

Save This Date

April 5

WRIA Oyster and Ham Dinner, 2:00 p.m.
Galesville Memorial Hall

History Corner

Oyster Dinner Planning, 1941

January 13th, 1941.

The women of the W.R.I.A. were called together at the home of Mrs. Randolph Hopkins to discuss an oyster supper, Mrs. Hopkins having been appointed supper Chairman by the president. It was decided to hold a supper on Sat. Feb 1st, with the following menu: oysters, chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, celery, rolls, and coffee, with pie and ice-cream for sale. Mrs. Noah Hazard is to be asked to make a cake for chances at 5¢ a chance. Price for supper – adults 60¢, children 35¢.

from WRIA minutes, 1941

Village Briefs

Topside Still On The Market

Topside Restaurant /Homeport Wine and Spirits which has been closed for the past few years is still on the market and the owner is seeking buyers with an eye for a hybrid use of the property that would be a residential/commercial blend. An auction held in June 2013 failed to produce an acceptable purchase price for the restaurant and liquor store, but the adjacent residential property was sold late last year and presently is undergoing extensive renovation. Reopening a fully-operational restaurant may present some problems, but the renovated portion of the building could serve as a combined village store/cafe/delicatessen that could cater to walk-in and shorter stay patrons. The older and historic part of the building would require significant interior work to become a premier residence with a unique and expansive view of the West River.

Bocce/Horseshoes League May Be Coming

Relief may be on the way for aging athletes with gimpy knees and declining reflexes who still have a burning desire for sports competition. Discussions have taken place to begin a bocce ball

(a relative of and sometimes referred to as boules, bowls or petanque) league that would allow competitors of almost all ages to demonstrate their athletic prowess. It may not be a stretch of the imagination to consider these games a cousin of curling which is a Winter Olympic sport. For those interested in a more traditional and similar form of competition a horseshoes league also may be formed. The main hurdles at this point are location and construction of the court and pits. One spot under consideration is the Galesville Heritage Society property on Main Street, and a small area at the Carrie Weedon Science Center or one of the side areas at the Francis Ray Moreland Athletic Park are also possibilities. If everything falls into place this Spring be ready for a July 4th tournament to complement our regular celebrations.

Cleaning Up After Fido

One of the most serious threats to the health of the Chesapeake Bay is storm water runoff that contains animal waste. The greatest amount of this type of pollution comes from the livestock on farms. While there are few farm animals in Galesville there are dozens of pets that contribute to this problem. And there are few things more unpleasant after returning from a walk through

BRIEFS *continued*

the neighborhood than discovering that you have stepped in dog poop and have spread it across your carpet (Ewwwww!). Two pet waste bag dispensaries are located at Smith Park and bags are available to Galesville residents and visitors alike. Another source of animal waste clean-up containers are plastic newspaper and grocery bags that usually end up empty in landfills or hanging from fences, trees or utility wires. Picking up the deposits our pets leave on sidewalks and yards does not take much effort or time, so let's all pitch in.

New Fire Station Supported

The West River Improvement Association Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed a proposal to request the County to purchase property and construct a new fire station to serve Galesville. The Galesville Volunteer Fire Hall, built in 1929, and the combination of paid staff and volunteers have served the village and surrounding areas well for decades, but times have changed and this model of fire prevention, fire fighting and emergency medical care is woefully outdated. The request for the new facility, submitted to the County Executive and County Council in December, asks for the purchase of 2

3/4 acres of commercially-zoned property at the intersection of Muddy Creek and Galesville/Owensville Roads. Alternate locations that had been proposed by some County officials in previous years called for the construction of a new station farther south on Muddy Creek Road that would have increased response time for emergencies in Galesville and also led to an increase in fire insurance rates for Village residents.

Heating Oil Theft Suspected

A report of the theft of heating oil from Captain Harvey's Antique Store in late January or early February has been filed with the County Police Department. The proprietor of the business has taken steps to discourage potential crimes of this sort at his store in the future. This season's colder than expected weather and an increase in the price of the fuel have been cited as the reasons for similar incidents in other communities. Theft of any sort is exceptionally rare in Galesville, but residents are encouraged to keep a watchful eye on their fuel containers.

Candidates' Forum Planned

State and County elections will be held this year and plans are underway to host a forum that would include candidates run-

ning for State Senate, House of Delegates, County Executive and County Council. The primary election for these posts will be held on June 24th, approximately three months earlier than in previous election years. Changes in the legislative district lines also means that there will be fewer spots available for those in our area seeking election to the House of Delegates. Unlike earlier elections, almost all of South County now has been placed in one sub-district (District 30B) allowing for one delegate, rather than having parts of the region divided between two larger districts linked to the Annapolis Neck Peninsula and parts of the Broadneck Peninsula and the Crofton/Gambrills communities. The forum will be held at the Galesville Memorial Hall during the late summer or in early autumn.

Aging In Place

A village-wide survey will be distributed in May asking for ideas on how we can assist those in Galesville to remain living in their homes as they get older. Until then, please give some thought in advance to this very important initiative.

questions? Contact
Buz Winchester 410-867-1968
Hall rental. Contact
Lynne MacAdam 410-867-1121



Please join us in celebration of **River Gallery's 25th Annual Juried Community Show**. The exhibit runs from February 28 to March 30. This years judge is Steve Schulman. Steve is a figurative oil painter who studied at the Corcoran, Yellow Barn and workshops though out the country.

The show includes all visual media. **River Gallery's hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 to 5:00** also please come to the reception with light refreshments on Saturday, March 8th from 3:00 to 5:00.

1000 Main Street, Galesville, MD 20765, www.rivergallery.org, 410 867 0954.

Any questions, please call Elsie Whitman 443-254-2018 or elsiebwhitman@gmail.com or rivergallery3@aol.com

Artist: David Diaz, Title: Garden Gate (West River Market's side yard), Media: oil

Galesville Homeowners are Impacted by Fire Station Changes

Have you noticed that your homeowners insurance has increased in cost substantially over the past several years? This increase was in part due to a downgrade in the Fire Protection Classification in Galesville and several other towns in Anne Arundel County. Galesville was rated as Fire Protection Class 10 by the Insurance Services Office (IOS) causing an increase in homeowner's insurance rates. Citizens complained and AA County Executive Laura Neuman and Fire Chief Cox listened. They implemented a plan to improve fire protection and decrease insurance rates. They made the necessary changes in personnel to achieve ISO compliance and return Galesville to Protection Class 6. County Executive Neuman also wrote a letter to the IOS requesting an update of their computer system to reflect Galesville fire station's compliance but it is up to the individual insurance carriers to update their individual systems. When you renew your homeowners insurance this year be sure to check that you are being rated in the proper fire protection classification. This could represent a saving from last year's homeowner's insurance rates. We can thank our County Executive Laura Neuman and Fire Chief Cox for their actions to help the citizens of Galesville.

Congratulations to our citizens for speaking out and thank you to our AA officials for listening and acting in our citizen's best interests. Our Congress could

take the example of our local officials and do more listening and acting in the behalf of its citizens.

Bay-Wise Gardening Tips

Bay-Wise Gardening Tips: Protect our waterways, while saving effort and money

Bay-Wise is an educational program supported by the Master Gardeners of the University of MD Cooperative Extension Service. This is the first of a series of articles, which will share Bay-Wise tips to minimize costs and efforts in maintaining our yards, while protecting the West River creeks and rivers from the negative impact of our residential yards.

In Galesville all of our yards drain into the creeks and rivers. Therefore, how we handle our yards directly impacts the health of those waterways. Also, we all draw well water from the same aquifers, and want to continue to do so for many years to come. Environmentally sound gardens and yards combined with sustainable gardening practices can help improve water quality and conserve natural resources.

As spring approaches, what can we do to save money, make our yard work easier, and protect the waterways? Let's start with our lawns: don't fertilize, cut high, leave grass clippings in place, and don't water.

1. Don't fertilize: Fertilizer is expensive and labor intensive to apply. Never fertilize in the spring, because much of it runs off; and, what is absorbed, goes into top

growth, creating weaker grass and requires more.

2. Cut high: Set your mower to 3-4 inches. The higher grass will shade the ground between the grass, inhibiting weed growth, eliminating need for herbicides, and maximizing water retention.
3. Leave grass clippings in place: Cut with a mulching blade on your mower and let the clippings remain on the lawn. The cut grass will settle down to fertilize the grass and improve the soil. No need to rake and bag clippings.
4. Don't water: Cutting high and leaving the clippings in place will keep your grass healthier in hot, dry summer weather and the improved soil will better retain water. Cool weather grasses go dormant in the summer, but they don't die. No need to water, saving time and water.

More Bay-Wise tips will follow in newsletters to come. If you have questions, you can contact:

- Experts at University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) at 1-800-342-2507 or <http://extension.umd.edu/baywise> for more information
- Fellow Galesville gardener, Cyrena Simons at 410-867-7793 or email at riverhousers@gmail.com

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

Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events - **Save These Dates**

Feb. 28 - March 30

Community Show at the
River Gallery

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11:00 to 5:00

March 18

Lee Derrick Talk
Galesville Memorial Hall
Tuesday 6:30 to 9:00

April 5

WRIA fundraiser
Oyster and Ham Dinner
Bake table
Galesville Memorial Hall
2:00 p.m

April 20

West River Sailing Club
6:30 Sunrise Service

April 24 to 27

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

May 3

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

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.