

WRIA General Meeting and Election Monday, October 5th, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Galesville Memorial Hall

We hope you will join us at 7:30 on Monday, Oct 5th for the WRIA Annual Meeting. At that meeting, we will elect the new WRIA Board for 2016, vote on some proposed amendments to the WRIA by-laws, and begin an open, town discussion of other possible future uses of the Wilson Park land. All of those topics are discussed in more depth in this newsletter, along with a summary of the WRIA activities over the last few months, and a look ahead to upcoming events.

Let's begin with the past. We replaced the front stoops at the hall to preserve that resource for us all. The WRIA Float won the grand prize at the 4th of July parade! The Wilson House Stabilization Project is complete and the house, with its trompe l'oeil windows, looks grand. Street trees have been planted in town to replace and provide future shade. Fourteen village yards have been visited by the AA Master Gardeners to consult on Bay-Wise gardening practices. The boule court is complete up in Moreland Park, ready for play. And the County has begun to plan the new Galesville Fire Station at the intersection of Owensville Rd and Muddy Creek Rd.

The WRIA board has approved several proposals to be confirmed at the October 5th Annual Meeting. We have endorsed a petition, which is being circulated for signature, supporting the return of replacement for the old Market in town. This is part of our ongoing effort to revive the commercial concerns in Galesville, which are

part of what makes the village special to us all. We have also proposed two procedural changes to the WRIA by-laws. See more detailed write-ups about these.

The Board has also recommended the following 2016 slate for your approval Oct 5, with any other nominations accepted from the floor at the meeting as well:

- President: Cyrena Simons:
Vice President: Cel Petro:
Treasurer: Lynne Mac Adam:
Secretary: Bill Gibbons.
- Three members are stepping down from the Board: Joe Franko, Sue Hines and Linda Lawrence. Please join us in thanking them for their years of valued service.
- We propose to expand the board to capture more parts of the village and to increase the membership of those with children in town, so that we make sure to capture their input and address their needs. The following members have agreed to continue: Joan Bell, Holly Clark, Jim Day, Carole Magee-Turner, Alaina Mathews, Mary McWaters, Jody Stuart, and Buz Winchester. The following new members are proposed: Irene Gamboa, Joe Elutrio, Jessica Opert, Dale Phipps, and Emily Phipps.

In addition, at Oct 5th Meeting we want to begin a town-wide discussion of the potential future uses of the Wilson Park, under the auspices of AA Park and Recreation. The Hot Sox Field is in use and Park and Recreation has plans under-

way to repair/replace the dugouts. The Wilson House is stable until decisions are made for its use. There is a new path through the woods, dedicated to Jack Smith and Gertrude Mackell, linking the Park and Community Center, which is hosting the wonderful Smithsonian Exhibit on Home Town Teams, featuring the Hot Sox. The question on the table is what other uses can Galesville envision for the Wilson Park and House? Bring your ideas on October 5th to begin the conversation.

Looking toward the future, the new Galesville Directory will be coming out later this fall. The WRIA is joining the Harwood Citizens' Association in hosting the AA County Executive, Steve Schuh, to meet with us informally on Wed., Oct 21 in the Galesville Community Center at 7 PM – come with your questions. Saturday, December 5th will be the village holiday party

Finally, we want to hear from you, and have you know what is going on in town. We will be working hard to improve communication to you of upcoming events. We also want to know your ideas and needs for the village. Please contact me (riverhousers@gmail.com or 410-867-7793), or any other members of the WRIA Board, with your suggestions.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting, Monday October 5th.

Cyrena Simons
President, WRIA

Wilson Farmstead Stabilization Project



The Henry Wilson home stabilization project in 2015. Photo by Bill Gibbons

As many of you have observed while driving into the Village, the West River Improvement Association, Inc. is delighted to announce the emergency stabilization work at the Henry Wilson Farmstead is complete. As one of the pillars of the surviving built environment that tells the story of Galesville's African American heritage, the farmhouse is now poised for a final round of rehabilitation so the structure can ultimately be open to the public.

The farmhouse is highly significant to African American history in the State of Maryland. The house and associated lands provide a tangible link to slavery, manumission, tenant farming, and to the semi-professional Negro League ballfield that survives adjacent to the house. The entire complex has been determined eligible for the National Register. The house itself was constructed ca. 1870 by Henry Wilson, (a former slave who was manumitted in 1828 at age 23) on 2 acres of land purchased from the Tulip Hill plantation. By his death in the late 1870s, the parcel

had grown to 26 ½ acres, and his cross-gabled I-house was a fashionable demonstration of his success and position.

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and persistent efforts of Lynne MacAdam, Cyrena Simons, Buz Winchester, John Cox, Jim Day, Jack Smith, Gertrude Makell, Bill Gibbons and the many others that brought this project to a successful outcome.

Bay-Wise Yard Visits

Each of the 14 Bay-Wise yard visit by the AA Master Gardeners has been different, because every yard in town is different. What has been in common is that they were all fun and educational. Each home owner had different questions or focused on different issues: managing water run off (or in), making grass care easier, invasive species, suggested planting for a given condition, good practices to protect the bay and/or how to encourage birds or butterflies. We will set up a meeting this winter to share les-

sons learned and dream about spring. If you want to join the fun now, we are happy to set up a FREE visit for your yard too. Contact me and I will help coordinate a visit for you: Cyrena Simons (riverhousers@gmail.com or 410-867-7793).

WRIA Holiday Party at Galesville Memorial Hall Saturday, December 5th, 6pm

Join your neighbors and community as we enjoy holiday cheer. There will be choral holiday music, sing-a-long carols, and even a kid's craft corner. We encourage families to bring an ornament, on which is written the family's last name and year, to hang on the community tree. You'll be surprised at all the family names already on the tree. As always, bring your own beverages and finger foods to share.

This year we hope to share the joy of the season with a local south county family who needs a little assistance. We'll collect non-perishable food, household necessities such as paper towels, laundry detergent, etc. at designated locations (there will be signs about the village to indicate drop bins). We'll also ask for specific items which social services will give us so that we may provide age and gender based gift items and clothing for all members of the immediate family.

We hope to see you at the Hall and hope that you share the joy of the season. For more information, please contact Alaina Matthews, 443-603-6607.

Bylaws Amendments Up for Consideration

The WRIA Board of Directors will be presenting four bylaws amendments for the membership of the Association to consider at the October 5th Annual Meeting. The two new amendments will provide authority to the Board to create committees and, specifically, create a nominating committee and define its purpose. The other amendments provide greater flexibility in informing the membership and setting the date of the Annual Meeting each year, and provide a transition period between the time of the election of the Association's officers and the date when their terms begin.

Although the WRIA Board of Directors has created committees over the years to consider specific topics, the bylaws do not specifically give it the authority to do so. The new provision would give the Board this authority and provide guidance on how these committees would be formed and what their duties would be. The second amendment creating a Nominating Committee is an example of how this amendment would operate. It would create the Nominating Committee as a standing committee, specify that the President and at least two other Board members would serve on it, and describe its purpose as identifying members of the community to serve on the Board in future years.

The first of the amendments modifying existing provisions adjusts the date for holding the Annual Meeting of the Association. Instead of specifying that the annual meeting would be held on the first Monday of October in each year, the change would allow the meeting to be set on any

Monday in October or November in each year. This modification keeps a time frame for holding the annual meeting but allows for moving the specific date of the meeting should inclement weather or other circumstances make the first Monday in October inconvenient.

The final amendment adjusts the starting date for the terms of office of those elected to the Board. For many years it was assumed that the term of office for the Board would begin on January 1st of the year following the election even though the bylaws implied that the term would begin immediately following the election. This amendment will make the bylaws consistent with the practice, enabling the newly elected officers to work with those serving out their terms during a transition period.

The specific language of the proposed amendments has been posted on the WRIA web site www.galesville.info and is available upon request by contacting Buz Winchester (410-867-1968).

Carrie Weedon Science Center 1st Annual Wine & Wishes Gala & Auction

Carrie Weedon Science Center will host its 1st Annual Wine & Wishes Gala & Auction at the Galesville Memorial Hall this November 21st. Carrie Weedon is a local non-profit community business that needs the support of this community for it to remain an operating business. Ticket prices are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Select wine & beer, and hors d'oeuvres are provided.

There is a wine cellar raffle at the Gala. Bring along a bottle of wine, donate it to the cellar and receive a raffle ticket to win the entire selection of donated wines. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased at the Gala. Last year's cellar raffle included approximately 2 cases of wine.

"Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America" Exhibition at Galesville Community Center

The Galesville Community Center partnered with Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division of the Office of Planning and Zoning to host the exhibition "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America." The center has hosted several special events celebrating the town's heritage, sports and historic places.

The exhibit has included a companion exhibit that shares the local story of our own Hometown Team "Galesville Hot Sox". It has included the Hot Sox Documentary Story Quilt, along with projects developed by South River "STEM" Program students over the last year, including documentaries and oral histories that tell the Hot Sox Story. The companion exhibit has focused on Galesville's unique heritage, and the new "Field Guide to Galesville" was unveiled during the opening reception.

Galesville Hot Sox Team, their history, and the history of Galesville, has been on display since Saturday, July 25, 2015 after a grand opening reception and ends Saturday, September 12, 2015.

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

Address Service Requested

September 8

Galesville Heritage Society
Fall Quarterly Dinner Meeting
Galesville Memorial Hall
6:30 p.m.

September 25 to Oct. 26

River Gallery
Cuba: Through Lens
and Brush Exhibit
Reception on Saturday,
October 10th, 3:00-5:00 pm.

September 26

Crab Feast at the
Galesville Community Center
2:00-6:00
Tickets \$52 in advance
Contact: Valentino Owens
Valentino_Owens@yahoo.com

Oct. 10, Nov. 7 & Dec. 19

Galesville Community
Square Dance Party
Galesville Memorial Hall
5:45-Potluck Dinner
7:00-10:00 p.m. Dancing
410-867-9126

October 21

WRIA joins the Harwood
Citizens' Association hosting
the AA County Executive
Steve Schuh in the
Galesville Community Center
7:00 p.m.

November 14

Galesville United Methodist
Church
Fall Oyster Dinner
Galesville Memorial Hall
2:00 p.m.

November 21

Carrie Weedon
2nd Annual Wine & Wishes Gala
and Fundraising Auction
Galesville Memorial Hall
7:00-10:00 p.m.
410-222-1625

December 5

WRIA Holiday Party
Galesville Memorial Hall
6:00 p.m.
For more information, please
contact Alaina Matthews,
443-603-6607

December 6

Galesville Heritage Society
Holiday House Tour

Thursday Nights Irish Dance Classes

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

Yoga Year Round

Saturday mornings and
Wednesday evenings
Galesville Memorial Hall
For more Information visit
<http://www.renyoga.com>