spire atop the hill on Seven Locks Road is now shrouded in a blue tarp billowing in the wind with a damaged front entry and boarded up windows. This church represents the heritage of Cabin John's Gibson Grove community which itself dates back to land sales to black farm workers in the 1880s. Sarah Gibson, for whom the community and church were named, was a former slave who donated part of her land for a church, school, and cemetery.

The Gibson Grove church was organized on the present site in 1898 as an affiliate of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church. The AME Zion denomination itself was formed in the early 1880s in response to discrimination experienced by black members of a white Methodist congregation in New York City. Gibson Grove AME Zion Church was first housed in a log structure; the current white gabled church structure was built in 1921. For generations, members of the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church lived, worked and worshipped in Cabin John. When citizens of Cabin John came together to try to improve relations, it was members of the Gibson Grove community who helped organize and run the first Cabin John Crab Feast. In recent years as members of the Gibson Grove community passed away or moved to other locations, the number of active parishioners at Gibson Grove dwindled.

Last year, the AME Zion Conference gave the house of worship to the First Agape AME Zion Church whose members live throughout the metropolitan DC area. Under the leadership of pastor Rev. Edgar Bankhead, they had been working aggressively to repair and restore the historic church. Before the fire struck, completed renovations included a new roof, new floors, carpets, walls, new steps, lighting, and a new coat of paint on the exterior. The destruction caused by the fire was extensive and most of the renovation work was damaged or destroyed. Preliminary inspection of the fire damage showed gaping holes in the roof, exposed beams, blown out windows, damaged carpet and floors, toppled pews, and a toppled church organ.

Lou Varella, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the First Agape AME Zion Church Gibson Grove, is heading up the efforts to assess the damage and plan for restoration. Because of the church's landmark status, cleanup and restoration efforts will have to wait until the historic preservation council completes an inspection. The congregation hopes that plans they had for further renovations, such as a parking lot and handicap access, can be incorporated into the restoration activity. We have been told that parishioners are determined to rebuild so that Gibson Grove can once again house their active congregation. In the meantime, the congregation plans to continue holding services in Cabin John for the foreseeable future and for the near term will be at the Clara Barton Center on Sundays.

With over $500,000 in damage and only $100,000 in insurance, the church will have its work cut out for it as it begins rebuilding. CJCA is working to coordinate volunteer efforts and donations from Cabin John and surrounding communities. Burr Gray, president of the CJCA, recruited local resident Angela Coppola to serve as focal point for this effort. CJCA will gather and record contributions and present them to the pastor, Rev. Bankhead or to Mr.Varella who is serving as our point of contact. The first set of donations, which totaled close to $1,000, was presented on March 7. Mr. Varella and Rev. Bankhead expressed their sincere thanks to everyone who has asked how they might help in providing cleanup and construction assistance, donating building materials, or suggesting ideas for fund raisers.

Anyone who would like to be added to a list of potential volunteers, please contact Angela at: angelacoppola710@aol.com or 301-229-2557. As soon as plans are available, we will share the information we receive via e-mail and in the future editions of the *Village News*. Please make out checks or donations to: First Agape AME Zion Church. They should be mailed to:

CJCA
ATT: Church Fund
PO Box 31
Cabin John, MD 20818

"I was invited to attend the worship service held by Agape AME Zion congregation from Gibson Grove at Clara Barton Community Center, not that anyone would have needed an invitation to feel welcome. In addition to hearing some truly inspiring gospel singing, I learned that they do intend to repair the church and stay."

—Diane Leatherman

CJCA News

by Burr Gray

The next meeting of the CJCA will be March 23, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Center.

Next CJCA Meeting Agenda — Presentation of MacArthur Plaza Parking Survey and vote on proposal to improve the parking system and increase the number of parking spots at the shopping center.

Summary of Results of CJCA Meeting of Feb 24, 2004 — 1) *Gibson Grove Cemetery* – Diane Leatherman provided a briefing on her latest efforts to enlist the County's support to preserve the cemetery and to improve the access to it. The response back from the County is that such activity is not a county matter. Attendees voted to have CJCA apply for a historic preservation grant, if such grants are available this year, to assist with the restoration. 2) *Quarry Development* – Attendees listened to a presentation by Kirsten Emigholtz (FOCJCW) on the two developments being proposed for the two quarries on River Road. The quarry planned for the location just west of the Firehouse will have approximately 90 5-story condominiums. The development planned for the Giancola Quarry will have approximately 30 single family houses. The attendees voted to have CJCA prepare comments on both developments. (CJCA representatives were scheduled to meet with the Giancola Quarry developers to discuss their concerns on March 12.) 3) *Captain's Market* – attendees voted to pay for one half of the cost of the $800 fee paid by Elliott Gitlin to the County in order for the Board of Appeals to hear the case filed by Mr. Gitlin, and supported by CJCA, for a review of the permit granted for the expansion of the Captain's Market. (At the subsequent hearing on Feb 25, 2004, the Board of Appeals ruled that they had no jurisdiction to hear the case since the appeal was filed after the 30-day appeal period following the issuance of the permit last summer. The Board also stated that there is no requirement that a commercial building permit be posted.)

IN APPRECIATION

The family of Dan Sullivan wishes to thank all our friends and neighbors for your kindness during the past few days. The support shown by the community reinforces our feeling that Cabin John is a wonderful place to live.

April 3 Potomac River/ C&O Canal Cleanup at Lock 8 Lockhouse — The Potomac Conservancy, in conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation, will be cleaning up the Potomac River on April 3 (9 am – 12 noon) at certain local sites. The Cabin John Citizens Association has traditionally taken on the task of cleaning the section between Lockhouse 8 and the Beltway, so we need some volunteers, including those with canoes and boats. Even if you don't find much trash, a good canoe ride is worthwhile. Some folk used their time to clean up areas along the Canal as well. There is always good hunting where the Beltway crosses over the River/ Canal. If you are interested, meet at Lockhouse 8 at 9 am on April 3 (a Saturday). Gloves & refreshments will be provided, but bring your own gloves if you have them. If you have any questions, you can contact Burr Gray (burr.gray@alum.dartmouth.org or 703-607-2740). Unless it is really raining hard, the cleanup is likely to proceed.

Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed Activities In April — Just a heads up that the Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed (FOCJCW) has several events planned at the mid-to-end of April to highlight our lovely Cabin John Creek. The quarterly water quality monitoring will take place on April 17-18 (9:30 –11:30 am at various locations along the Creek) – contact local CJ resident Roy Seidenstein (focjcw@earthlink.net) if you would like to get involved in the water sampling effort. The annual spring Creek Cleanup, in coordination with the Cabin John Citizens Assn., is scheduled for April 24 (9:30 – 12 noon). A notice of this event with the specific cleanup sites will be in the next *Village News*. More info on both matters is available on the FOCJCW website – www.cabinjohn.org/focjcw.

New Officers – CJCA is looking for new officers for the next year (starting June 04). If you are interested, please contact Bruce Wilmarth (CJCA Treasurer) 301- 229-8528.

Accident on the Clara Barton Parkway — As many of you may know, long-time Cabin John resident Dan Sullivan, died after being hit by a car as he crossed over the Clara Barton Parkway at the foot of 79th St with his two dogs. Dan was hit in the westbound lanes as he was crossing back into Cabin John. It should be noted that the eastbound lanes pose a greater danger since cars traveling east from Potomac or the Beltway come up a slight rise and go into a slight turn so that they do not have an extensive direct line of vision on what might be in the road in front of them. Whatever side, the cars are moving quickly. If you are used to crossing the Parkway at the foot of 79th Street, please be very careful. You always have the option of going under the Parkway just 100 yards further down the street.

The Park Service has offered to meet with the Citizens Association to discuss the accident.

Relevant Information for March 23 CJCA Discussion/Vote On MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center Parking

The Current Situation

In 2000, the Market on the Blvd requested support from the Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) for additional parking. The County is unlikely to support additional parking absent support from the community. The proposal was to add 11 spots along the eastern side (along Seven Locks Rd) of the lot below the Bethesda Co-op (a portion of which is now covered with wood chips), two spots in front of the old BB&T location (area now covered with wood chips), and one spot in the northwest corner of the upper parking lot. A Parking Committee was formed to review this issue. At the May 2003 meeting of the CJCA, the Parking Committee was asked to investigate the following issues to more fully understand the request and impact of adding more parking spaces.

1. **Occupancy protection (density restrictions).** This language would run with the Shopping Center property and is designed to keep entities from coming in who would not have been eligible absent the new parking spaces. The language will be developed if an agreement is reached between CJCA and Garrett & Smith (G&S).

2. **What do other spaces trigger?** G & S would put in two van-accessible spaces next to the Co-op to address any disability requirements triggered by extra spaces.

3. **Parking survey.** The idea was to more fully understand who parks where and for how long? A presentation of the findings of the Parking Survey will be made at the meeting. The highlights are listed below.

4. **Have an overall accurate map.** An accurate map showing the shopping center and the proposed spaces will be available at the meeting.

5. **Parking in the Chinese-American Church lot on 78th street.** The church is willing to lease for a fee parking spots in its lot to Shopping Center employees if desired.

6. **Parking underneath the Co-op.** There are 12 spaces available for cars. These spaces are filled most of the time.

7. **Was there an agreement between CJCA and G&S 14 years ago regarding the new construction/ parking?** No one has found any written agreement. The G&S agreement with the County is the approved site plan.

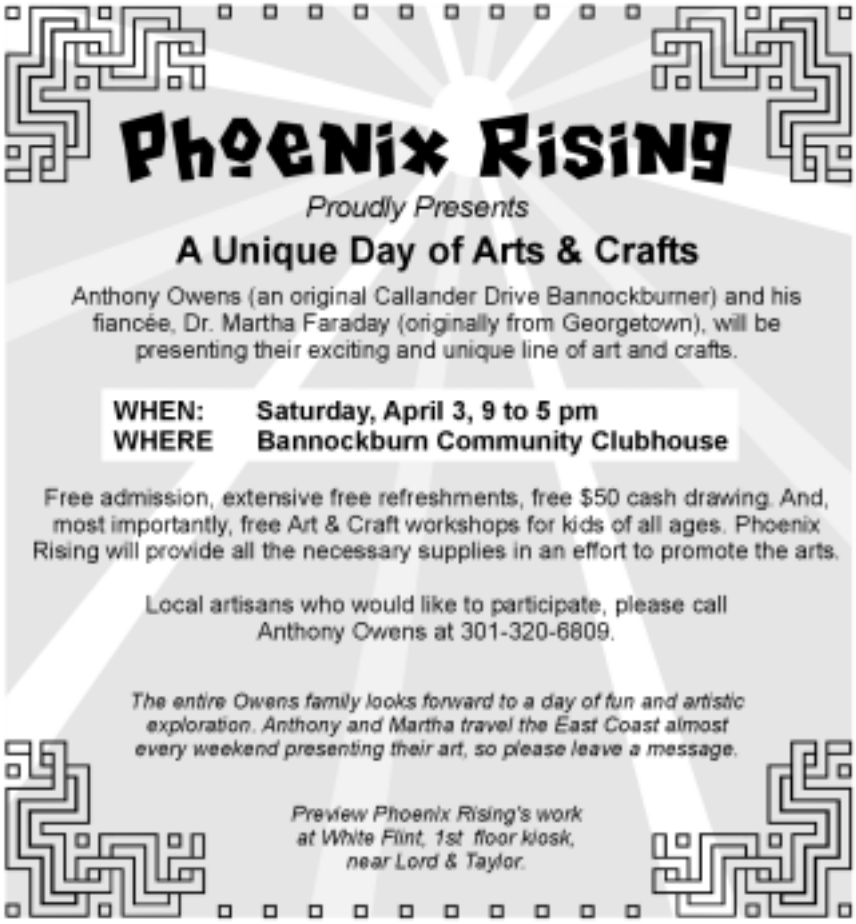
8. **Quantify impact to business.** What is benefit to community? As an example of benefits to the business, a consultant hired by the Bethesda Co-op stated several years ago that in general, a food store needs 8 parking spaces for each 1000 sq ft of sales area. Thus, the Co-op (with 4000 sq ft sq) could use an additional 10 spaces beyond the 24 currently near the store. The benefit to the community is clearly that less time is spent by customers looking for a parking spot, and hopefully there are fewer customers parking on side streets.

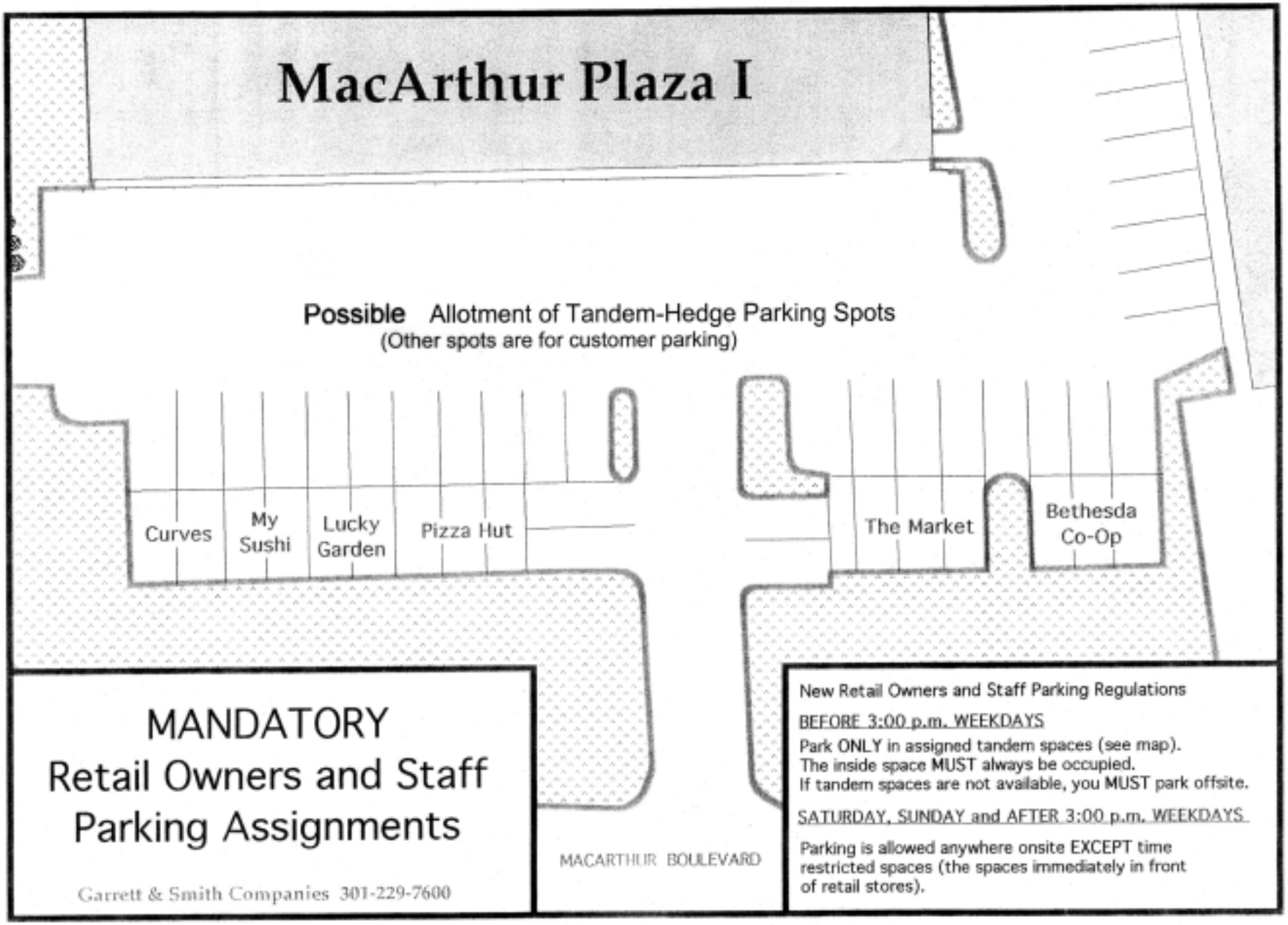
9. **Safety issues regarding exit onto Seven Locks Road.** G&S will work to lengthen the line of sight from the exit so that exiting customers can see oncoming cars sooner. G&S will work with the County to improve the signage currently seen as drivers approach the exit from Seven Locks Road.

10. **Option of parking availability at Firehouse parking lot.** G&S believe that use of some of those parking spots by Post Office will probably continue.

11. **How to use better the parking spaces that currently exist.** G&S will require that retail employees park only in the spots that are the so-called “tandem-hedge” spots—i.e., those spots in the tandem slots next to the hedge that that can be blocked by cars pulling in from behind. This was

(continued on page 7)




MacArthur Plaza I
Possible Allotment of Tandem-Hedge Parking Spots
(Other spots are for customer parking)
Curves
My Sushi
Lucky Garden
Pizza Hut
The Market
Bethesda Co-Op
MACARTHUR BOULEVARD
MANDATORY
Retail Owners and Staff
Parking Assignments
Garrett & Smith Companies 301-229-7600
New Retail Owners and Staff Parking Regulations
BEFORE 3:00 p.m. WEEKDAYS
Park ONLY in assigned tandem spaces (see map).
The inside space MUST always be occupied.
If tandem spaces are not available, you MUST park offsite.
SATURDAY, SUNDAY and AFTER 3:00 p.m. WEEKDAYS
Parking is allowed anywhere onsite EXCEPT time restricted spaces (the spaces immediately in front of retail stores).

MACARTHUR PARKING
cont. from page 5

the only way to ensure maximum use of those spots. Retail customers will be able to pull in behind those cars.

12. **Civic benefit from G&S.** Are there improvements that could be made in general to the Shopping Center; for example, make picnic area better. Other expenses associated with a possible CJCA/G&S agreement (increasing safety/line of sight at Seven Locks exit, installing retaining wall/berm/landscaping at parking spaces, rain garden below Co-op, etc.) are significant. G&S cannot agree to additional costs at this time but is willing to revisit issue at a later date.

13. **Light minimization.** G&S will ensure that adequate landscaping exists to prevent car headlights from shining into neighbors' homes from new parking spots. Current overhead lights will stay in same location.

Findings of Parking Committee

Tenants and customers agree that there is inadequate parking. Main parking problem is the 11 am – 2 pm lunch hour period. Addition of new business (My Sushi) will bring in additional lunch hour customers. Elimination of Post Office on Seven Locks Road increased customers at Cabin John Post Office.

130 parking spaces total at Shopping Center, 17 spaces of which are located under the Co-op building and are allotted and used by employees of the Shopping Center businesses. Five of the 17 spaces were converted to Co-op storage facilities. Current proposal deals with adding an additional 14 spaces total, in three different locations.

Drivers cut through from Seven Locks entrance when traffic is backed up during rush hour. This is hazardous.

Past use of tandem parking spots has not been maximized.

Results of Parking Survey

A survey was conducted in fall 2003 to learn concerns of the shopping center tenants, how many of their employees required parking, and where they parked. The full results of the survey will be presented at the March 23 CJCA meeting, including a copy of the questionnaire and full results (without identification of the tenants). There are photos taken during the busy lunch hour to show where parking is tight, where there is congestion, and

(continued on page 8)



MACARTHUR PARKING
cont. from page 7

where there are always empty spaces. Three main results from the data collected stand out:

(a) Tenant profile: All tenants were surveyed. 16 have walk-in clients; 4 have clients "by appointment only"; and 4 are retail establishments.

(b) Most tenants' hours of operation, during the weekdays, are from 9 am to 6 pm. Weekend parking is not a concern.

(c) Over half of the parking is taken up by the tenants' employees. The 16 "walk in" establishments require 61 parking spaces for their employees; the 4 retail establishments require 39 parking spaces for their employees, and the 4 "by appointment only" establishments require 8 parking spaces. These figures assume that all employees drive and it should be noted that some of the employees park on side streets.

Elements of Parking Proposal

Having spent a considerable amount of time investigating the issue, the Parking Committee will submit a proposal at the March 23 meeting which consists of the following:

A. Immediate implementation by G&S of a system to (1) eliminate use of customer spots by retail employees (Bethesda Co-op, Post Office, Pizza Hut, Market on the Blvd, My Sushi), and (2) maximize use of hedge-tandem parking spots by retail merchants.

- No retail employee parking allowed in customer spots before 3 pm weekdays.

- Hedge-tandem spot spaces must always be occupied unless blocked by customer.

- All retail employees must display parking permit at all times, even if parking on side streets.

- Parking signs will be installed noting (1) hedge-tandem spots are only for retail employees, (2) any parking in designated retail customer spots is of limited duration.

- G&S will conduct twice weekly inspections during 60 days following implementation to determine that the parking system is being effectively implemented and complied with, and will report results monthly in writing to the CJCA Parking Committee. Garrett & Smith will take necessary measures to ensure future and long term compliance with the parking system. In the event of a sale of the MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center, Garrett & Smith will explain to the new owner the advantages of the parking system, the importance of the issue to CJCA, and the need for effective enforcement of the parking system and the monitoring requirements.

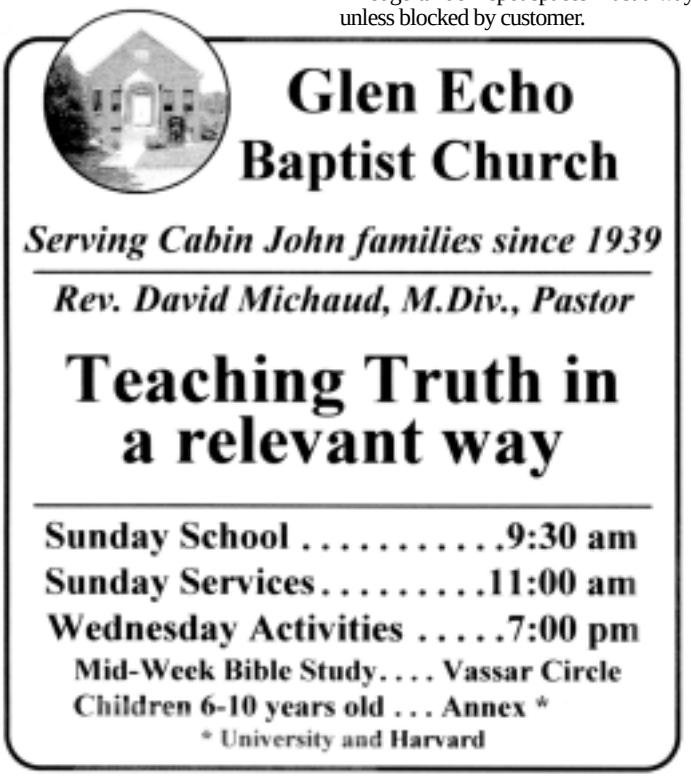
B. If the parking system is deemed effectively implemented by a majority of the CJCA Parking Committee, as of 60 days after such system is commenced, CJCA support of G&S's request to the County for additional parking follows automatically. Specifically, CJCA would support adding: (1) 11 additional parking spots below the Co-op currently partly covered by wood chips (the resulting aisle space would be approximately the same width as that in front of the lower lot retailers), (2) two additional spots (now covered with wood chips) in front of the old BB&T Bank location, and (3) one additional spot in northwest corner of back lot. Garrett & Smith may file a request at any time for a County hearing date regarding the additional parking, provided such hearing date is more than 60 days after commencement of the parking system. This will allow for the final determination by the CJCA Parking Committee as noted above.

C. In return for CJCA support of the additional parking spaces, Garrett & Smith would agree to the following:

- A legal prohibition running with the land/Shopping Center that keeps entities from moving into the Shopping Center that would not have been eligible before addition of the new spaces.

- Addition of van-accessible handicap parking spots – creation of two van accessible spaces just downhill from the Bethesda Co-op.

- Rain Garden installed downhill of new Co-op spaces. CJCA will apply for grants for a rain garden to be created in the area between the Co-op parking lot and MacArthur Blvd. If a grant is not available, then Garrett & Smith will provide funding. (CJCA agrees to initiate discussions with County and make a formal request to County to improve drainage along MacArthur Blvd.) This project is contingent on approval by the Army Corps of Engineers since they own the property.



- Improvement of the exit onto Seven Locks Road by lowering sight-blocking area uphill, so as to allow persons exiting a longer line of sight to see oncoming cars.

- Light minimization – G&S to install landscaping along new spaces below Co-op so as to prevent glare from headlights into neighboring houses. The current overhead lights will remain in their current location.

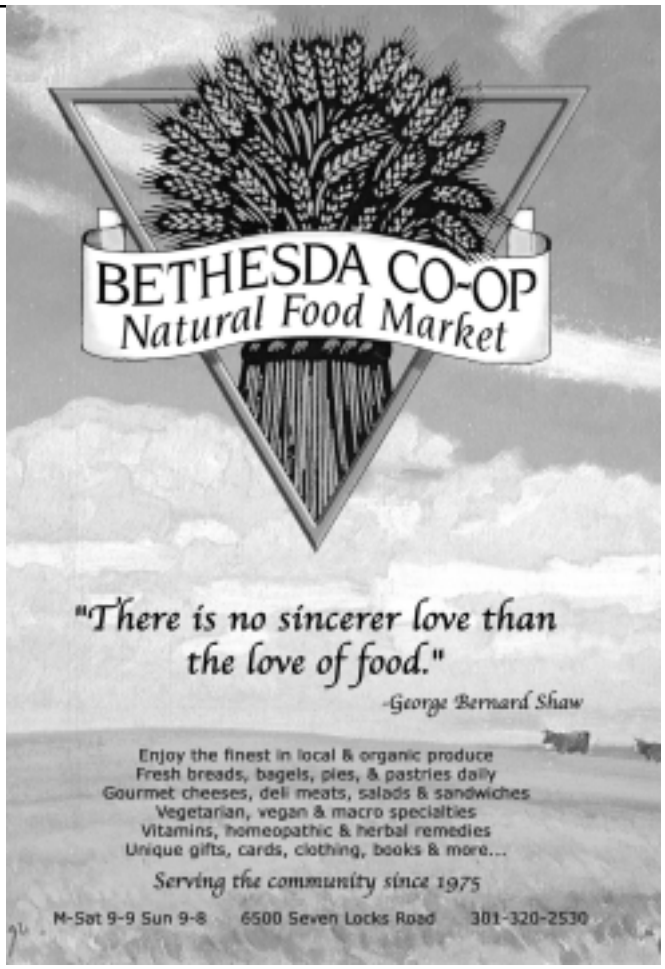
- Renting parking spaces – G&S will talk to Firehouse lot owners and arrange for Post Office employees parking there if possible.

- G&S will consider rental of spaces from Chinese-American Church on 77th Street if parking on side streets next to Shopping Center becomes too burdensome to residents, and if retail employees would use the church parking lot.

- The deteriorating concrete at the bottom edge of the parking lot along Seven Locks Road will be replaced and the area landscaped as feasible.

Benefits of Proposal

There will be more parking for retail customers, thus benefiting both the local merchants and those residents/customers who need to do their business during the peak hours. The increased business will assist our local businesses who are generally not national in scope and are an important part of the Cabin John community. —❧





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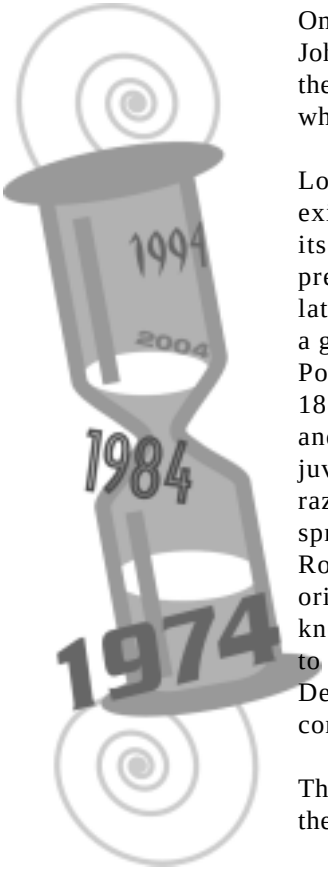
MILLER

CENTURY 21

Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

Cabin John A Generation Ago



Once a year I like to look back at life in Cabin John a generation ago, drawing on the files of the *Village News* as well as my own memories. So what was life like in our town in 1974?

Lots of things we now take for granted didn't exist then. There was no shopping center. On its site stood an old white frame structure, previously known as Tuohey's Tavern and later as the Valley Inn. It had originally housed a general store as well as the first Cabin John Post Office when it was established in the 1880's. But by 1974 the building stood vacant and vandalized, a hang-out for unruly juveniles. Condemned by the County, it was razed by the Cabin John Fire Department in the spring. The Fire Department, now on River Road, was in fact right next door then, in its original 1919 building. Its siren was a well-known sound in Cabin John when it sounded to summon volunteers. And the Fire Department's baseball team was a source of community pride.

The area south of MacArthur Boulevard, where the MacArthur Park development now stands, was then vacant land, known as the Pollinger tract, and was the subject of extensive litigation as to its use. In 1974 the Maryland Court of Appeals (Maryland's highest court) had just vacated, on procedural grounds, a special zoning exception by the County that would have permitted a high rise structure to be erected — a proposal that the community generally had vigorously opposed.

The biggest news of the year was the closing of Clara Barton Elementary School. By 1974 it had become the smallest school in the County system and, although a survey of community views by the Cabin John Citizens Association showed that most Cabin Johners would like to keep it open, the Board of Education decided to close it both because its cost per student was well above the County average and because it was difficult in a small school to provide the variety of educational experiences that Cabin John's diverse school population needed.

A CJCA committee immediately began considering how the building could best be used, but it took many years (and several interim uses, including the Cabin John Post Office with the then existing 20731 zip code) before today's Community Center was well established. In 1974 there was, however, an existing recreation center near the tennis courts (some years later it burned down) and this building was used for community purposes, such as a Cabin John "Open House" held on Saturday afternoon, April 21, 1974, to which newcomers were particularly invited and which featured speakers on Cabin John's history.

In 1974 the Union Arch bridge accommodated two-way automobile traffic! There were no traffic lights controlling access, and cars moved — very slowly — in both directions simultaneously. No separate path existed for bikers or pedestrians, and walking across the bridge was a pretty hazardous undertaking.

Recycling was just getting under way, and today's familiar blue boxes were a thing of the future. Newspapers had to be taken to Bannockburn School or a shopping center for recycling, and the other recyclables were accepted only at the Rockville recycling area.

The *Village News* had only five regular advertisers, all of them local businesses — Dorothy Helen's Beauty Salon, Ed Clark Hauling, Emil Dolezal Plumbing, Vera Dolezal Piano and Violin Studio, and the Quick Food Shop (today's Captain's Market) — and many issues of the paper carried recipes for cakes, cookies and other delicacies, submitted by local residents.

Cabin John has changed since then — as has the world — but one thing is still very much a part of life here — our community spirit. Let's keep it going for another generation!

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DANCE
cont. from page 1

Some of these volunteers tackled things they'd never tried before, including booking a professional band (Lori), cold-calling local businesses for donations (Judy) and shopping at Costco for supplies (Bruce).

* Over 200 tixs were sold, with roughly 50 being sold to "Mosh Pitters," individuals who generously paid $50/tix. In addition, over $1000 was donated by individuals and businesses who couldn't attend but who wanted to help anyway.

* Not only did Cabin Johners attend the dance, but also people from Bannockburn, Glen Echo, and other surrounding areas that use this community center. Even a number of hard-core Deanna Bogart fans drove miles to see her in a not-so-typical venue.

* When set-up began Saturday morning, half the power was off in the community center. It took 2 county electricians to get the power back on by mid-day. Turns out a squirrel was electrocuted on the lines outside the building Friday night. The power went off briefly during the set, but the band played on and luckily the problem was quickly corrected.

* The following volunteers made the event safe and enjoyable for all: Patty Sieber, Richard Sieber, Nicki Wright, Jean Betz, Kate Patch, Susan Roberts, Lori Powell, Linc Brooks, Oona Steiglitz, Jim Cahill, Sarah Cahill, Tina Adler, Russell Miraglia, Kandy Collins, Cynthia Palmer, Dora Ferenczy and her husband, Bill, Karen Meile, Allie Miraglia, and Michael Miraglia.

* These businesses donated merchandise and money, allowing more of the ticket sales to count as funds raised: Montgomery County Recreation Department , Kanpai Sushi, Market on the Boulevard, Bethesda Co-Op, Sutton Place Gourmet, My Sushi, Christopher's Glen Echo Hardware, Debby Dupont - Mary Kay Cosmetics, Karen Thibeau - Long & Foster, Sumner Fitness, Clara Barton Center for Children, Firehouse Cleaners, and Barbara Abeille - Coldwell Banker Pardoe. —❧

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Local Cub Scouts Enjoy "Campout" at Port Discovery

by Rick Duffy

Cub Scout Pack 1320 has a strong link to Cabin John! Eighteen boys from Cabin John are members of Pack 1320, and several Cabin John dads help make the Pack go, including John Rabner (Pack Leader), Tom Black (Assistant Pack Leader), John Britti, Rick Duffy, Greg Gurley, Scott Lewis, Bob Norris, and Marty Noss. The Pack makes use of the Clara Barton Center for major functions like the Pinewood Derby and the Blue and Gold Banquet (the social event of the season!). Each year the Pack holds one of its two campouts at the Marsden Tract along the Potomac just above Carderock. The Bannockburn Elementary School PTA is the official sponsor of the Pack.



© Greg Gurley

Philip Gurley, Cody Anderson, and Charlie Black take a break above while Charlie's father, Tom, shown below right, tries out an obstacle course at Baltimore's Port Discovery.

On February 6 - 7, Pack 1320 held a Wintertime indoor overnight "campout" at Port Discovery in Baltimore. Port Discovery is near the Inner Harbor, and is an interactive museum that combines learning with lots of physical activity. As part of their requirements for earning their Webelos badge, several 4th graders served as guest reporters to the *Village News* on the "campout," and here is what they have to say about their night at Port Discovery:

"The most fun I had was in the Mystery House. My favorite part was the drain pipes I went in with the Webelos about twelve times. It was really really dark and things were hanging in your face and it also made weird sounds. I also liked the construction site. We were there for a long time. There was a train and a crane to lift cargo. We lifted cargo off the train up to the warehouses. I threw the foam cargo off the balcony and it hit the Webelos' heads. We also made Chinese lantern boxes and dream catchers. I liked when we spent the night except we didn't get any sleep and went to bed at 11:00." *—Philip Gurley*

"Port Discovery has a three story high maze, games, and, my favorite, the mummy tomb. The mummy tomb takes you back to ancient Egypt. My Dad and I climbed into a coffin together and weren't scared by the mummy special effects (well, maybe a little). I found the clues to figure out the Hieroglyphic Code. After I entered the code I looked through a hole in the wall and saw a hologram projection of the last Pharaoh of Egypt. My Dad and I climbed all the way to the top of the maze, it's really high. Sleeping wasn't too easy for me — the floor was pretty hard." *—Joe Duffy*



© Greg Gurley

"I climbed on a jungle gym. I went to a lot of different exhibits. I slept in the museum. It was very noisy." *—Alex Karaosmanoglu*

"When I left home here, my dad and I were stuck in traffic, but the time I had there was worth the wait. I played a lot in the mummy exhibit with a few of my friends, pretending that we were explorers and all the grown-ups were mummies. ("Run for it!") I also played some tag, but my friends and I were constantly losing track of where everyone was and who was "it." Another inconvenience was the netting that separated one part of the climber from the another on the second level. But the rip-line was great when you got to it, and the slides were cool too. I almost went up in the big lighted ball at the top of the climber, then remembered the time when I was in first grade and went up and didn't like it. I had a lot of fun and I hope we can go again next year." *—Nate Rabner*

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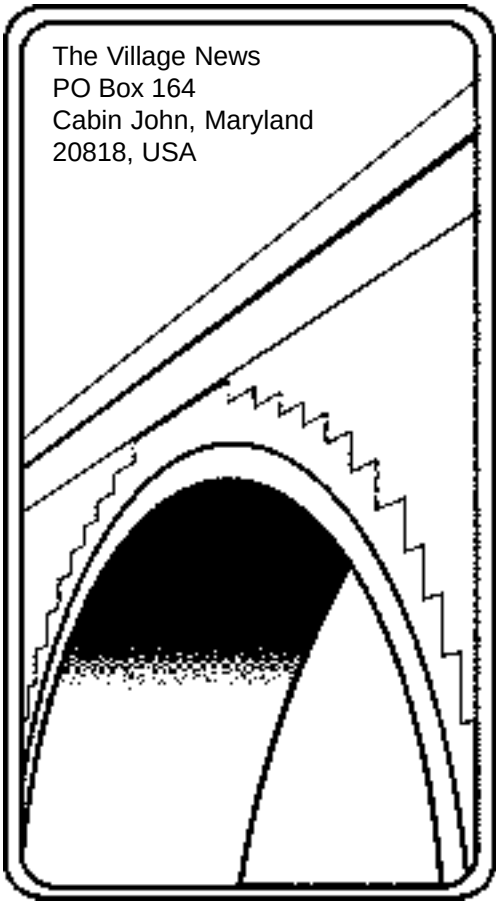
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