

Main Street Sidewalks to be Repaired

Spring is always a wonderful time of the year. This spring, along with Galesville's profusion of crocuses and daffodils, the Village will be sprouting newly repaired sidewalks.

The State Highway Administration (SHA), who maintains MD 255 (Galesville Road/Main Street), has reviewed the condition of the sidewalks on the North side of the road from Anchors Way to Riverside Drive. The SHA has determined that due to its unevenness, cracking and width, the sidewalk does not meet American With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) guidelines. Because of this, the state is able to allocate money from a special fund to make the sidewalks ADA compliant.

The sidewalks will also become one foot wider (5' instead of the existing 4'). All work will conform to the existing Public Utility easement. Therefore, no sidewalks will be placed on anyone's private property. The construction work will not affect the existing drainage ditches.

A recent communication from the SHA indicates that the work should begin on Monday, March 11th. The SHA's initial estimate of the project's completion called for a 1½ to 2 month construction period. SHA's standard daytime work hours are 9-3 Monday-Friday. However, given the low traffic volume of Galesville Road, the project manager has re-

quested 8-4 daytime work hours. Expanded work hours would expedite the project's completion time.

SHA's current work plan is to break out a sidewalk section, install forms and pour the repaired/replacement section in one day. The Project Manager for the project has assured us that residents will be notified before work is done in front of a house and driveway access to a house will be disrupted for only one day.

Galesville Street Trees

Concern about the loss of trees along Galesville's streets prompted a WRIA committee to talk with the County Forester, Jim Johnson. After a walk through the village, Jim told them how the county could assist Galesville. He is available to consult and help insure the success of the new trees. Trees can be planted in the county and state right of ways with county permission; however, the average lifespan of right of way trees is only ten years, and our ditches and sidewalks take up much of the right of way and easement space along Main and some of our other streets. The periphery of the ball field and the parks are good places for new trees, as are our own front yards, bordering the streets.

Through the county forester, we would have many native trees to choose from, including white oak, redbud and dogwood. Trees up to 2 inches in diameter and 12-15 ft. high are available. Once we have places to plant trees, WRIA would apply for grants to pay for the trees, which would, for the most part, be planted by volunteers.

Francis Ray Moreland Field at Galesville Park

The West River Improvement Association, Inc. has received approval from the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks to name the soccer field at Galesville Park, the "Francis Ray Moreland Field." An informal public ceremony for the field naming is being planned for early summer.

A lifelong resident of Galesville, Francis Ray spent his youth working with his family on Montell Farm that now comprises Galesville Park. Throughout his entire life he contributed unselfishly to our Village, especially for the elderly and less fortunate, by plowing snow, cutting tall grass, donating farm produce, and contributing to local churches and organizations. He received the South County Man of the Year Award in the 1990's and was a member of Galesville United Methodist Church and the South County Lions Club.

WRIA Oyster and Ham Dinner, 2:30 p.m.,
Galesville Memorial Hall

April 6

Save This Date

Henry Wilson Property Update



On February 28, 2013 the Friends of the Wilson Property, an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from the West River Improvement Association, Inc. (WRIA), Galesville Heritage Society, Inc., and the Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc., met with Bea Poulin, Anne Arundel County Community Services, and Jane Cox, Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division, at the Rosenwald School to discuss the status of the 26.5 acre Henry Wilson Property that comprises the Hot Sox ballfield and the Henry Wilson homestead.

At the meeting, Ms. Poulin confirmed the County has disbursed payments to the numerous property heirs and has taken full possession of the property. She anticipates a public ceremony will be scheduled within the next few months to formally announce the County acquisition. Ms. Cox stated archeological work has commenced at the site and a County landscape crew is being scheduled to clear the brush away from the old farmhouse. Ms. Cox also mentioned a meeting has been scheduled with a representative from the Maryland Historical Trust to assess the current condition of the farmhouse and to develop parameters for stabilizing the building in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The WRIA has received a \$100,000 African American Heritage Preservation grant through the Maryland Historical Trust to manage the farmhouse stabilization effort. It is anticipated the necessary agreements between the WRIA and both Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Historical Trust will be executed within the next few months. This will enable the WRIA to move forward with a competitive procurement process to hire a qualified architect to survey the existing structural condition of the farmhouse, including the masonry piers, sill beams, floor and ceiling joists, wood framing, roof framing and planking, and chimneys. Based upon this inspection, detailed plans and specifications are to be prepared and a qualified construction contractor will be hired to complete the building stabilization work.

It is intended the Friends of the Wilson Property will reconvene after the County's public announcement and the commencement of stabilization work. At this meeting, it is intended Village residents and others interested parties will be invited to provide ideas for the re-use of the farmhouse.

The WRIA is grateful for the ongoing professional assistance that is being provided to the Village of Galesville by Ms. Poulin and Ms. Cox as the redevelopment of this historically significant property moves forward.

If you are interested in attending the next Friends of the Wilson Property committee meeting, please contact Bill Gibbons, at w.gibbons1@comcast.net.

Volunteer and Learn About Sustainable, Native Landscaping

The Carrie Weedon Science Center Foundation and the West/Rhode Riverkeeper are collaborating two watershed restoration projects to reduce stormwater runoff by transforming areas of turf grass on Carrie Weedon's property into sustainable, native landscapes. Carrie Weedon's Board removed an aging asphalt ball court behind the building last summer. Will Saffell, this year's Chesapeake Conservation Corps intern with the West/Rhode Riverkeeper, suggested replacing it with an eco-friendly native meadow, planted with a diverse mix of grasses and wildflowers.

Another restoration project, would capture stormwater runoff from the parking lot and the buildings. The vision was to transform a wet spot into a wetland garden by replacing turf grass with appropriate water-loving plants. Thanks to the generosity of Milt McCarthy, owner of McCarthy & Associates, an environmental restoration consulting firm, in Upper Marlboro, both of these projects will be in the ground this spring! Milt McCarthy has taken on both projects, agreeing to donate his time, use of his company's equipment, as well as all of the plants and soil amendment materials needed.

We seek volunteers from the local community to assist in planting the meadow and the wetland plants this April. Once this event has been scheduled, the date will be posted on the Carrie Weedon Science Center and West/Rhode Riverkeeper Facebook pages.

The Legacy of the Galesville Post Office

*written by Carole Magee-Turner,
based on interview with Carol Sue
Sherbert*

The Galesville Post Office has always been synonymous with the Smith/Dixon families, since about 1919. Mary Smith, mother of Agnes Smith Dixon, began as Postmaster from her home on Main Street/Galesville Road, until 1947, when "Miss Agnes" took over and ran it from the same house until she retired in 1974. Her granddaughter, Carol Sue Sherbert, went to work as a postal clerk in the same house, while Granny (Miss Agnes) babysat for Carol Sue's three year old son. Little Eddie sometimes pretended to be a puppy dog, and Mr. Sewell (Pop) and Miss Agnes would put a bowl of milk down on the floor for him to lap up with his tongue, much to the delight of all. When he was a good boy and after he scrubbed Pop's chair, each and every morning, his great-grandfather drove him around to the old Churchton bakery, and treated him to a fresh baked donut, which he relished.

Many in the village told of Miss Agnes meeting them on her front porch after hours with much-awaited mail, especially from a loved one in the armed services; including my mother and dad, Edith and Dick Magee, when my brother, Dickie, was serving overseas during the Vietnam era. They were so grateful for the mail (the days before email and cell phones)! Sometimes Sewell Dixon, Sr., Wanna Dixon and Betty (Dixon) Moreland helped out as clerks in that post office. Carol Sue's kids, and later, grandkids, grew up in the post office, too. They enjoyed kidding around and playing with the customers

by hiding behind the Post Office boxes. When someone they knew opened their box to retrieve the mail, the kids would poke their hands into the box or their dog would poke his nose into the box on occasion, as well. Everyone enjoyed the jokes and "surprises." Also, some residents paid "carriers" to deliver their mail to their homes. Carriers included Cynthia Wood, Roberta Cassard and Gene Dixon.

In the late 1970's, the postal service was relocated to a trailer across from the Galesville Volunteer Fire Department, where the Post Office remained housed for over 10 years. Carol Sue applied for the position of Postmaster, but at the same time was nominated and elected to a Union position representing the American Postal Workers Union. She currently holds the title of Executive Vice-President of the APWU. It would have been a conflict of interest to become Postmaster, so she turned away from that job. During a severe thunderstorm, a tree fell on the trailer and badly damaged it. While it was being repaired, mail was sorted and then lined up on tables inside the fire house in post office box order. Patrons came in the Fire House to pick up their mail. It became hectic when the siren went off, calling the local volunteer firemen to respond.

Johnny and Sue Hines lived in the building that is now the Post Office. When they lived there, the building was a country store. Other uses of the building included an upholstery shop and a marine parts store. The Hines family moved into the house in 1975 and the front room remained empty. In early 1980,

Johnny and Sue Hines renovated the building into the Post Office. Then in 1982, the front was leased to the U. S. Postal Service. Carol Sue purchased the building from her parents around 1990.

Miss Agnes walked across the road every day, well into her 100's, to pick up her mail, and buy postal money orders to pay her bills. She never trusted banks, and refused to open a checking account. Her brother, Kenneth Smith, 99, still comes in several times each day. After the Dixon Gas Station closed, the 3 Dixon brothers would always come in together for their mail. Our post office is the local spot to meet and greet your neighbors and friends, and to make new folks feel welcome. There was always a smiling and friendly face behind that counter. It was a place of local pride to all the village residents, neat, clean and well-maintained. If you needed that "extra mile" for emergencies, it was always extended. Those who worked there, over the years, knew your name and your box number.

The Postmasters were: Mary Smith, Agnes Dixon, Gay Rogers, Larry Chaney, Heidi Mudd (last Postmaster)

Carol Sue is a longtime member of the Galesville Volunteer Fire Department, which was formed in 1929. She is currently the corresponding secretary. She was employed by the post office as a postal clerk for 38 years and 9 months, until retiring at the end of February 2013. What Carol Sue will miss most about her job is meeting and greeting folks, and helping them out, always going the extra mile when needed!

Calendar of Events - Save These Dates

March 31

West River Sailing Club
6:30 **Sunrise Service**

April 6

WRIA fundraiser
Oyster and Ham Dinner
Bake table
Galesville Memorial Hall
2:30 p.m.



March 8 - April 7

Community Show at the
River Gallery

April 12 - May 12

Plein Air Show
Paint Historic Galesville
register on
www.mapapa.shuttlepod.org

April 27

Community Square Dance
6:00- Potluck dinner/optional
7:00- Family-friendly dancing
8:30-10 p.m. More challeng-
ing dancing,
Galesville Memorial Hall

May 3, 4 & 5

**Muddy Creek Artist
Guild Show**
Galesville Memorial Hall
Friday & Saturday 10:00 to 8:00
Sunday 10:00 to 6:00

Thursday Nights

Irish Dance Classes
Galesville Memorial Hall
Contact: Joanie Ohrt
703-930-9911 for information

Yoga Year Round

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

West River Improvement Association
952 Galesville Road
P.O. Box 104
Galesville, MD 20765

Address Service Requested