

President's Letter

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Hello Neighbors,

Ah, spring! Almost time for sailors to burn their socks (a first day of spring tradition).

Wasn't the Spaghetti Dinner at the Hall fun last month! There will be more friends, fun and fine dining on Saturday, March 24th, at the WRIA Oyster and Ham Dinner. We'll have carry-out, a bake sale table, and a 50/50 raffle. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter, and notices will be posted in the Post Office. I hope to see you there – good food served by great people for a good cause – maintenance of the Hall.

Regarding Hall maintenance, the WRIA Board sent out a donations request letter in January. If you have responded, thank you! If you haven't responded yet, please consider sharing some of your time or talent or treasure with WRIA, which shares those with our neighbors in a number of ways including maintenance and upkeep of the Galesville Memorial Hall.

Elsewhere in this newsletter Bill Gibbons gives us an update on the status of the Wilson Farmstead. WRIA is working with the Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc. which stewarded the recently restored Rosenwald School on West Benning Road, and the Galesville Heritage Society, Inc. to coordinate with the County's Department of Recreation and Parks to determine the anticipated uses of the Wilson property. Bill is managing this project for WRIA, and is monitoring the acquisition and development of the property by the County. If you are interested in more information,

or wish to be more closely involved, or have questions concerning this project, please contact Bill, me, or any WRIA Board member.

In closing, I'm sad to write about the February 17th passing of Jessie Mae Woodfield Gott, She was a native Galesvillian, born in March, 1929. She attended Galesville Elementary and Southern High Schools. After her wedding to Vernon Gott she guided children for over thirty years as a school teacher, first at Mayo Elementary School, then at Southern Middle School. After retirement she became a substitute High School teacher at Southern for another thirteen years. Both she and Vernon were longtime volunteers at Southern Junior and Senior High Schools, where for over forty years they worked the concessions stands and ticket windows at sporting and other events. Jessie and Vernon had the honor of having the field house at Southern High's Wingate Field named in their honor in recognition of their many years of service. My condolences go to her sons Ted and David, and to their families.

John Cox
President
johngordoncox@yahoo.com

Boat Pumpout Service to Resume in April

The West/Rhode Riverkeeper program plans to offer sewage pumpout services for boaters again this year.

The *Honeydipper* pumpout boat will go back to work beginning at the end of April and the schedule includes:

- April 28 - April 29:
8 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- May 6 - May 7:
8 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- May 11 through October:
Fridays through Mondays,
8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Pumpouts are free for members of the riverkeeper organization who joined at the \$50 level. Nonmembers can get pumpouts for \$5 each.

To set up a pumpout, contact *Honeydipper* Capt. Michael DeRogatis at 410-940-3754 or on channel 71.

Save This Date

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March 24

WRIA Oyster & Ham Dinner and Bake Sale

2 p.m. until oysters run out,
Galesville Memorial Hall

Wilson Farmhouse



Wilson Farmstead and Hot Sox Field Update

A meeting to explore ideas and obtain input from Galesville community members regarding the Wilson Farmstead, on Galesville Road, was held on January 30, 2012 at the Galesville Community Center (Rosenwald School). Gaile Jones, a consultant working on a concept plan for the property, facilitated the meeting for the seventeen community representatives and five Anne Arundel County staff members who participated.

County staff confirmed the County acquisition of the property is moving forward with clos-

ing expected prior to June 2012; however, budget issues make it unlikely that County funds for redevelopment will be available for the foreseeable future. However, the West River Improvement Association, Inc. has a pending \$100,000 African American Heritage Fund Capital Grant application that, if approved, will enable stabilization of the farmhouse.

Wilson family members and community representatives in attendance were supportive of a goal for historic interpretation of the property, including the ball field's linkage to the history of the American Negro Baseball Leagues and Hot Sox legacy and the rehabilitation, preservation and interpretative programming for the farmhouse.

The issue of organizational responsibility for the oversight of the property was also discussed. The County's Department of Recreation and Parks will focus on the rehabilitation and management of the ball field for recreational use; however, a nonprofit

501(c)(3) will be needed to pursue redevelopment funding and to oversee rehabilitation efforts for the farmhouse.

The ad hoc Friends of the Wilson Property committee comprised of representatives from the West River Improvement Association, Inc., the Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc. and the Galesville Heritage Society, Inc. intend to reconvene after the County's acquisition to develop a framework for moving forward with the stabilization of the farmhouse.

For more information, please feel free to contact Bill Gibbons, at w.gibbons1@comcast.net.

River Gallery's 23rd Annual Juried Community Show!



"Tug" oil by David Diaz

Paintings, printmaking, hand made books, ceramics and photos were judged by Sigrid Trumpy for this yearly event.

The show will hang from Friday, March 9th until Sunday, April 15th.

The gallery's regular hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11:00- 5:00 or call for an appointment 410 867 0954.

River Gallery is located at 1000 Main St. Galesville, MD. You can visit our website, rivergallery.org or like us on Facebook.

Holly's Kitchen Health Department Approved

This spring it was decided to get the kitchen at the Hall approved by the Health Department. What a process! Luckily Holly, who knew Health Department regulations after running a restaurant, set the kitchen up years ago. There's a reason her name is on the door! The necessary refrigerator, freezer, stove with hood (and fire suppression equipment), deep fryers, solid countertops and sinks were already in place. The inspector was very impressed. We did however, have a few things that needed to be added or corrected before we could get the final certificate. Unfortunately, most of them involved plumbing. The drain under the hand sink had to be linked to the open drain trap under the 3 compartment sink, a mop sink had to be installed in the broom closet (no mops in the kitchen sinks please), and automatic closures put on all doors. The biggest expense was the installation of a grease trap in the ground outside in the pipe between the kitchen sinks and the county sewage line. Statton Plumbing did all the work and we passed final inspection without any problems. The well-earned certificate is hanging on the wall by the interior kitchen door. Thank you Holly!

Christmas Lights Judging Event

December 21, 2011

It was wonderful to see so many people taking the time to decorate their homes for the season!

Special Honors:

Roberta Cassard Award goes to Preston and Jeanette Hartge on Church Lane

Grand Prize goes to Jack and Barbara Smith on Anchors Way

1st Prize goes to Pete and Trudi Baer on Captains Court

2nd Prize goes to Bill Gibbon on Main Street

The winners are:

Karlton and Carolyn Morris	4864 Church Lane
Pat and Dee Packett	4867 Anchors Way
Billy and Pauline Brady	918 Main Street
Buz and Mary Tod Winchester	4840 Riverside Drive
Peter and Luuk Oleson	4846 Riverside Drive
Joseph and Joy Amato	4801 Riverside Drive
Chuck and Linda Lawrence	1040 E. Benning Road
Loretta Harris	969 W. Benning Road
Mike and Brandy Whitman	4733 Woodfield Road
Ted and Kathy Gott	4730 Woodfield Road
Al and Linda Archambo	4855 Anchors Way

We had a great time viewing and judging this year!

Jim Day
Alyssa Day
Jimmy Gibbons
Elsie Whitman

Buy a Rain Barrel, \$95

- Save water and lower your water bill
- Water your plants in between rains with pH-neutral, oxygenated, nitrogen-rich untreated rainwater that plants love
- Protect the Chesapeake Bay's aquatic life and water quality by reducing runoff from your roof
- Support Goshen Farm Preservation Society in their quest to preserve a historic site and open space in Cape St Claire, Annapolis
- Support a family-owned, made in the USA company
- Made from recycled barrels that would otherwise be landfilled

What a WIN-WIN-WIN-WIN-WIN!

Buy one for each corner of your house!

Buy one for that special gardener you know!

Reserve yours today -- you must preorder at:

<http://www.rainbarrelsintl.com/events.asp>

Payment due at pickup on Saturday, June 16th, 9-11am

Across from Graul's, 1388 Cape St Claire Rd, 21409

Calendar of Events

March 24

WRIA Oyster & Ham Dinner and Bake Sale, 2 p.m. until oysters run out, Galesville Memorial Hall

March 25

Maryland Day event, 1-5 p.m., Galesville Heritage Museum

March 31

Square Dance, 6:00 p.m. pot-luck, 7 p.m. dance, Galesville Memorial Hall

Yoga

Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings - yoga at the Galesville Memorial Hall. Contact renyoga@earthlink.net for more info.

May 12

Square Dance, 6:00 p.m. pot-luck, 7 p.m. dance, Galesville Memorial Hall

July 4

Galesville Parade

Maryland Day

Come to the Galesville Heritage Museum to learn about 18th Century Shipbuilding on the West River. Discover the Stephen Steward Shipyard, the scene of Anne Arundel County's only Revolutionary War battle. Stephen Steward's shipyard and home were burned by British raiders on March 31, 1781.

At a series of information stations and using artifacts, many found at the shipyard site:

- Hear the story from the present owner of how the Shipyard was re-discovered in the last 20 years;
- Experience what life was like at the shipyard – where blacksmiths, shipwrights, tenant farmers and other laborers worked, and see some of the tools they used;
- Learn about how ships were built, launched, the cargo they carried and where they sailed;
- Meet a living history performer portraying "Stephen Steward;" and
- Watch the video "How Ships Were Borne."

West River Improvement Association
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Galesville, MD 20765

Address Service Requested