

The Village Voice

West River Improvement Association

www.galesville.info

March 2021

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WRIA Receives Community Response Grant

The West River Improvement Association applied for and received a \$7,590.00 grant from the Anne Arundel County Office of Community Engagement and Constituent Services in the last quarter of 2020. The Phase II – Community Crisis Response Fund Grant was created to provide funding to 501c3 organizations serving Anne Arundel County to support those community organizations impacted by COVID-19. Due to the pandemic, the WRIA lost out on a year of in-person fundraisers and rentals of Galesville Hall—the WRIA’s main source of income. While the grant makes up for some of that shortfall, the WRIA encourages all members to send in their dues. Thank you!

Galesville Hall Building Conditions Assessed; Major Repair Coming

A building inspection of the Galesville Hall was completed by WRIA board members Jim Day and Bill Gibbons in January. They surveyed the Hall, top to bottom, to be sure all was in good, working order.

Their conclusion: in general, the building is in good condition. A renovation completed 20 years ago addressed structural problems well. Upgrades and maintenance of the mechanical systems are adequate, as are the heating, electric, and plumbing systems. Also serviceable and fully-functional are the bathrooms and the kitchen.

The most serious and immediate problem is drainage and water around and under the building, with existing swales not functioning very well. Plans are in place to fix the water issue in the coming year.

While other minor repairs can be made as time and funding allows, there is a major

concern that will need to be addressed in the next few years. The shingles on the main building may be good for another five years, but the flat roof over the kitchen is likely reaching the end of its service.

For this major building project, the WRIA will be looking for outside funding. As always, we are interested in grants and other resources to help with improvements to our Hall. Want to help? Be sure to send in your WRIA membership dues, and contact WRIA board president Bill Gibbons with any ideas.

Galesville Spring Yard Sale Planned for May 1

The WRIA is planning for another successful Galesville Yard Sale. The date is set for May 1, 8:00 to 1:00 with a rain date of May 2. Depending on the level of participation, the sale may be postponed until the fall. Organizer Dottie Rodda advertises the sale on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, at the post office and several other locations. Galesville resident Chrissy Hines did all the art work for the posters, last year.

People who stop by the information table on the day of the sale will get a map of Galesville marked with the locations of the sale tables—both in residents’ yards and in common areas, including in front of Galesville Memorial Hall. In addition to tables, parked at the Hall will be a food truck with coffee and pastries. Galesville resident Christina Scott will also sell her homemade baked goods, Tantalizing Treatz.

Last fall, 30 Galesville families sold their wares at the sale. One resident observed that there were so many buyers that it was as busy as the Fourth of July! Interested in participating this year? Call Dottie at 240-691-9087.

Galesville Residents, Community Center Honored with Heritage Awards

Two Galesville residents and the Galesville Community Center Organization have been honored with significant awards by the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Mimi Calver was recognized as the Heritage Leadership Award winner for 2020, the organization's highest award. It recognizes an individual or group for significant and long-lasting contributions to the community by interpreting, preserving, promoting, researching, and supporting local history and heritage. The nomination acknowledges Mimi's

“outstanding and life-long dedication to the interpretation of Maryland's history.”



In addition, her recently published book, *The Maryland State House: 250 years of History*, received the group's Heritage Tourism Product Award. The book is available at Back Street Books and Barnes and Noble, Annapolis and Amazon.



Cathy Oliver is recognized with the Volunteer of the Year award which honors an outstanding volunteer who has made a significant difference to the growth, sustainability, programming, or other essential element of a partner organization. Cathy is a long-time board member of the Galesville

Heritage Society and has led additional community activities focused on Galesville history and other strategic planning efforts to benefit the local community. The nomination notes: “Cathy Oliver is a leader who can take a project from conception to completion to a day of public celebration, as she did with the very successful ‘Pathway to Memories’ walkway project.

The Galesville Community Center Organization, and their recent speaker, Vincent O. Leggett, received the Heritage Legacy Award for sharing and celebrating the legacy of Chesapeake food, in programs for Black History month and for Maryland Day. This award recognizes an individual, group, or event that continues or preserves a traditional craft or livelihood. The community center has taken the lead in South County in sharing a combination of lectures, community memories and oral histories, and in-person food tastings, to bring back the culinary

legacy of the area, including the Crouner CookShop that was an early feature of the Galesville community.

London Town & South County Heritage Area, Inc., known as the Four Rivers Heritage Area, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is one of Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas. It creates and supports products and activities that leverage economic development through preservation and heritage tourism.

Croquet Magazine Profiles West River Wickets



Jay Graham practices on Hal Denton's lawn on Mill Swamp Road

There is more national recognition for West River Wickets, the Galesville-based croquet club. WRW is profiled in the current edition of *Croquet*, the official magazine of the United States Croquet Association.

The club began life in 2004 over cocktails in the Galesville backyard of the late Bill Brewer and his wife Collot. Bill produced a set of archaic balls, mallets and wire wickets and the game was on. Bill later attended croquet school at the USCA in West Palm Beach, Florida and other founding members quickly followed. WRW was recognized as new club of the year by the USCA in 2008.

Today, it has more than 40 members who play on lawns in the Galesville, Cumberstone, Owensville areas. One is an all-weather lawn that is one of the finest of its kind in the United States. It was built by Hal Denton at his historic home, Larkins Hundred, on Mill Swamp Road. The synthetic turf allows players to play year-round.

In 2016, the club won the National Club Teams Championship at USCA headquarters in West Palm Beach, a considerable achievement for a small club with, then, just 20 players. WRW has won three times the presti-

gious InterClub Invitational at Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, Pennsylvania, beating teams from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Players regularly compete in regional and national tournaments and an impressive array of trophies is testament to the club's prowess in USCA sanctioned events. Stephen Morgan, who cut his teeth with West River Wickets, is at age 32, one of the best players in the world and represents the United States in international tournaments. Two years ago, he was the national champion in all three of the USCA disciplines. Hal Denton is a top player on the World Golf Croquet Circuit and Calvert Chaney and Lee Jorde fly the WRW flag in championship six-wicket and association rules tournaments.

In addition to Bill Brewer, the founding members included Peter Oleson, the club's first Imperial Wicket, Calvert Chaney, Peter Bell, Peter Stevens, Susan Savage, and the late Morgan "Sonny" Wayson. The current Imperial Wicket is Rodney Calver.

In 2019, West River Wickets held open, introduction to croquet sessions at 10 on Saturday mornings on the Denton lawn. Membership increased by 25 percent, and the club received an achievement award from the USCA for its effort. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, these sessions have been cancelled but will start again once restrictions ease. Visitors are instructed on how to hold a mallet, hit balls and make wickets. The lessons are followed by a games of golf croquet. Everyone is welcome. For more information please go to the WRW web page www.westriverwickets.com or contact Rodney Calver calvers@comcast.net or Jay Graham jay@grahamlan-darch.com.

Tree Planting and Maintenance in Galesville

Galesville saw the planting of 80 trees in January, as part of a project of the Watershed Stewards Academy and subsidized by RePlant Anne Arundel. Three trees were planted at the Galesville Heritage Society and three at Galesville Memorial Hall, with the rest on private property. Additionally, 20 other trees were planted in other parts of South County. All are part of the larger RePlant project, which planted more 1,000 trees county-wide

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Part of a larger effort to replace several thousand acres of trees lost to development in the previous decade, the RePlant project began in April 2020 with remote training, applications, mapping, and coordination with property owners and Miss Utility.

The trees and shrubs are five to six feet tall, and all of the trees are native species. Thank you to property owners who participated and are looking forward to a leafier Spring!

Perhaps an even larger issue than planting new trees is maintaining mature trees, which produce oxygen, support wildlife, and even increase property values. Residents may have noticed mature trees in Galesville covered with invasive English Ivy. When this happens, the tree and the ivy compete for the same supply of water—and the sunlight trees need to make food. Additionally, the weight of the vines puts tree branches at a higher risk of breaking in storms. Over time, ivy weakens the tree, making it more vulnerable to pests and disease.

Consider: “a single mature oak produces [hundreds of thousands of liters of oxygen per year](#) and supports thousands of species of birds, insects, lichen and fungus.” The oxygen from mature street trees does everything from, “[having a positive effect on infant birth weight](#) in lower socio-economic demographics, to increasing [resilience to major life events](#) among people who live within sight of them. And, buyers pay more for homes whose [streets are lined with large trees](#)”.

Last year a handful of community members removed ivy from trees around the perimeter of Frank Moreland Park, on the Heritage Society property, on Main Street, and on a particularly spectacular tree on Bill Platt's property on Riverside Drive. See before and after photos, below.



If you have ivy on trees on your property, think about removing it this year. And, it will require some perseverance, as ivy is tenacious and most often, some of it will try to grow back. Here's how:

You may need: a large flat-head screwdriver, a small saw (I use a folding saw), gloves.

- Using the screwdriver to pry gently from under the smaller ivy vines to break them and the saw to cut through the larger vines, work your way around the tree somewhere below chest level, until you've severed all of the vines. (We had to use a hatchet on the tree above, as some vines were as large as a man's upper arm).
- Do the same about two feet below that, closer to the base of the tree. Remove the vines between the two points. This is called "girdling."
- At this point, some opt to paint the exposed ends of the vines with RoundUp. Do not spray it, but paint it on newly exposed ends of vines with a disposable foam brush. I don't like using Roundup (glyphosate), but I sometimes do paint exposed vine ends on particularly large infestations.
- You will also want to remove ivy growing in the soil around the tree for a distance of about 2 feet. Using your screwdriver again, you can often lift the vines from the ground and pull out. Mowing ivy growing along the ground also weakens it.
- That should do it! You will find ivy growing from the ground, no matter how diligent you've been. Keep removing it; you have to be more persistent than the ivy.

If you need an onsite demonstration, contact Cel Petro, Watershed Steward, baylibrarian@gmail.com.

Quoted material is from The Conversation, viewed online Feb. 17: <https://theconversation.com/why-keeping-one-mature-street-tree-is-far-better-for-humans-and-nature-than-planting-lots-of-new-ones-154114>

In Memoriam

Albert "Al" Preston Bembe
September 10, 1948 - December 30, 2020

Albert "Al" Preston Bembe, 72, passed away on December 30, 2020. A long-time resident of Galesville, he is survived by his wife Robin. Al retired from the Anne Arundel County Fire Department after a 27-year career in 1997 and was also a long-time member of the Galesville Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as the company treasurer for many years.

Holiday Lights and a Special Santa Bring Holiday Cheer



Galesville residents went above and beyond with their holiday lights displays in 2020.



Special thanks goes out to Galesville resident, Matt Arnold, who played Santa for some of the village's youngest residents. Santa may have driven a golf cart instead of a sleigh but he spread much holiday joy! Thanks also to "Mrs. Claus" for making sure Santa's sack was full of

little toys for good girls and boys.

2020 Holiday Lights Display Winners



Grand Prize: Archambo Family on Anchors Way

First Place: Rogers Family on W. Benning Rd.

Roberta Cassard Award: Nicholson Family on Main St.

Jack Smith Award: Giese and Friderichs Family on E. Benning Rd.

Commercial Award: Stan & Joe's Riverside Dr.

Boat Award: Hartge's

Recognition Awards:

Gott Family on Woodfield Rd.

Harvey Family on Mulberry Ln.

Taylor Family on W. Benning Rd.

Family at 967 W. Benning Rd.

Dockery Family on Mariners Ct.

Packett Family on Anchors Way

Purcell Family on Anchors Way

Ann Hewitt Family on Siegert Ln.

Siegert Family on Galesville Rd.

Dale Phipps on Church Ln.

Laura Dixon on Riverside Dr.

Black Family on Riverside Dr.

New Little Free Library at Hall



More time at home means more time to read! With two Little Free Libraries in the village, avid readers don't have to go far for their next reading fix. In addition to the Little Free Library on E. Benning, there is now one outside Galesville Hall. Thanks to the Galesville residents who built and installed it, as well as those who are donating books. Like the one on E. Benning, this library is registered with the LFL nonprofit organization, appearing on their global map, so readers sailing into town can easily locate it to exchange books.

May Baskets 2021



Say hello to spring! Galesville's tradition of putting up May baskets got a little lost in 2020. And while the pandemic has uprooted so many of our gatherings and celebrations, let's not let it affect our welcome to spring, this year. Saturday, May 1st, gather your garden finery and create a basket to welcome the flora, sun, and soft breezes of spring. Let the village be filled with your beautiful displays.

Galesville Friends Fun Facts

Did you know? We asked our Galesville friends and neighbors to share fun facts to see if we can guess which facts belong to which friends!

See how well you do! If you want to join in for the next newsletter, email Becky at ramoon75@yahoo.com for a chance for your fact to be included.

1. Had a job as a sail cutter in Annapolis; cutting multi-colored spinnakers was a favorite task
2. Enjoyed tea at the White House with First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt
3. This person bakes white potato pies
4. Is a first cousin of comedian, actor, and screenwriter Ray Romano
5. This person played a key investigator on a TV show
6. One time, a wild monkey jumped over this person's car and stole a banana right out of his hand
7. This person worked at Woodfield's for more than thirty years
8. This person survived a grizzly bear attack while camping in the Canadian Rockies
9. Learned how to cheat slot machines and won hundreds of dollars' worth of dimes
10. This person drove the ice truck for Woodfield's
11. This person's grandfather was the mayor of Salisbury, Maryland
12. This person got lost in the Gobi Desert
13. This person shucked oysters at Woodfield's
14. Became stranded in Tunisia because a volcano erupted
15. Met Tom Selleck while running in Washington DC

Answer Key: 1. Adrienne Day 2. Eleanor Abbey 3. Doris Foote 4. Holly Clark 5. Bonnie Chaney-Morris 6. Dan Donohoe 7. Russell Jones 8. Suzy Donohoe 9. Laura Dixon 10. James Proctor 11. Eric Ruark 12. Mary Tod Winchester 13. Pauline Watkins Proctor 14. Buz Winchester 15. Jody Shuart

Welcome to Galesville

Kerstin Haase & Duane Bailey
Kennadee and Madison
4876 Anchors Way

George & Melodie Pavlik
4805 Lerch Creek Drive

Joseph & Erin Kadjeski
Brenna, Addie, Willa & Josie
813 Galesville Road

Caroline Ruggieri & Peter James
1007 Main Street

Cliff & Tracey Arter
1017 E Benning Road



- A to B – 0.6 Mi
 - A to C – 0.2 Mi
 - A to D – 0.6 Mi
 - A to E – 0.2 Mi
 - A to F – 0.2 Mi
 - A to G – 0.5 Mi
 - A to H – 0.9 Mi
 - A to I – 0.2 Mi
 - A to J – 0.5 Mi
 - A to K – 0.7 Mi
 - A to L – 0.6 Mi
 - A to M – 0.5 Mi
 - B to C – 0.5 Mi
 - B to D – 1.1 Mi
 - B to E – 0.9 Mi
 - B to F – 0.9 Mi
 - B to G – 0.3 Mi
 - B to H – 0.3 Mi
 - B to I – 0.9 Mi
 - B to J – 0.7 Mi
 - B to K – 0.6 Mi
 - E to F – 0.2 Mi
 - E to G – 0.8 Mi
 - E to H – 1.1 Mi
 - E to I – 325 ft
 - E to J – 0.7 Mi
 - E to K – 0.9 Mi
 - E to L – 0.8 Mi
 - E to M – 0.7 Mi
 - F to G – 0.8 Mi
 - F to H – 1.1 Mi
 - F to I – 0.2 Mi
 - F to J – 0.7 Mi
 - F to K – 0.9 Mi
 - F to L – 0.8 Mi
 - F to M – 0.7 Mi
 - G to H – 0.6 Mi
 - G to I – 0.7 Mi
 - G to J – 0.6 Mi
 - G to K – 0.5 Mi
 - G to L – 0.2 Mi
 - G to M – 0.2 Mi
 - H to I – 1.1 Mi
 - H to J – 1.0 Mi
 - H to K – 0.9 Mi
 - H to L – 0.5 Mi
 - H to M – 0.4 Mi
 - I to J – 0.6 Mi
 - I to K – 0.9 Mi
 - I to L – 0.8 Mi
 - I to M – 0.7 Mi
 - J to K – 0.7 Mi
 - J to L – 0.5 Mi
 - J to M – 0.6 Mi
 - K to L – 0.5 Mi
 - K to M – 0.4 Mi
 - L to M – 425 ft
- Loop Benning/Main St:
1.3 Mi
- Loop Galesville Park:
0.35 Mi
- Loop Anchors/Lerch Creek:
0.6 Mi

Purpose: Highlight distances between Galesville Attractions

A		B		C		D		E		F		G	
Galesville Heritage House	Hot Sox Field	Post Office	Hartge Yacht Harbor	Pirates Cove	Stan & Joe's	Carrie Weedon							
H		I		J		K		L		M			
Highs Gas Station	Galesville Wharf	Hartge Yacht Yard	Lerch Creek Court	Galesville Community Center	Galesville Park								

Legend

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

Address Service Requested

Calendar

COMING SOON - Pavers (Bricks) Campaign

Galesville Community Center Organization Announces the Opportunity to Purchase Engraved Bricks at the “Michael E. Busch Pavilion” at the Hot Sox Field at Wilson Park. Each brick will have a unique inscription, whether a word, name or phrase, which will continue to inspire for many years to come. State-of-the-art renovations to the historic Hot Sox Field are scheduled to begin June, 2021 and completed by December 2021. Former ball players, friends, neighbors and others will be invited to be a part of this historic initiative. The pavilion and bricks will be an absolute testament to the community’s love for the ball park. Additional information and the order form will be coming soon. If you have questions, you may contact Gertrude Makell at 410-703-0610 or communitycenter@historicgalesville.org

- Mar. 1 – WRIA Board Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 pm
- Mar. 2 – GHS Board Meeting, Zoom, 7:30 pm
- Mar. 20 – Spring Grounds Clean Up Day, Galesville Heritage Museum, 8:00-10:00 am
- Mar. 23 – Celebrate Spring Fundraiser Dinner at Pirates Cove, from 4:00 pm to close
- April 5 – WRIA Board Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 pm
- April 6 – GHS Board Meeting, Zoom, 7:30 pm
- April 25 – Museum Opens and GHS Celebrates Maryland Day on Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- May 1 – WRIA Galesville Community Yard Sale, (Rain date MAY 2) 8:00 am – 1:00 pm