

Inside this Edition

Share Your Voice:
Join the WRIA

Speaker for
General Meeting

Letter from the
President to Members
“Why Joining the
WRIA Makes
Galesville a Successful
Community”

A New Chesapeake
Tradition Comes to
Galesville
October 3, 2026
Maritime
Celebration

Galesville Market
Update

Envision Galesville 2.0
Committee
Update

Holly Nominated for
Boots on the Ground

Testing the Waters

The Anne Arundel
County Office of
Planning and Zoning
Survey

30th Galesville 4th of
July Parade

Candidates Nights

In Memoriam

WRIA Website

Calendar & Events

WRIA General Meeting & Election

**Monday, October 5th, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
at Galesville Memorial Hall**

Share Your Voice: Join the WRIA

improvement projects at Memorial Hall and grounds—the heart of Galesville—to community parties and gatherings, and from working to keep Galesville’s roads safe to working to protect our waterfront, the West River Improvement Association (WRIA) is there. Donations to the WRIA and Hall rentals pay for the upkeep of the historic building and grounds that hosts Galesville’s yard sales, holiday party, art classes, yoga classes, and more. The WRIA is the improvement association for all Galesville residents and residents of the local area. We are your improvement association.

That’s why we’re asking neighbors to **consider joining the WRIA as a member: dues are \$25 for individuals, \$30 for a family, and \$35 for a business.** Take a role in your community’s improvement for generations to come, and join us today! It is important to support both the WRIA and GHS organizations.

WRIA board members commit to attending monthly meetings and join committees for the preservation and betterment of the village we call home.

The 2026 WRIA Board Slate is:

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer: Holly Clark

Secretary:

Matt Arnold, Joan Bell, Mimi Calver, John Cox, Emily Gagliardi, Collot Gerard, Cathy Oliver, George Pavlik, Dottie Rodda, Rebecca Ruark, Steve Sharkey, Jody Shuart, and Buz and Mary Tod Winchester.

Speaker for General Meeting



William “Monty” Graham
Director
Smithsonian Environmental Research
Center (SERC)

William “Monty” Graham joined the Smithsonian in June 2025 as the director of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Located on the Chesapeake Bay near Edgewater, Maryland, SERC leads the nation in discovering the links between land and water ecosystems in the coastal zone. Researchers, educators and communicators at SERC investigate and inform across a range of questions related to coastal environments and the human experience. Graham came to the Smithsonian after nearly 30 years in higher education and research, spending much of his career working at, and then leading, remote teaching and research facilities in coastal environments. Most recently, he was the director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography at the University of South Florida from 2021 to 2025. Before

that, he moved to academic leadership as professor and chair of marine science, and subsequently director of the School of Ocean Science and Engineering and associate vice president for research, at the University of Southern Mississippi from 2011 to 2020. Graham started his career as a marine scientist at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama from 1995 to 2011.

In his education and leadership roles, Graham has focused on capacity building around infrastructure, including research vessels, marine laboratories and private-public partnerships. He has also been instrumental in establishing large research, educational and workforce development programming, including leading cooperative multi-institutional research efforts following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, establishing new academic programs in ocean engineering, working with the Port of Gulfport in Mississippi to create the Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise, and spearheading a novel cohort-based workforce program for students and early career scientists.

Graham has served on a number of professional boards and advisory committees, including an appointment by the governor of Mississippi to chair the Ocean Task Force, serving two terms on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program advisory board, the board of the Ocean Exploration Trust and the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System's federal advisory committee.

Graham received his bachelor's degree in marine biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and his master's degree in marine science and doctorate in biology are both from the University of California Santa Cruz. His research interests are generally in the area of coastal ecological oceanography where he has focused much of his career on understanding causes and ecological consequences of large blooms of coastal jellyfish. His more than 90 publications span research efforts around the planet, and he continues to collaborate with scientists from over 30 countries to understand global patterns of jellyfish blooms. In 2022, Graham was honored by colleagues with the naming of a species of moon jellyfish, *Aurelia montyi*.

Why Joining the WRIA Makes Galesville a Successful Community

What purpose does the WRIA serve?

One of the most-broadly seen and popular movies is Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*. The primary story line focuses on George Bailey, a pillar of the community of Bedford Falls, New York. The town experiences difficulties beyond George's control, but he takes personal responsibility for these troubles. He feels he never should have been born and considers taking his own life. Fortunately, George is visited by his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody who sees George as an opportunity to rise from Angel Second Class and earn his wings. The clever Clarence decides to show George an alternative Bedford Falls if indeed George had never existed. Anyone who has seen the movie must remember what happens – the "George-less" Bedford Falls is a mess, he comes to his senses, saves the town, and Clarence earns his wings.

The movie is a fantasy but it's message may serve as a useful exercise to understand what the West River Improvement Association does for the community and how Galesville would be different in its absence.

Let's start with the Memorial Hall. Leaving aside whether or not it would ever have been built, it was nearing collapse a few decades ago. There were some in the village who wanted to demolish it and build a brick-and-mortar replacement that would withstand all potential calamities short of a nuclear holocaust. Practical? Yes! Tasteless? Yes! Galesville? No! The WRIA mobilized the community, identified outside support, raised the money, and rebuilt the structure to continue to be the centerpiece of the village. Rather than having a miniature Fort Knox we have a tasteful and attractive building that is a testament to Galesville's heritage and a model of the benefits and the value of community spirit.

More recently, an attempt was made to take away a large part of the Hall's property and rezone the adjacent Fire Hall property to heavy commercial, a category similar to the Edgewater and Parole commercial centers. Once again, the WRIA rose to occasion, raised the funds, confronted the challenge in the Courts, the County Council and the County administrative agencies and won on all fronts. Again, consider what could have happened without the WRIA's willingness to confront this challenge. Some would say "How could we let this happen?" It didn't, because the WRIA was there to make sure it did not happen.

The use of the property at the end of Woodfield Road formerly occupied by an oyster and ice business is one more example of how the West River Improvement Association fulfills its purpose to make and keep Galesville as the wonderful place it is today and possibly into the future. Three decades or so ago the land was sold and there were plans to open a large full-service restaurant at the location. We all know that there are few successful restaurants that do not serve liquor. At the time, one of our village characters commented that on some Sunday mornings in the summer there wouldn't be a newspaper box standing on Woodfield Road. As you know I live on Riverside Drive. Don't get me started on the motorcycles. On this occasion as we did over the past few years, the WRIA was there to mount the challenge and won in the Courts to thwart the challenge. Today, we have the prospect of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation opening an oyster center, a facility completely consistent with the character and heritage of the community. It is a true testament of how the WRIA serves its mission.

I could go on and on with other less prominent examples in the past to demonstrate why the WRIA is worth supporting, but let's think about what we are doing today. We have an Environmental Committee that maintains a thriving bioswale next to the Hall and is conducting water quality tests in the surrounding creeks. We have a Safety and Health Committee that continues to promote responsible vehicular traffic behavior and pedestrian safety. We have the Envision Galesville 2.0 Committee that is charting Galesville's future so that we can continue to thrive in the years ahead. These things just don't happen. They happen because there is an organization, the West River Improvement Association, to make them happen.

These past and present examples of how the WRIA serves the community clearly demonstrates the value of the organization, but for a moment let's consider what purpose it would serve if a catastrophe occurred that threatened the village. Yes, we would hope all the government services that have been created to deal with these circumstances would be there to help us recover, but having a community-wide organization here to work with these agencies would be invaluable. This is something I hope Galesville never has to confront, but if it does the WRIA will be here to serve this purpose.

During our brief discussion on the topic of declining membership recruitment and retention last evening Dorothy Whitman commented that the Heritage Society has similar concerns. We are not alone. I am attaching an

article by Michael Brand on why service organizations nationwide are experiencing the same circumstances. It may be reassuring to read, it's not just us.

Finally on a more practical level, a couple of years ago I suggested that we take the three or four pages of the street directory, copy them, check off the names of the people who are members and ask members of the Board if they would contact those whom they knew well and ask them to join. At some point in the past, I discovered Mary Tod and I had not renewed our membership, not because we didn't want to join, but because each of us thought the other one had done it. I suspect this happens to other couples. Anyway, my offer still stands, and I hope others on the Board would be willing to do the same.

Let's hope we can defy the trends in dying organizations and demonstrate the strength of Galesville's community spirit. Buz

A New Chesapeake Tradition Comes to Galesville

On **Saturday, October 3, 2026**, the Galesville Heritage Society will present the inaugural **Galesville Maritime Heritage Festival**, a free community celebration honoring the people, boats, and traditions that have shaped life along the West River for generations.

From 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the village of Galesville will come alive with activities stretching from Montel Farm to the waterfront.

Visitors will enjoy narrated boat tours on the West River, a parade of classic and antique boats, a local waterman will be docked at the county pier, maritime exhibits at the hall, live music, local authors, children's activities, and a farmers market featuring local vendors. And there'll be lots of food! There will be a fish fry at the Rosendwald school, barbecue at the United Methodist Church, a cookout at the West River sailing club and seafood on Main Street.

Galesville has long been known for its boatbuilders, watermen, sailors, seafood industry, and enduring maritime traditions. This festival is an opportunity to preserve those stories while introducing them to a new generation. Whether you've lived in Galesville your entire life or just moved here, we hope you'll spend the day exploring our

waterfront, meeting your neighbors, and experiencing the heritage that makes this community so special.

This festival is only possible because of the dedication of dozens of volunteers, generous sponsors, community partners, and local residents who believe that preserving our maritime heritage matters. We are grateful for their support and invite others to become involved as volunteers, sponsors, or donors.

Admission and parking are free, making this an affordable family outing for all ages.

Please consider volunteering a few hours on October 3 to help make this event a resounding success. There are many opportunities to help out.

For the latest schedule, volunteer opportunities, sponsorship information, and event updates, visit **GalesvilleMaritimeFestival.org** or follow the **Galesville Heritage Society** on Facebook and Instagram.

We look forward to welcoming you to the first-ever **Galesville Maritime Heritage Festival**.

Galesville Market Project Update

A brief update on the Galesville Market Project: we will hold an in person town hall once the permits are officially in hand.

After extensive back and forth with County stakeholders, we have reached an agreement that satisfies all parties. At the same time, we secured a Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) engineer to complete that portion of the development plans. The Mechanical and Plumbing sections are finished, and the Electrical portion is now being finalized. Once complete, we will submit the full package to the County for review and comment. We anticipate several rounds of revisions as we address their concerns.

In parallel, we are working to sell the middle lot to retire most of the property debt. We have active interest, and we are coordinating with engineers, attorneys, and the council to ensure the outcome best serves our village.

Galesville Community Properties paused all fundraising while the Memorial Hall litigation was underway. Now that the matter has concluded, we will begin raising

capital to make needed repairs and move the project forward.

Thank you for your patience and continued support. If you wish immediate communication regarding the Market, contact Jim Chandler or Jody Stuart.

Envision Galesville 2.0 Committee Update

Imagine a Galesville where an afternoon stroll down to the water doesn't mean dodging puddle-flooded streets or stepping into traffic when the sidewalk abruptly ends or is non-existent. Picture our public pier not just as a place to look at the water, but as a vibrant hub where neighbors gather, kids learn about the river, and visitors connect with local history. Such is the vision for Galesville as articulated in the Envision Galesville Report (<https://www.galesvillewria.org/documents>) approved by the West River Improvement Association (WRIA), the Galesville Community Center Organization Inc. (GCCO), and the Galesville Historic Society (GHS). The charter of the Envision Galesville 2.0 Committee (Envision 2.0 Committee) is to help translate this vision into action.

While the physical and social foundational changes needed to bring Envision Galesville to life are not yet visible, the Envision 2.0 Committee has made progress over the past two years. To date, the Envision Galesville 2.0 efforts have resulted in key milestones:

- Crucial relationships with non-profit organizations aligned with Galesville's vision, as well as with the state and county entities, have been established.
- The Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) selected Galesville as the site for five universities to study and prepare proposals (shared with the community) to make Galesville's coastal area more resilient.
- A Technical Assistance Grant was awarded to Galesville by the National Park Service to involve the community in developing a master plan focused on: Stormwater Management (led by the Resilience Authority of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis), Transportation, Water Access, Connectivity and Safety (led by the National Park Service), and Historical Perspectives (led by the Envision 2.0 Committee).
- As prioritized in the May 2024 Watershed Study commissioned by the Arundel Rivers Federation, the Resilience Authority of Anne Arundel County and

Annapolis applied for and received a Chesapeake Bay Trust Watershed Assistance Grant to create a concept design to address stormwater flooding issues along 4,100 feet of the main thoroughfare into and out of Galesville. This effort is in progress.

- The WRIA, the National Park Service, and the Resilience Authority of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis sponsored a Town Hall to gather feedback from residents and businesses on priorities for a renewed vision for Galesville.

The Galesville Town Hall held on April 8, 2026, with residents and businesses was a success. Over 75 attendees participated in interactive workshops on: Stormwater and Environmental Quality, Transportation, Water Access and Connectivity, and Galesville Infrastructure in a Historical Context. Thank you for attending and sharing your ideas and priorities for Galesville. Your input will help shape our village's future. Reference the Envision Galesville 2.0 Committee Report for details (<https://www.galesvilllewria.org/post/the-future-of-galesville>).

Enhancing Galesville's partnership with the County is key to keeping the Envision Galesville 2.0 initiative on track. As a follow-up to Plan2040, the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning contacted the WRIA and requested a meeting to discuss the Galesville recommendations in the Plan2040 Region 9 Report (link). Overall, these recommendations align with the priorities outlined in the Envision 2.0 Committee Report. The County's recent survey is designed to gather additional community input to shape Galesville's future. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/galesville>).

The next steps for the Envision 2.0 initiative are to sustain the project's momentum. This includes focusing on community priorities, maintaining and building new partnerships, and identifying additional funding opportunities.

Thank you for your patience as the Galesville 2.0 Committee continues to move forward to realize our community vision for a better Galesville. If you have questions or are interested in this topic/project, please contact George Pavlik, Envision 2.0 Committee Chair, or other Committee members (Mary Tod Winchester, Bill Gibbons, Daniel Cinelli, and Cathy Oliver).

Holly Clark nominated for County's 2026 Celebration of Philanthropy Award

Galesville's own Holly Clark was nominated for the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County Boots on the Ground Award, which celebrates a hands-on, local volunteer who does vital, quiet work in the community. Describing the countless ways Holly Clark has benefited Galesville for the past 50 years would far exceed the 3500 character limit of the application process so Buz focused on the 3 most prominent features of her devotion to our community.

The West River Improvement Association (WRIA) is the community-wide civic organization for Galesville. For over 30 years Holly has served as Treasurer of the Association. Beyond the filing of tax returns, submitting monthly financial statements to the Board, paying bills and all the normal duties performed by non-profit organization treasurers, Holly has organized local fundraisers to make sure the WRIA meets its community obligations. Her commitment to these tasks enabled the WRIA to raise more than \$250,000 over the past 3 years to successfully contest an attempt to take a portion of the Galesville Memorial Hall property through an adverse possession lawsuit.

The Galesville Memorial Hall is the centerpiece of the community's activities. Rental of the Hall for weddings, memorial services and other private functions, along with membership contributions, is the primary income source for the WRIA. Renting a piece of property is more than scheduling events and allowing those who pay the rental fee to use the property. Scheduling events, maintenance of utilities and equipment, dealing with contractors, oversight of security for the property are among the variety of other requirements necessary to preserve the quality of a rental property. For almost 20 years since the Hall was restored, Holly has been the manager of the Galesville Memorial Hall, and its attractiveness to the general public is a testament to Holly's devotion to and care of this wonderful building.

The third and probably most important reason Holly Clark deserves acclaim beyond the Galesville community, is that she is a role model for what community service means. Over the decades she has served the community there are few social occasions that do not bear the benefits of Holly's organizational skills and careful attention. Community dinners, celebrations of life, candidate's nights, holiday events are success-

ful and remembered in large part because of “Holly’s Touch.” We all see it and know it, and it makes us want to share in making Galesville the pride of South County.

About a week ago I was driving out of Galesville, late for a meeting, dressed in business attire. There had been a downpour earlier causing large pools of water to back up Galesville’s notorious drainage ditches. As I approached the Memorial Hall, I saw Holly with a flat-bladed spade, standing in one of the pools. I stopped the car, rolled down the passenger side window , and asked her what she was doing. She replied “it’s just a little clogged up. See, it’s starting to drain.”

In a small town in pre-World War II Italy a little girl was born on Christmas Day. She was named Holly Gennusa. A few years later, the path of Holly Gennusa Clark’s life led her to Galesville, Maryland. For those of us who know her, work with her and love her, we are so grateful for this seemingly random occurrence. Though she was not chosen by the selection committee for the award, Holly is certainly a hero who makes our community stronger—and an example of philanthropy for us all to follow.

Testing the Waters 💧

The West River Improvement Association has been working with the Arundel Rivers Federation to test the water quality of Lerch and School Creeks and the West River.

West & Rhode Rivers (July 2026)

- 🟢 Cadle Creek: 72 cfu
- 🟢 Chesapeake Yacht Club: 10 cfu
- 🟢 Galesville Wharf: 80 cfu
- 🔴 Holly Hill Harbor: 170 cfu
- 🟢 Lerch Creek (Collot Guerard): 24 cfu
- 🔴 School Creek: 220 cfu
- 🔴 Upper Lerch Creek: 290 cfu
- 🟢 West River Sailing Club (Tenthouse): 18 cfu

Key: 🟢 Meets Water Quality Standard:
0 - 104 cfu/100 mL
🔴 Fails Water Quality Standard:
105 cfu/100 mL or higher
cfu (colony forming units)

The Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ) will be working with the West River Improvement Association to determine ways to revitalize businesses that are in keeping with the unique historical and small village aspects of Galesville. Traffic safety and connectivity also will be considered. A critical step in this process is to gather more information from those of us who live in and visit Galesville as a follow up to the town hall meetings held earlier this year.

Please scan the included QR Code to take the survey or go to the website (www.surveymonkey.com/r/galesville). It should only take 5 or 10 minutes.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF GALESVILLE

YOUR VOICE MATTERS! JOIN OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY



**WATERFRONT CONNECTIVITY**

**ECONOMY AND REDEVELOPMENT**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**HOUSING**



SCAN TO TAKE THE SURVEY or VISIT <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/galesville>

Tell us what you think!
Your input will directly help shape the final plan!

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING

SURVEY DEADLINE: 11:59PM on September 30

30th Galesville 4th of July Parade

The 4th of July Parade held by the Galesville Heritage Society was a big success.



Grand Marshals Jim and Adrianne Day



Galesville Heritage Society Best in float.



Uncle Sam - Brian Czarnowski



Cyclist Karen Czarnowski



Anthony DeCesaris and Jeff Beard



West River Improvement Association Dogs of Galesville

Candidates Nights



Thurs., September 10, 2026 - 7:30PM

Galesville Memorial Hall

952 Main Street, Galesville, MD

County Executive Candidates

Dave Crawford (Rep.)

Councilwoman Allison Pickard (Dem.)

County Council Dist. 7 Candidates

Spencer Jones (Dem.)

Dawn Pulliam (Rep.)

Thurs., September 17, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Galesville Memorial Hall

952 Main Street, Galesville, MD

State Senate Candidates

Jessica Haire (Rep.)

Senator Shaneka Henson (Dem.)

House of Delegates 30-B Candidates

Delegate Seth Howard (Rep.)

Matt Johnston (Dem.)

Sponsored by the West River Improvement Association (WRIA)

Tuesday Floating Concert Series Stan and Joe's Riverside

It's our first Tuesday Pop Up Event. Saturday, September 12, 2026. There will be local Musicians playing from a Catamaran in West River from 12 noon-4pm and then local musician Richard Hayward from the dock afterwards from 4-8 pm. To see and hear the music show up by boat, paddle board or car and enjoy from the dock bar and outside seating. Ice cold beer and great crushes available with our local fresh menu. Steamed crabs will be available all day!! Look for lots more information to come in the next few weeks. We hope to see you at Stan and Joe's Riverside, 4851 Riverside Dr., Galesville, MD 20765

In Memoriam 2026

Rodney W. Calver

Richard S. Cassard Sr.

Elizabeth E. "Liz" Kinzie

Andre Leonard "Pete" Holland

Caroline Ruggieri

Nathaniel Covington "Cov" Scotten IV

John "Neil" Wilkie

2025

Edward Archambo

Lois Bird

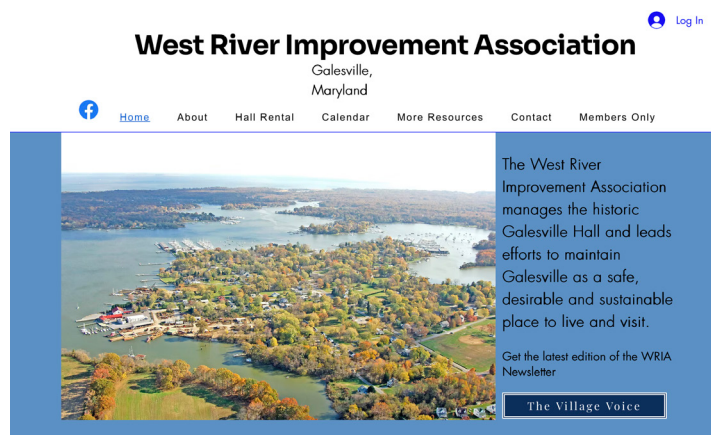
Peter James

Richard W. "Dick" Sears

Charlie Turner

Eugenia Wilkie

**Follow the WRIA on our website at
www.galesvillewria.org**



Calendar

- Sept. 12- Tuesday Floating Concert Series, Stan & Joe's Riverside, 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Richard Hayward, dockside, 4:00 to 8:00 pm
- Oct. 3 – GHS Maritime Celebration
- Oct. 5 – WRIA General Meeting, Galesville Memorial Hall, 7:30 pm
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Celebration, Galesville Memorial Hall, 11:00 am
- Nov. 21 – WRIA Bake Sale, Galesville Memorial Hall, 9:00 am
- Dec. 5 – WRIA, Holiday Social, Galesville Memorial Hall, 6:00 pm