May 2004

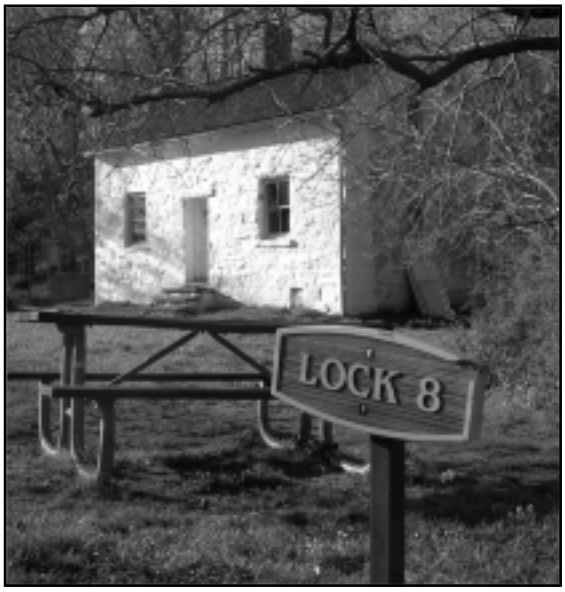
Village News

Volume 37 Issue 8 — Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond



Historic Lockhouse 8 To Open Again May 1; Conservancy Seeking Volunteer Lockkeepers

The Potomac Conservancy, in conjunction with the National Park Service, has been spending these past several months in an effort to renovate enough of Lockhouse 8 so as to be open when the hikers come through on May 1 during the walk to commemorate Justice Douglas's hike many years ago. That hike brought attention to the C&O Canal and towpath and resulted in the creation of the national park there. Local residents have contributed to the renovation. Architect Tom Manion in particular has logged many hours in helping with the design of the structure.



The Potomac Conservancy is looking for local residents to help staff Lockhouse 8 on weekends (April-November) and to act as guides/docents for any hikers that want to poke their heads in to look around. Eventually the lockhouse is expected to become an environmental/educational center. Part of the message that these docents (so-called "Lockkeepers") will convey is the importance of the natural resource of the Potomac River and the C&O Canal buffer. The Lockkeepers are expected to donate 3-5 hours a day for several days each month. The idea is to have two people in the Lockhouse during weekends. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Matt Berres (301-608-1188, berres@potomac.org). It would be great to have some Cabin Johners be part of this group since the Lockhouse is a part of our community's heritage. Matt is hoping to get people with a natural resource or educational background, and you must be at least 18 years old to participate in the program.

—Burr Gray

The next CJCA meeting will be April 27, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Center. See agenda on page 4.

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Cabin John Spring Egg Hunt Success

Approximately 65-70 kids attended this year's CJ Spring Egg Hunt to find over 800 eggs! Special thanks to egg-stuffers extraordinaire: Deb, Hannah, Joe, Caroline & Maggie Duffy; Robin, Philip & Evan Gurley; Helen Harris and kids William, Alex and Eleanor; Heidi Lewis and kids Riley, Lennon and Daisy; Marlene McConnell; Maris Myles; Missy Rabner; Ruth, Nate & Cassie Rabner; Misty Yoklavich...and to the Cabin John Citizens Association.

Thanks to all of the kids and parents who pitched in to help on the day of the event (including Jackie Hoglund, Betsy Lawrence, John Rabner, Nikki Roarke, Patsy Roberts, Joy Rogers, and Haley's Grandmom)! Great job all!

Editor's note: And a big round of applause for Ruth Rabner, who organizes this wild romp every April!

Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

Blakely Burke died in March. Blakely lived on Seven Locks Road with her husband, **Dennis,** and children **Kelly, Kevin,** and **Brian.** She was very active in the Palisades Pool swimming activities and in the Montgomery County Diving League. She was a bicyclist and completed the 500-mile European AIDS ride from Amsterdam to Paris in 2002. Blakely worked for 30 years in the real estate title insurance field.

Rio Tama is safely back from Iraq, after 8 weeks out of the US. This was his second time working in Iraq. A photo journalist, Rio is the son of **Elaine** and **Mario Tama** of 78th Street.

Tom Hoge is making a remarkable recovery from a stroke he suffered while traveling in South Carolina. Tom is back in Cabin John in wonderfully fine fettle, to the delight of his friends and neighbors.

Jack Smith died in early April. Jack lived on 75th Place for many years before moving to California in 2000. As a reporter for ABC News, Jack covered the White House and government agencies. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War's battle of Ia Drang Valley, later covering the invasion of Cambodia and the Iran hostage crisis. He hosted shows for A&E's *Biography* and for the Learning Channel. Jack was the son of Howard K. Smith.

The next Blood Drive at the Clara Barton Center is June 6, 10 am – 4 pm. Contact Karen Melchar (229-9049) to get a time slot.

Jan Smith of 78th Street will be among those *Walking for Water*, on May 8, an event to raise money for the Diagra people of West Africa as they seek to build a well in their village which now has no safe water. Please call Jan at 301-320-2432 if you would be willing to join the walk or sponsor a walker.

Reed and Barbara Martin will observe their 25th wedding anniversary on May 5. After months of negotiations, both parties have reached an agreement to renew the contract for another 25 years.

Level, the new Fitness Club, will be opening soon on Macarthur, in the space of the former Potomac Outdoors. **Juliet Rodman** will be on staff as nutritionist and fitness trainer. Juliet lives on Archbold Terrace and is a long-time exercise class leader at our Community Center.

The manager of Level is **Joe Decker**, a new neighbor on 77th Street. Joe is a fitness celebrity, appearing in the Guinness Book of Records as "the world's fittest man." He has just finished a book tour, promoting his recently published *The World's Fittest You*, carried by Barnes & Noble, Borders, and other large booksellers.

Free plants for your garden. Daylilies, black-eyed Susans, daffodils are available. Call 301-229-3482. Your part is to attend at least one meeting of the CJ Citizens Association. If you are already an attender, please avail yourself of this giveaway.

We welcome news items about present or former CJ residents. Call Barbara Martin at 301-229-3482 or email barbmartin@comcast.net. If you email, include your phone number. Tell us about new residents, old residents, new babies, marriages, honors, deaths. You are the reporters.

Community Calendar

APR

24 ..... Cabin John Creek Cleanup
Cypress Grove Lane & MacArthur Blvd
9:30 am – noon (see pg. 7)

27 ..... CJCA Meeting
Clara Barton Center
7:30 pm (see pg. 4)

28 ..... Airport Noise Study Presentation
Walt Whitman High cafeteria
7 – 9 pm (see pg. 4)

MAY

1 ..... Commemorative C&O Canal Hike
Lockhouse 8
(see pg. 1)

15 ..... Glen Echo Garden Tour
Glen Echo Town Hall
9:30 am – 2 pm (see pg. 13)

10 ..... Glen Echo Park Integration Lecture
Glen Echo Town Hall
3 pm (see pg. 13)

Jim Olson: That Nice Guy at the Post Office

by Barbara Martin

If you use the Cabin John Post Office (Is there any CJ resident who doesn't?), you know Jim Olson as the friendly, helpful man behind the counter.

Jim was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but when he was a toddler, his mother, seeking a warmer climate, put Jim in the car, a snow shovel on the front bumper, and started driving south. She was determined to keep driving until someone asked her what that was on the front of the car. When she got to a place where nobody recognized a snow shovel, she settled in. So Jim grew up in San Antonio, Texas.

"We lived in a rented house in the south end of town. I rode my bike and fished for black bass at a pond in the cemetery. South Texas used to be Mexico, so there's a lot of Spanish culture and influence. The Alamo is in downtown San Antonio."

When Jim was a sophomore in high school, he and his mother moved to the country "100 yards inside the Bexar (pronounced Bear) County line." He joined the Future Teachers of America and, even though he was just a high school student, he was often used as a substitute teacher. "I didn't have any trouble with the kids. I rode the bus with them. They all knew me."

(continued on page 5)



© Pamela Zilly Photography

Jim Olson in a familiar pose behind the counter at the Cabin John post office.

Carderock Springs Swim and Tennis Club

Summer Employment Opportunity

Carderock Springs Swim and Tennis Club is seeking a director for its popular summer fun camp for children between 6 and 10 years of age.

Camp hours are from 10 am until 2 pm Monday thru Friday and include fixed features like tennis lessons and swimming.

Interested individuals should be experienced, enjoy working with kids and would welcome the opportunity to design a program that would make her/him every Carderock parent's "Dream Come True Camp Director."

Pay is competitive based on experience. Administrative support provided by the Club Manager.

Please contact Larry E. Ondrejko at the following:
Club: 301-365-2292
Home: 301-469-9044
E-Mail londrejko@att.net

Membership Openings Available

Carderock Springs Swim and Tennis Club has a limited number of membership openings for the 2004 season at our newly renovated pool.

Membership includes use of pool, tennis courts, basketball courts and the ability to rent the club house for social activities / parties.

If interested, please contact our membership director at 301-365-6141 or via e-mail at al_st@yahoo.com for more information.

CJCA News

by Burr Gray

The next meeting of the CJCA will be April 27, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Next CJCA Meeting Agenda — 1) Presentation by Billie Wilson (Montgomery County) on Community Center budget/future, 2) discussion/vote on formal legal adoption of Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed as part of CJCA, 3) presentation by Jim Postero (Montgomery County) on aspects/changes to the County's recycling program and the need for increased recycling.

Summary of Results of CJCA Meeting of March 23, 2004 — The meeting began with an appearance by Audrey Calhoun (Superintendent of the GW and Clara Barton Parkways) to answer questions and hear any concerns that Cabin John residents had about the safety issues in crossing the Parkway. She noted that the Park Service is interested in hearing from the Cabin John community. CJCA agreed to provide some ideas to the Park Service.

The meeting continued with a discussion of the MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center parking issue and proposal to improve parking as described at considerable length in the previous issue of the *Village News*. The Parking Committee presented the results of their efforts during the past year to obtain answers to the questions posed by the community at the May 2003 CJCA meeting. (The results of those efforts were presented in written format in the *Village News*.) Part of that presentation involved the results and findings of the parking survey. After much discussion, two thirds of the attendees voted to support the parking proposal as contained in the *Village News*.

The next step will be to determine over the next two months if the new parking system is being effectively implemented by Garrett & Smith (owners of the shopping center) and the retail merchants. If a majority of the CJCA Parking Committee make such a determination at the beginning of June, then CJCA will give its support for a request by Garrett & Smith to the County to add the new spaces described in the *Village News*. Part of the process will also be to generate a written document to be signed by both CJCA and Garrett & Smith that contains the elements of the agreement on this issue and obligations/ responsibilities on both sides.

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) 229-8528.

National Airport Aircraft Noise Compatibility Study by FAA — On April 28 (7 – 9 pm) the FAA & MWHA are conducting a presentation on the results of their so-called Part 150 aircraft compatibility noise study at the Walt Whitman High School cafeteria. The agenda will be as follows: 7 – 8 pm – people can walk around the room visiting maps and talking with the consultants; 8 – 9 pm – presentation by officials/ consultants and discussion. The FAA is still taking comments on whether the noise situation has improved or gotten worse in local neighborhoods and exactly what types of problems local neighborhoods experience. Reminder – the noise complaint line for National Airport is 703-417-8020. The Cabin John contact on the aircraft noise issues is Annette Davis (301-229-0754).

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Table Tennis Olympian Performs At Clara Barton Center

To the delight of 70-90 onlookers, 5-time US Table Tennis Champion/2-time Olympian Ying-hua Cheng came to Cabin John on March 27 to demonstrate the game with one of his students. The event was co-sponsored by the Friends of Clara Barton Community Center, CJCA, and the Potomac II Ping Pong Group. Sushi and subs were served as refreshments. Ray Kemp delivered and arranged the refreshments. Herman Yeh, and Modestine Snead (Center Director) and her staff assisted with the set up, take down, and clean up. Many thanks.

Mr. Cheng's young student displayed remarkable skill and awed the audience. Remember, if you want to participate in the organized ping pong at the community center, the Potomac II Ping Pong Group meets on Mon (6-9 pm), Fri (6-9 pm), and Sat (1-4:30 pm). Yearly membership is available for $60/person, $90/couple, $105/family (3 or more people), and $40/seniors (65 and over). You can join by contacting Herman Yeh at 301-496-4055 (w), or hjyeh@starpower.net. Other ping pong opportunities exist as well at the Center so check with staff there.

— Burr Gray

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His graduation from high school coincided with the beginning of the war in Vietnam. "I worked for a while as an orderly in the surgical unit at Baptist Memorial Hospital, then enlisted in the Army 3 months after I finished high school." Since he had been volunteering with the San Antonio Ambulance Company during summers, holidays, and weekends, and coming from his job at the hospital, he was an obvious choice for the medical corps. After basic training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, he was back at Ft. Sam Houston getting the Army's course in medic training.

"My first assignment was in the Panama Canal. There was a large military force there protecting the Canal. Among the ships coming through were Soviet ships, and they didn't go through the Canal without heavy US guards on board, from beginning to end. Our troops were training as mechanized combat units. I spent 18 months in Panama, 3 of them training in the jungle. Troops were preparing for the conditions they would find in Vietnam. We trained officers of all branches of the military. One time we were on the verge of leaving for Vietnam, boats were on the beach, soldiers were ready with live ammunition. I was in charge of the morphine and drugs that we were taking over. And then at the very last minute, the mission was cancelled. I never knew why. In the military, you don't ask a lot of questions."

Jim's next assignment was at Ft. Hood, Texas, keeping medical records and giving periodic exams and shots at the medic aid station attached to an Army battalion. At the end of a year, his enlistment was up and he was discharged. "In 1971, I went back to the Baptist Hospital in San Antonio for a while." That was where he met his wife, Kathy. "She was an RN in the surgical recovery room, and I was working in surgery." After a year at the hospital, Jim enlisted again—this time in the Air Force. "On my first leave from Shepard AF Base, we got married—on Christmas Day. Kathy's dad was in the Air Force, so she was used to military life—a good thing because for more than half of our 33 years of marriage, she was an Air Force wife."

Jim was assigned to Wilford Hall Medical Center as medical administrator. "Wilford is the largest Air Force medical center and hospital in the country. It's like Bethesda Naval Hospital. When I was there, we had 1,000 beds; now they have 1,500. San Antonio has a very large population of military and their families. Brook Army Medical Center is there, a large and sophisticated burn center for military and civilians. We often took Air Force patients to Brook."

In 1973, their daughter Melissa was born in San Antonio. Jim was separated from his family during 1978-79 when he served with a medical unit at Osan Air Base in Korea.

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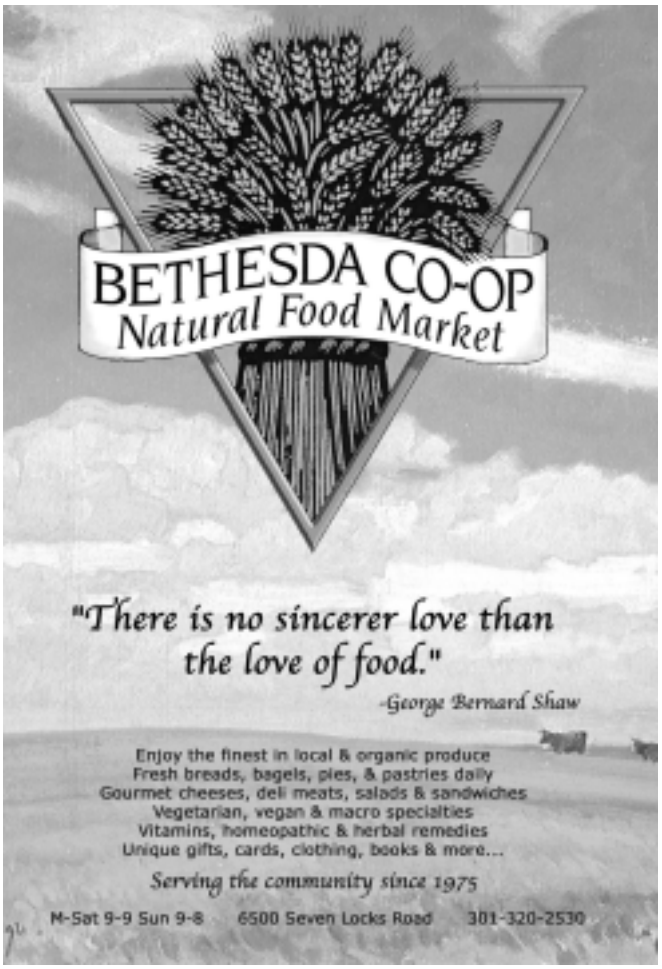
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The Olsons spent 4½ years stationed at Minot AF Base in North Dakota, and Jim was able to locate in South Dakota, uncles and an aunt who hadn't seen him since he moved to Texas as an infant. His next assignment was at a base in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he was in charge of a surgical unit and Central Supplies. "We maintained an air-transportable hospital that had to be ready to fly with 2 hours' notice."

During his Air force service, Jim earned an Associate Degree in operating room technology. After over 17 years in the Air Force, he retired as a Tech Sergeant, on medical disability, due to increasing trouble with arthritis. "When I didn't pass the physical, they gave me 20 days' notice that I would be discharged. Suddenly I was a man out of a job, with a family to support. The disability pension was definitely not enough to live on."

While Kathy stayed in South Carolina to sell their house, Jim came to Northern Virginia to live with Kathy's brother and find a job. "I worked a couple of jobs before my application to the US Postal Service came through." His first post, in August of 1987, was at our post office in Cabin John. He is now the senior

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Creek Cleanup Slated for April 24

The annual spring Cabin John Creek Cleanup, sponsored by the Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed, is scheduled for this Saturday April 24 (9:30 – 12:00 noon). The two sites in Cabin John area are:

a. Cypress Grove Lane Site – cleanup area is Creek near Seven Locks Road in Cabin John at intersection of Cypress Grove Lane. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Creek trail entrance immediately on other side of road from Cypress Grove Lane. Lots of parking available at dirt lot next to Beltway overpass.

b. MacArthur Blvd. Site – cleanup area is Creek between MacArthur Blvd. and upstream toward Seven Locks Rd. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at tennis courts parking lot immediately on west side (Cabin John side) of Cabin John Bridge (one-lane bridge) on MacArthur Blvd.

We always get a lot of families at the MacArthur site so feel free to head up to the Cypress Grove site if you want some elbow room. Kids under 14 must be accompanied by adult. Community service credits available, but be sure to sign the attendance sheet. Bring your own gloves if you have them, but gloves will be available. Trash bags and refreshments provided. Wear long pants and a hat, and shoes that can get wet because we will need people to cross over the creek to the far side. More info on both matters is available on the FOCJCW website – www.cabinjohn.org/focjcw.



PLEASE DONATE CHILDRENS BOOKS.....HELP AN AFRICAN VILLAGE START A LIBRARY!

Lisa's Book Club is seeking new and gently used books for children (pre-K- 6th grade) to send to a village in Africa. We need stories for children as well as current reference materials on nature, how-things-work, world history, atlases and dictionaries.



OUR STORY



One of our book club members just returned from a stay in Ubulu, a village in Imo State (of the former Biafra), Nigeria. While there she visited all the schools, talked to children, teachers, and headmasters. A startling observation was that she saw no childrens books, not at any of the 7 primary schools, nor in familiy homes. Teachers readily supplied the answer: Since the war, the region has remained desperately impoverished with no revenue generating resources such as oil. In the village, this translates into such situations as: despite free tuition in government schools, many families cannot afford the $5.00 per year cost of school supplies and uniforms; there is no money to buy books for teachers or a library; and teachers have not been paid since the beginning of the school year.







We have deicided to help these children. We are collecting books and will get them into the hands of children by partnering with Action Africa, Inc. a non-profit organization, which brings people together to create solutions in the village itself.

OUR GOAL

We intend to collect a minimum of one book for each primary school child in Ubulu, 1,703 books. Because one of our book club members is on the board of Action Africa, Inc. which is working directly with the headmasters of the schools and will make all the arrangements for customs and shipping and distribution of the books, *we can guarantee that these books will get to the children and that any financial contributions* will be dedicated strictly to the costs of shipping and handling.* Donations are tax deductable.



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person there in years of service. "In the beginning, I was a mail carrier, doing distribution and delivery. My route was the Gardens, Wishbone, Cypress Grove, and Long Ridge. I did that for 3 years, then came inside as a clerk. I used to come to work at 4:30 or 5 am to sort the mail—that's done by route and then by address sequence. And for confirmation records, all registered or certified mail has to be scanned. Now my hours are 8:15-5:30, but I stay until all the carriers come back, which on a snow day can be as late as 6:30 or 7."

"We get a lot of phone calls, usually asking about required postage. Since prices do change, I have to look up overseas postage requirements. You would be

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Local Wisdom

Good advice and interesting information from experts in Cabin John

This month the Village News talks to piano teacher and active community volunteer Susan Roberts.

VN: When do you recommend starting music lessons for children, and what are some signs you can look for to know they are ready?

Susan: I personally don't like to start teaching children before about 7 years of age (sometimes 6½ if they're already reading). Indicators of readiness include a child's curiosity about musical sounds and an enjoyment of group experiences with music play and instruction.

By 7 or 8, children are often influenced by their peers, who may have already started music lessons and they want to be able to play an instrument too. Children who want to learn are a joy to teach; children who are taking lessons because their parents want them to are much more difficult to motivate of course.

VN: What are some local resources for music lessons?

Susan: The Montgomery County Music Teachers Association can recommend private teachers for various instruments in different areas of the County. Member Alexandra Karousatos can provide referrals and can be reached at 301-434-2471. Besides the wonderful introduction to music at Bannockburn, schools such as the Levine School of Music and the Washington Conservatory of Music can be contacted.

VN: What music stores in the area are good sources for things like sheet music, piano lesson books, etc.?

Susan: Music and Arts (various locations), Dale Music (Silver Spring) and Foxes Music (Falls Church) are some of the local music stores.

Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

The Big White Building

People often ask "What's the story on the big white building that stands at the corner of 79th Street and MacArthur Boulevard?" (Its building number is 8001 MacArthur, which puts it ahead of the normal sequence, since houses usually follow, rather than precede, a numbered street. But the same is true of the shopping center which uses 7945 as a mailing address, even though it is located before 79th Street.)



8001 MacArthur Boulevard now is home to the Handwriting Without Tears organization.

To answer the question about the building, I've done a little research, but it's very much a work in progress and I would welcome any information that old-timers in Cabin John could contribute to filling in details. I'm grateful to Mrs. Jerry Shaw for her recollections.

The structure now standing was built in 1949, replacing an earlier building on the same site. According to Montgomery County land records, the property belonged to Cabin Glen Council #41 of the Junior Order United American Mechanics (JOUAM). The name is interesting; one would judge that it was an amalgamation of Cabin John and Glen Echo.

JOUAM was a fraternal order whose parent organization (United American Mechanics) was founded in Philadelphia in 1845 as a nativist workingmen's organization opposed to immigration. It was one of several such groups founded in the 1840's (of which the most famous became the "Know-Nothing" political party). In 1853 a junior branch was organized and in 1885 the branch became an independent organization under the name Junior Order United American Mechanics. Open to white males from 16 to 50, it carried forward opposition to immigration but also stood for expansion of free public education and separation of church and state (although favoring the daily reading of the Bible in schools). It later established a Sick and Funeral Fund and a life insurance program for its members. During the 1920's it appears to have shared many of the views of the Ku Klux Klan.

Local units were formed throughout the United States, and in the 1930's it reached its peak, with about 200,000 members in 2950 local councils. By 1965 its membership had dropped to 50,000 and by 1979 to about 13,000. I could find no record of whether it still exists, although in surfing the Web I found a reference to a 2001 obituary of a gentleman in West Virginia that listed his JOUAM membership.

I have not yet found information on when the Cabin Glen Council was started, in the early part of the 20th century — at least up to 1930 when the firehouse was built — its building was a focal point of Cabin John community activities, both meetings and social events and, very briefly, as a schoolhouse. The dances at the Junior Order are reported to have been a high spot in Cabin John life.

In 1962 the building was sold to Robert C. Delgart and in 1969 he sold it to Wilson C. Lucom (the recorded price was $92,500) and it became the office of United States Anti-Communist League. That organization seems to have been pretty much a one-person operation but it was a good patron of the Cabin John Post Office since it disseminated a lot of anti-Communist literature.

In 1994 the property was bought by a company known as the 8001 Limited Liability Company (by then its price had risen to $431,250) and became the Headquarters of Compu-Phone, a company providing telephone services to businesses.

Today — since January 2002 — the building is owned and occupied by an organization called Handwriting Without Tears, founded by Jan Z. Olsen, who is its president. Her son Eric Olsen and his wife Kirstin Parsons manage the operations of the business which has developed, and markets throughout the United States (largely through workshops for educational personnel in dozens of cities) instructional materials for teaching handwriting in schools from pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. —

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surprised how often we're asked the postage to 'foreign countries' like Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands."

The US Postal Service is a quasi government agency. A Federal Postal Stamp Commission decides on when and how much postal stamp prices will increase. The Post Office doesn't always go with the Federal leave schedule, for instance, with weather closings. "Heavy mailing season starts the day after Thanksgiving, although overseas Christmas packages should be sent before then. We get a lot of customers from the businesses in the two buildings here in the shopping center, and David Taylor employees come in on their lunch hours. On Saturdays, Mondays, and Fridays, we are really busy."

Does it surprise you that about 75% of people who use the CJ Post Office do not live in Cabin John? "They come here from Potomac, Bethesda, Glen Echo, and other areas. They tell me that they prefer coming to our post office because the clerks here are so helpful. Well, why not? Most of our customers are very nice folks." You may have noticed that wrapping tape is kept handy. This is *not* a required service, but an unusual courtesy offered at our post office. Jim is always willing to help rewrap and seal a package that he thinks might not get to its destination undamaged. "Yes, it takes a little time, but people in line are patient."

I asked Jim what's the best part of his job. "It's the customers. I get to know people from all walks of life. I can give them a service that they need and appreciate." And the worst part? "Without a doubt, it's the unrestrained kids that come in with parents who let them run around, yell, pull stuff off the walls and counters. One time I was helping a lady whose kid kept pulling on her mother's clothes, insisting on her attention. When the lady kept taking care of her business with me, the girl bit her mother on the leg. The mother let out a yell and scolded the girl. An elderly gentleman who was next in line said to the woman, 'That kid needs to get her rear end whomped.' When the mother replied in a shocked voice that they never did that, the man said, 'Then you need to get *your* rear end whomped.' I was really tickled, but of course I had to keep a straight face."

For the first 22 years of their marriage, Jim's wife worked as a nurse in whatever place they lived. But her career ended in 1993 when she was working as a critical care nurse at Georgetown University Hospital. While she was working the ventilator on a patient who was being wheeled on a gurney to radiology, the orderlies who were operating the gurney, accidentally slammed her against a wall, injuring her back. "We spent years in court getting her the disability compensation she deserved. She does drive some, but she can walk only short distances, and has to take strong painkillers regularly."

When the Olsons moved to this area 17 years ago, they lived first on College Parkway in Rockville, then in Wheaton. Three years ago they moved into a new house in Frederick, built to their specifications. "The garden is all Kathy's doing. She's part Cherokee and maybe that explains her green thumb." Their daughter Melissa lives nearby, so they frequently see their three grandchildren, ages 9, 7, and 2 ½. Kathy's mother lives with them. Jim plans to retire in another 5½ years, when he reaches 60. "Kathy and I both like to fish. And we'll do some traveling. After all those years in the military, we have friends all over the country."

Meanwhile we can count on Jim's cheerful help when we walk into our Cabin John Post Office.



Handwriting Without Tears®, publisher of educational materials located in Cabin John, MD is hiring!

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Fax resume: 301.263.2707; E-mail: Jobs@hwtears.com; or Call for a phone interview: 301.263.2700

Housing Needed for College Interns

Thirty out-of-town college students need local housing to participate in a **Naval Research Enterprise Intern Program** (NREIP) this summer at the Carderock Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (David Taylor Model Basin) in West Bethesda, MD.

This intern program recognizes academic achievements, and is designed to provide science and engineering students from colleges and universities the opportunity to participate in research, training, and professional development under the guidance of an experienced mentor at Navy laboratories for a 10-week period during the summer break.

Housing is needed for both female and male students. Some of the schools in the NREIP program are: Cornell University, Duke University, Florida A&M University, Georgia Inst. of Technology, Maine Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Northwestern University, Pennsylvania State University, Texas A&M University, Univ. of Colorado-Boulder, Univ. of Florida, Univ. of Idaho, Univ. of Kansas, Univ. of Michigan, Univ. of Washington, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

If you or someone you know is interested in providing housing for all or a portion of the 10-week program, please contact Mr. Sam Balboa, Office of Research Director, Code 0112. He can be reached as follows: office phone: 301-227-4303, or via email: balboasc@nswccd.navy.mil

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Variety of Free Gardening Advice Available to Montgomery County Residents This Season

The Montgomery County Master Gardener program offers a valuable horticultural service for county residents. Plant, turf or insect questions can be posed to trained volunteers who can be reached on the telephone or at weekly plant clinics.

The Horticultural Hotline, 301-590-9650, is open from March through October, Monday – Friday, 9 am to 1 pm, and from November through February, Monday – Wednesday 10 am – 1 pm. Master Gardeners offer free gardening advice on many topics, ranging from how to select the right plant for your site, implementing a plan for Integrated Pest Management of your home gardens, the use of pesticides and herbicides, house plant care, vegetable gardening in our region, ornamentals, herbs, pruning advice, and more.

Weekly plant clinics are offered at Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd, in Bethesda on Saturdays, 10 am – 1 pm, April through September. Bring a good-sized sample of a plant that you would like to identify, to find out what is eating your plant, or what is causing it to wilt and turn black. Meet with a friendly Master Gardener face to face, and learn how to bring your plant back to good health. You can also bring in pesky insects for identification. Be sure that your sample is not crushed; small insects such as flies, ants, grubs or caterpillars can be preserved in a small jar in alcohol. Plant samples should be about 12 inches long and include both healthy and diseased or injured tissue on the plant. If it has flowers, or fruit, or seeds, include these with the sample. A single leaf is not enough! The entire plant is required for herbaceous plant identification, including weeds, and it is a good idea to bring along the roots. Having trouble with your lawn? Bring in a turf sample measuring 12"x12", with the diseased area and healthy parts of the turf. We love a challenge, and look forward to discussing gardening problems and successes at these weekly clinics.

A self-service plant and insect drop off center can be found at the Montgomery County Extension Office in Derwood. It is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 4:45 pm. Please be sure that your sample is large enough, with both diseased and healthy parts of the plant, or that the sample insect is not crushed. Fill out the forms at the center and a master gardener will get back to you.

A Speaker's Bureau is available on request to present a program to your organization on a wide variety of gardening topics.

Master Gardeners also maintain a demonstration Earth Garden Project in Derwood, on the hill behind the Montgomery County Extension Office, 18410 Muncaster Road. Here you can get ideas from a variety of garden plantings: vegetable, herb, butterfly, children's, fragrance, wildlife, and shade gardens are represented.

The Master Gardener program is a non-profit volunteer organization associated with the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maryland. Cabin John has many master gardeners. We have attended an intensive 6-week course that covers a full range of plant, soil, insect and water topics relevant to our region. (Get ready for the cicadas!) A fully certified Master Gardener must not only complete the course and pass the final test, but must also volunteer 40 hours at plant clinics, fairs, through the speaker's bureau, in the horticultural therapy program, on the telephone hot line, or at the demonstration garden. We are very proud to be on the front lines protecting and preserving our environment that is full of diverse plants and wildlife.

—Nancy Pinto-Orton

Our Neighboring community, Glen Echo, continues its "Centennial Celebration." All in Cabin John are invited to participate in the following activities.

May 15 Sat. 9:30 am -2 pm—escorted garden tour on the hour, leaving from the town hall.

May 23 Sun. 3pm—lecture "Racial Integration of Glen Echo Park" by Washington Post columnist Colbert King at town hall.

For more info, go to www.glenecho.org , or call Diana Hudson-Taylor at 301-229-2163.

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IS YOUR HOUSE READY FOR SPRING? Then get its portrait painted! HomePortraits by Cabin John resident, Robin Lewis. Call 301-229-1623.

YARD SALE TODAY Saturday, April 24, 9 am. Several families on 79th Street below MacArthur.

SEEKING HOUSING: Female seeking one bedroom with private bath to rent in or near Cabin John. I am a long-time Cabin John resident who works in Cabin John. I have an old Husky dog who is very quiet and well behaved – just like me! We hope to remain in Cabin John because we love it so much. Please call 301-257-1076.

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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 heidi@alumni.vanderbilt.edu]

The next deadline is 10 AM Wednesday May 12th for the issue mailing May 20th.

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.

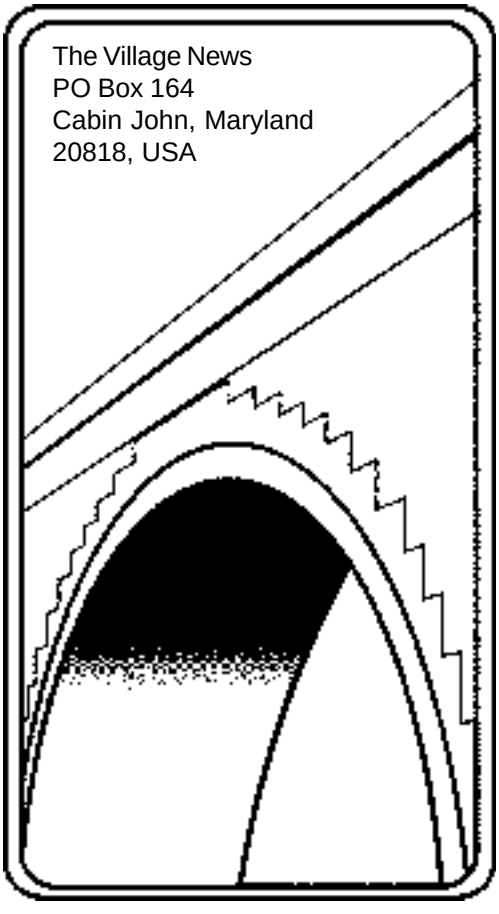
Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, Barbara Martin, Pamela Zilly.

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

Neighborly News: 301-229-3482 or barbmartin@comcast.net

Features/News: 301-320-0918 or heidiblewis@earthlink.net

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