June 2005

Village News

Volume 38 Issue 9 — Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

Cabin John House Tour Offers a Rare Look at Neighborhood Homes on Saturday, June 11



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11. From 10 am to 2 pm that day, about a dozen generous local residents will open their homes for the Cabin John House Tour, the third such tour in recent years. Not only is this a good opportunity to learn and share decorating and landscaping ideas, it's also a good way to get to know your neighbors and gain a greater appreciation of our community's history. Tickets for the event are $10 per person but are limited to persons over the age of 12. You can purchase tickets and a tourbook on the day of the tour any time after 9:45 at the Methodist Church on 77th and MacArthur Blvd. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Cabin John Citizens Association and the *Village News*.

The House Tour planning committee is headed up by Susan Roberts. Please give her a call at 320-4451 or e-mail at *seroberts05@yahoo.com* if you are interesting in helping out as a volunteer house monitor. Monitors will be assigned in pairs, and are asked to take a 2-hour shift, leaving 2 additional hours to do your own touring.

We're crossing our fingers for a lovely day on June 11, but rain or shine, the tour will still go on. We hope to see you there!

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New Bumper Sticker Benefits Two Cabin John Community Groups



Actual size of the bumper sticker, shown here, is 3x5 inches.
See CJCA News on page 5 for details.

Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

Golfers Take Note: **Erin Hatch**, a high-school junior, has created a community service that certainly deserves our attention and support. Erin is collecting golf equipment, both junior and adult, that people have outgrown or no longer use. Erin will donate this equipment to DC Public Schools for a new golf program being launched in the fall. This is a very good chance to get old clubs, shoes, balls, etc. into the hands of kids who can really use them. Erin will pick up the equipment. Please, if you can donate equipment, or if you want more information, email Erin at *GiveGolf18@aol.com* or call him at 301-229-3908. Erin lives with his parents on Longridge Court. This seems to me to be a very creative and worthwhile project to contribute to.

Either nothing has happened in CJ in the last month, or my reporters—YOU—aren't letting me know. There will be one summer issue. Tell me about any news—deaths, marriages, births, new neighbors—about present or former Cabin Johners. barbmartin@comcast.net or 301-229-3482



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Community Calendar

MAY

22 ..... Canal Walking Tour
Lockhouse 8
4 pm (see p. 1)

24 ..... CJCA Meeting
Clara Barton Center
7:30 pm (see p. 4)

29 ..... MacArthur Blvd. Flag Posting
Firehouse Cleaners parking lot
2 pm (see p. 5)

JUN

5 ..... Cabin John Blood Drive
Clara Barton Center
10 am–3:45 pm (see p. 5)

11 ..... Cabin John House Tour
Methodist Church, 77th & MacArthur
9:45 am–2 pm (see p. 1)

25 ..... Glen Echo Park: Then & Wow!
Glen Echo Park
Noon–Midnight (see p. 10)

26 ..... Voices of the River
Lockhouse 8
4:30 pm

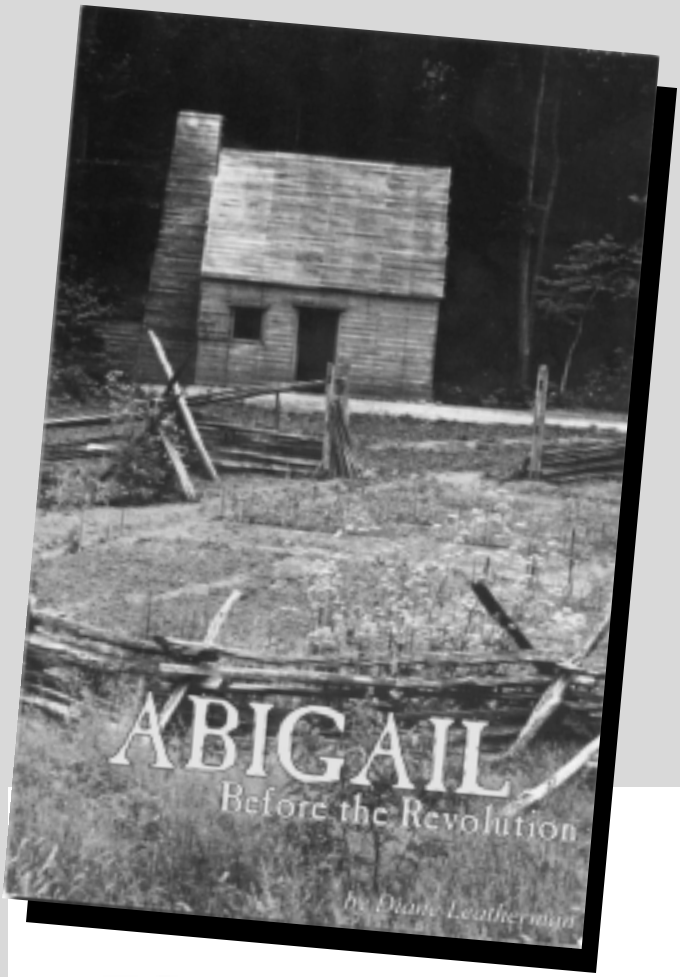
28 ..... CJCA Meeting
Clara Barton Center
7:30 pm

New Book Published by Local Writer Diane Leatherman

ABIGAIL Before the Revolution

Cabin John resident Diane Leatherman has recently published her third book for children. Drawing upon her experience as a costumed interpreter at Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run, she has written a story told from the point of view of an eleven year old girl whose family lives on a small tobacco farm in Colonial Virginia. Using the words and grammar of the time, she describes the hard work and meager amenities of life on the farm. Life is hard for Abigail and her family and in order to reduce the number of mouths to feed, it is necessary for the children to be apprenticed to people in the city of Alexandria. The story describes life as an apprentice for Abigail's brother Henry as a chimney sweep and for Abigail in a milliner's shop. The book is aimed at middle school children and provides a wonderful introduction for children before a visit to the Colonial Farm. For information on visiting the farm and purchasing the book, visit the web site at *http://www.1771.org*.

In the story, Abigail's father tells of his experiences fighting with General Braddock at Ft. Duquesne during the French and Indian War. Until July 3rd, the Montgomery County Historical Society has an exhibit marking the 250th anniversary of this event at the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville. See *http://www.montgomeryhistory.org/eventsnew.htm* for details.





Diane Leatherman's photo from the book jacket.

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CJCA News

by Burr Gray

The next meeting of the CJCA will be May 24, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Next CJCA Meeting—May 24, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center: Agenda: 1) election of officers, 2) presentation on proposed changes to River Road intersections at Wilson Blvd and Goldsboro Rd., and 3) formation of traffic committee.

Summary of April 26, 2005 CJCA Meeting—Creation of New Toll Lanes on the Beltway. Larry Heflin (CJCA VP presided). The meeting was attended by some 31 citizens representing Cabin John, Persimmon Tree, Carderock Springs and Cypress Grove. Alex Hekimian represented the Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning. Five presenters represented the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) with the presentation being led by R. Suseela (Sue) Rajan, Senior Project Manager (410-545-8614).

The presentation was on the Capital Beltway Study addressing the congestion on the 41 miles of Beltway in Maryland. SHA proposes adding express toll lanes. CJCA interest centered on those planned between the American Legion Memorial Bridge and 270, either two (one toll lane each way) or four (two toll lanes each way) by building an additional lane and, for the four, converting an existing lane.

SHA has no alternative to offer to reduce the gridlock worsening on the Beltway. SHA has no funding to build the additional lanes and must rely on the tolls to pay for construction.

SHA's proposed construction would necessitate a number of Storm Water Management Ponds to slow the transmission of runoff to surrounding streams, which may necessitate the taking of additional Right of Way (an additional lane may be built without taking additional ROW). CJCA suggested SHA consider planting trees which can thrive in various groundwater levels, similar to those in the Potomac floodplain, in the Ponds.

SHA was given a list of attendees and promised to keep the attendees informed of developments. The decision is not yet made and Montgomery County is monitoring the process.

Sound barriers will be furnished only if further study so dictates: factors SHA will consider include if abutting houses were built before the beltway, and if anticipated noise levels will exceed 66 decibels. In general the barriers will provide noise mitigation only for those houses adjacent to the barrier with a rapidly





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diminishing reduction in the next few hundred feet. SHA has limited money for sound barriers and may seek funds from barriered homeowners if only a limited number of homes are aided which raises the cost/number of homes ratio. The SHA presenters were shown a letter purportedly assuring the citizens of Cypress Grove that a sound barrier was to be built by 2006, and were asked when the construction would start. The presenters were not aware of that issue.

Further information can be gained by calling 1-800-548-5026 or *marylandroads.com*.

Posting of Flags Along MacArthur Blvd for Memorial Day—If you are interested in helping to post the flags that CJCA puts up each summer along MacArthur Blvd., please meet at the Firehouse Cleaners parking lot on Sunday, May 29 at 2 pm. Bring a ladder if you have one.

Blood Drive—The next Cabin John/Glen Echo/ Bannockburn Community Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2005 at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. Please contact Cabin John resident Karen Melchar (*ardenroad@mac.com*, or 301-229-9049) if you are willing and able to donate blood. The time slots (done at 15 minute increments) are from 10 am to 3:45 pm. Eligibility – People who can donate are, in general: people in good health, 17 years or older (16 years is OK if they have consent form signed by parent), and weighing at least 110 lbs. People who can't donate are: 1) people who received a tattoo one year prior to the date of donation, 2) most people taking antibiotics, 3) most people taking blood thinners, 4) most people who are not feeling well, have a cold, or sore throat, 5) people who have a temperature at the time of donation, 6) people who have been in England for a total combined period of 3 months or more during the period 1980 - 1996, and 7) people who have been in Eastern or Western Europe for a total combined time of five years or more since Jan 1, 1980, 8) people who have had cancer, 9) people who have traveled recently to certain South American countries where malaria exists, and 10) people who have traveled recently to locations where SARS was a concern. (*Note that the criteria dealing with time spent in England/Europe has changed and is less restrictive than previously. However, if you were entered into the Red Cross database and previously rejected due to time spent in England/Europe, you probably still can't give blood yet since the Red Cross has not figured out how to adjust their database on this issue—go figure.*) Call 1-800- 272-2048 (Red Cross nurses station) if you have any questions regarding eligibility to donate.

More Perfect Duepayers—Tommy & Naomi Denell came up with sound proof, which survived meticulous CJCA review, that they had paid their dues for at least the last nine years. Outstanding!!!

Updating of the CJCA E-mail List Serve—Please send an e-mail to Gary Barnhard (*barnhard@barnhard.com*) if you wish to receive the occasional e-mails sent out by CJCA. We average about 3-4 per month. The subject is always either upcoming CJCA events, safety issues, or other local items of interest. We have about 300 homes on the CJCA list but would like to include even more CJ residents. If you already sent such an e-mail and are not receiving the CJCA e-mails, please send it again in the next week.

Cabin John Bumper Stickers—Don't be the last to jump on this bandwagon. CJCA and Friends of the Clara Barton Community (FCBCC) are selling the CJ bumper sticker that is shown on page 1. Proceeds will be split between the two groups. If you want one or more than one of the stickers, please send a check (cost is $3/sticker) made payable to CJCA for the proper amount to CJCA, PO Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Rieckelman at *rieckell@aol.com*.



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LUNCH MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE SNACK BAR.

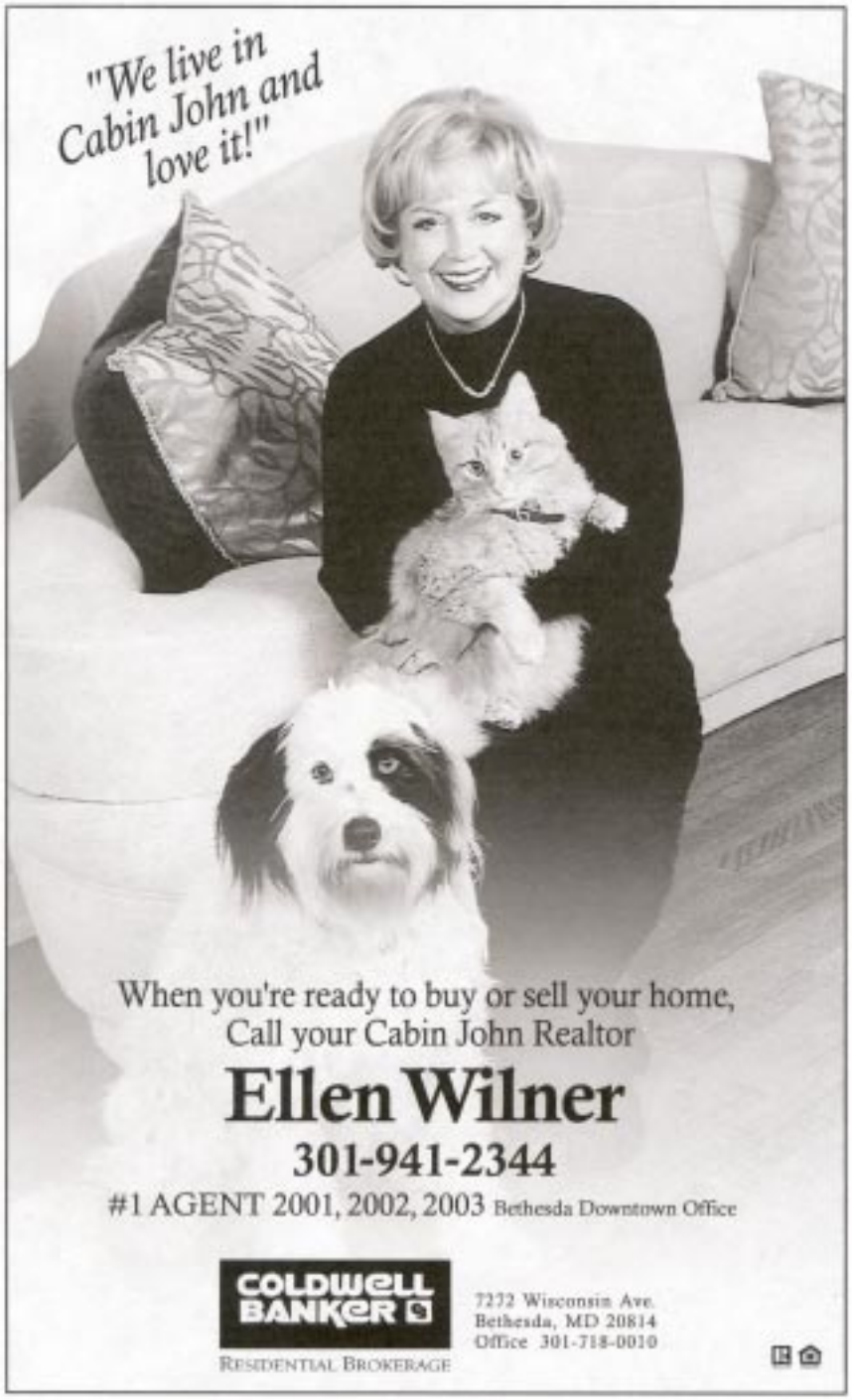
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News from the Montgomery County Historical Society

"Lost Montgomery" featuring pictures of Montgomery County buildings that pre-dated 1850 taken from 1973 to 1976 by Michael Dwyer for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is on exhibit at The Waters House, 12535 Milestone Manor Lane, Germantown, MD from May 7 to September 10, 2005. Exhibit hours are 10-4:30 Wednesday and Saturday or by appointment. For more information call 301-515-2887.

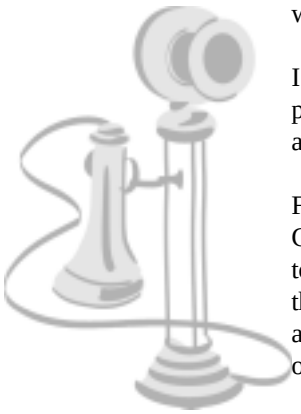
The Historical Society is still looking for museum docents, particularly on Wednesday and Thursdays. If you are interested, contact Karen Lottes at *kylottes@montgomeryhistory.org* or 301-340-2825.

Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

Seventy-Five Years Ago in Cabin John

Several readers have told me that they enjoyed reading last month's column with the news of what was happening in Cabin John in May 1928, as taken from the pages of a then flourishing newspaper called *The Maryland News*. Some even suggested they would like to know more about that era.



I went back to the newspaper files, therefore, to get a picture of what was going on in our town exactly 75 years ago, in June 1930. Here are some of the highlights.

First, however, a bit of background. How big was Cabin John then? As I reported in the last column, the town in 1928 had a total of 131 houses. Assuming that the average household size was about 4 people, then a rough estimate of the population would be a little over 500.

In perusing the June 20, 1930 issue of *The Maryland News* I found the official figures for Montgomery County from the 1930 U. S. Census. The total county population then was 49,136. Unfortunately, the figures were not broken down by community, but only by larger census districts. Almost certainly, however, Cabin John fell within the Bethesda district and for that district the total population was 11,186.

Some of the advertising in the paper was intriguing because it shows that modern "conveniences" must still have been far from widespread. For instance, a Pepco ad, obviously urging people to get wired for electricity, read as follows: "Keep cool for pennies a day! Electricity is so cheap that...an electric fan of the 10-inch oscillating type costs only 1-1/3 cents for 8 hours of constant use."

And the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company marketed telephone service with an ad which in its entirety read: "Donald liked Dolly. Liked her an awful lot. Then Donald's company cruelly sent him away from town. Dolly was heartbroken. But a little bird told Donald something, and Donald took its advice. The bird chirped TELEPHONE! So Donald telephoned, not once but ever so often. And now Donald and Dolly keep the wires humming with — well, can't you imagine?"



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The biggest news in Cabin John in June 1930 seemed to be the preparations for the 4th of July celebration, carried out under the auspices of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department which had been organized in February of that year. The volunteers were working hard to raise the $5000 needed to buy two pieces of apparatus. They were planning some big events for Independence Day, including:

- an automobile parade along Conduit Road from the District line to Great Falls, with a prize for the "most attractively decorated machine".
- floats in the parade entered by Boy Scout Troop 105, the Glen Echo-Cabin John School PTA, the Cabin John Home Demonstration Club, and the 4-H Girls.
- athletic events, a band concert and a Boy Scout drill
- a chicken dinner (75 cents for adults, 40 cents for children)
- and, of course, fireworks after dark

1930 marked the beginning of the Great Depression, and fundraising was also going on in Cabin John for something called the Social Service League. Cabin John's quota was $300, and W. B. Armstrong, the chairman of the drive, reported with satisfaction that $304 was raised, including $50 from the Junior Order of United American Mechanics and $25 from the Daughters of America Auxiliary.

Community social events were numerous. On June 6, 1930, there were in fact two competing events. At the Glen Echo-Cabin John School the Herman Presbyterian Church presented "Ye Olde Folks" concert (adults 35 cents, children 15 cents) while at the Junior Hall there was a strawberry and ice cream festival followed by dancing from 8:30 to 11 (admission 50 cents) with the proceeds to go to the Social Service League.

June also was graduation time at the school. Room mothers were busy with a round of social activities for their grades. Mrs. C. M. Brann, for instance, entertained the 37 first graders and their teacher at a peanut hunt at her home on Spring Street. At the school there was a Friday morning assembly for the entire school with a program of songs, poems, and recitations. (And, in striking contrast to today, the first two items on the program were the singing by the whole assembly of "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer!)

And how about this? "Last Friday the Boy Scouts of Troop No. 105 met at the school and hiked down to the 'olde swimming hole' on Cabin John Creek. After a short business meeting the boys enjoyed some moonlight swimming, followed by short stories told by some of the Scouts."

It might have been fun to live in Cabin John 75 years ago!

P.S. In last month's column, I asked if anyone knew what "crackle-lac" was. Yes, indeed, said Ruth Rabner: "Crackle-Lac is furniture lacquer that dries with little cracks in it...supposed to make furniture look antique. Although anything finished in 1928 would have no need for crackle-lac now — it'd look like that naturally!"

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GLEN ECHO PARK 1957



Photo Courtesy of Richard Cook

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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 heidiblewis@earthlink.net]

The next deadline is 10 am Wednesday June 15 for the issue mailing June 23.

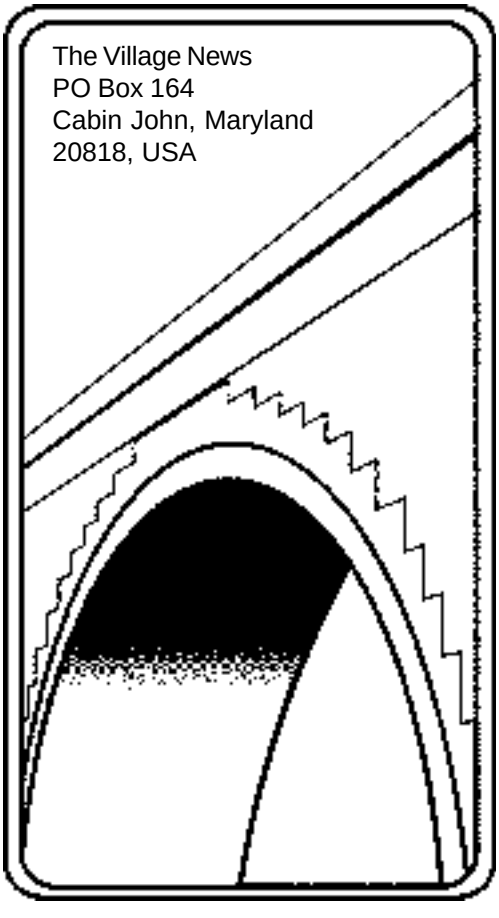
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Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, Barbara Martin.

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

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