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Calendar

**Polish Dinner  
October 19th  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
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For reservations contact:  
Dottie Rodda  
443-607-6052  
or email  
dottierodda@gmail.com

## WRIA General Meeting & Election

**Monday, November 4th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.  
at Galesville Memorial Hall**

### 2025 Election

From 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!

Want to take a more active role in the future of Galesville? **WRIA board members commit to attending monthly meetings** and join committees for the preservation and betterment of the village we call home.

The 2024 WRIA Board Members are  
President: Buz Winchester  
Vice President: Janet LaBella  
Treasurer: Holly Clark  
Secretary: Collot Guerard  
Joan Bell, John Cox, Jim Day, Bill Gibbons, Charlotte Graves, Bob Kinzie, George Pavlik, Dottie Rodda, Rebecca Ruark, Jody Shuart, and Mary Tod Winchester.

### Exciting News for Memorial Hall!

WRIA is excited to break ground this fall on the installation of a stormwater management system at The Hall! The system will include a bioswale and rain garden on the east side of the property where there is currently a grass drainage ditch. If you’ve been to The Hall during or after a rain event, you know well that the grounds can be very wet. Once installed, the bioswale and rain garden will work to capture stormwater runoff from the surrounding properties, helping the rain water to soak into the ground and filter pollutants before entering Tenthouse Creek and Lerch Creek, West River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. The West River Improvement Association, with the help of Arundel Rivers Federation, was awarded an Outreach and Restoration Grant for this initiative from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in 2023 and we are so excited to now be able to move forward with the project! Stay tuned for more information on how community members can help support, celebrate, and maintain the project.

### Total Victory for Galesville Community in Lawsuit

**Victory for the Galesville Community in the Lawsuit Against WRIA**

The Judge in the lawsuit filed against the West River Improvement Association (“WRIA”) recently ruled against the plaintiffs, Tom Bowen and the Old Town Firehouse, after a three-day trial in January 2024, at which several members of the Galesville community testified. Bowen and Old Town Firehouse purchased the fire

station from the Galesville Volunteer Fire Department and sued WRIA claiming that they had acquired ownership of the driveway and additional property where the WRIA shed and well are located through adverse possession. In the alternative, they claimed they had an easement over that property.

On June 3, the judge read her decision to a standing-room-only courtroom packed with community residents and supporters that Old Town Firehouse had not proven that they had acquired ownership of the WRIA property, nor did they have an easement over the property. This is a complete victory for the WRIA and Galesville community.

### **Plaintiffs Shut Off Water to The Memorial Hall the Day After The Ruling**

The day after the Judge found against Bowen and Old Town Firehouse on all issues, Bowen turned off the water supply to the Memorial Hall, even though the well is on WRIA property. WRIA had told Bowen we would not cut off water from the well to the fire station until he made arrangements to drill a new well on his property.

We have now piped water from our well directly to the Memorial Hall and installed the necessary equipment to operate the well in the Hall. We also turned off the water from our well to the Old Town Fire House.

### **Plaintiffs Threaten Legal Action Because Of Trespassers On Firehall Property**

Bowen and Old Town Firehouse continue to contend that WRIA members have trespassed on their property. Bowen has security cameras trained on WRIA property which photograph the area. WRIA placed low cement barriers to show the property line and to deter anyone from going onto Bowen's property. We also had boundary markers placed in the driveway to show the property line.

### **How You Can Help**

First, do not walk on the Old Town Fire House property. You may be photographed, and Bowen is likely to complain.

Second, do not cut across the Firehouse property from Main Street to the Hall parking lot because part of the "circular driveway" is on the Firehouse property. For years many of us have used the shortcut via the circular driveway to access or exit the Hall parking lot. Please do not take that shortcut anymore. You are free to walk on the sidewalk in front of the Firehouse, but please do

not walk or drive on property owned by the Old Town Firehouse.

Third, help us pay our legal bills. Please contribute to the WRIA legal fund. We still owe our attorneys who successfully defended Bowen's lawsuit against WRIA and are likely to incur more legal expenses because Bowen has appealed the Judge's decision against him and in favor of WRIA. Many residents of Galesville and the surrounding community have generously contributed to help defend the lawsuit—but we still owe our lawyers. You can make a contribution payable to WRIA at PO Box 104.

WRIA thanks the Galesville community for its support in retaining our property for the benefit of all!

### **Petition Drive to Keep the Fire House Residential a Huge Success**

The door-to-door campaign to oppose the rezoning of the Fire House from residential to heavy commercial acquired support from over 80% of the households in Galesville. Some of the residents were unable to be reached because they were on vacation. It is clear that Galesville wants the property to stay residential because no one favored the rezoning.

One of the benefits of door-to-door efforts of this sort is that it gives those seeking the signatures on the petition the chance to have significant conversations with others throughout the village about what they want Galesville to be in the years ahead. These encounters confirmed what many of us have suspected: Keep Galesville the way it is with a few modest additions.

The Envision Galesville Report – Plan 2040, approved by the West River Improvement Association, the Galesville Community Center Organization and the Galesville Heritage Society, stated the desire to preserve Galesville as a small, rural village. The Report was not against any commercial development, but it emphasized that these enterprises should be "on a scale and character appropriate to a small village of Galesville's size and historic character..."

The use of the Fire House as an antique boat museum raised few objections because that use could be accommodated by the current residential zoning category. But the owner's request to rezone the property to C4 Highway Commercial was seen as totally inappropriate for Galesville. When placed in a residential zone it could lead to a whole host of unwanted and out of place enterprises, especially if the property was resold.

Copies of the signed petitions and a printed list of all of the Galesville residents who signed it, were submitted to the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ) staff and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). Both OPZ staff and the SAC also are opposed to the rezoning request. These materials will be reviewed later in the summer when the SAC will submit a Planned Land Use Map and Comprehensive Zoning for Region 9, the area which includes Galesville, to the Anne Arundel County Planning Advisory Board.

## What's Next

The Planning Advisory Board (PAB) is a seven member body that makes recommendations to the head of the Office of Planning and Zoning and the County Council relating to the Master Plan, zoning maps, and zoning rules and regulations. Public hearings will take place at this stage of the process. The PAB is expected to complete its review of the Region 9 Plan sometime in late Autumn or early Winter and submit its recommendations to the County Council.

Late in 2024 or early in 2025 the seven-member County Council will receive the report and begin the legislative process by having a line-by-line review of the rezoning request for each of the properties, including the Fire House. This is a critical step in this process when public hearings will be held because the entire County Council usually defers to recommendations from the member of the Council where the proposed property rezoning exists. The Council member for the Council Manic District 7 which covers all of South County and Crofton is Shannon Leadbetter.

The final step in the process is submission of the rezoning bill to the County Executive for his signature. He has veto authority within the legislation, meaning that he could reject a rezoning recommendation on a specific property. This would be the final chance to stop the Fire House rezoning request if it has survived to this point.

## Galesville Waterfront Initiative

The West River Improvement Association, Inc. (WRIA) formed a Galesville Waterfront Committee (GWC) to lead a community-driven initiative to create a shared vision for Galesville's watershed and along Riverside Drive and its vicinity. The effort is a continuation of Envision Galesville submitted to AA County in May 2022 and in concert with the AA County Plan2040, which is focused on "green, smart, and equitable" goals. Partnering with the Arundel Rivers Federation, the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel

County (Resilience Authority), the Galesville Heritage Society, and local businesses, the GWC is spearheading a grass-roots initiative to develop a Master Plan for a holistic (village-level) community-led ecological restoration and resilience project. The Master Plan is needed to restore and protect the shoreline, ease flooding and erosion, reduce nutrient and sediment loads to surrounding tributaries, manage stormwater runoff, and protect/restore the natural habitat.

The Resilience Authority, with input from Arundel Rivers Federation and the GWC, drafted and submitted an application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the funding necessary to hire a professional planning team to work directly with the community to assess existing environmental conditions and prepare the Master Plan. The Plan may (a) recommend improvements for at-risk shoreline points, (b) add shoreline to protect against flooding and improve natural habitat, and (c) install green stormwater management infrastructures such as decentralized bioretention and bioswales. These and other efforts stand to enhance and protect fish and wildlife habitats and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

As part of the Master Planning process, input from the community will also be solicited for opportunities to make the Riverside Drive area safer for pedestrians, bikers, and vehicular traffic. Preliminary community feedback revealed Riverside Drive has become progressively less safe with uneven/disconnected/missing paths/sidewalks and traffic patterns that are ever-challenging. America with Disabilities Act (ADA) non-compliance is also an issue. Connecting, restoring, and protecting Galesville's waterfront will make it more inviting for residents and visitors to safely observe, learn about, and enjoy.

The Waterfront Initiative application is currently under review by the NFWF, and a decision is anticipated sometime in November 2024. If the application is approved, the community-driven Master planning process could begin as early as Summer 2025.

The GWC will provide the WRIA Board of Directors with an initial status report at the September 2024 Board Meeting. The GWC plans to meet at Memorial Hall on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about this initiative is welcome to attend this meeting.

For more information, please feel free to contact Bill Gibbons at [w.gibbons1@comcast.net](mailto:w.gibbons1@comcast.net).

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## Anne Arundel County Region 9 Plan Update

Are you interested in learning about and being involved in Galesville's and South County's future over the next twenty years? If the answer is yes, read on.

The Region 9\* planning process to develop the Region 9 Plan, which will define the future of Galesville and other Region 9 communities, has been underway since January 2023. The Plan draws on public and stakeholder engagement to provide a shared vision, regional strategies, and zoning recommendations supporting Anne Arundel County's Plan2040 goals and policies.

Guided by Anne Arundel County's Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ), recommendations from a 15-person Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), and input from the public at public meetings and drop-in sessions, the draft Region 9 Plan is in the final stages of development. A dedicated website (<https://region-plan-hub-annearundelmd.hub.arcgis.com/pages/region9>) is available to keep all informed of the proceedings, discussions, and decisions throughout the process. The draft Plan will be posted in the next few weeks for public review and comment.

The draft Region 9 Plan provides a framework for the County to make policy, laws, resource and budget decisions and evaluate and measure progress toward achieving countywide goals. Key issues addressed during the planning process include stormwater management, habitat and wildlife protection, protection of forested areas, siltation of creeks, pollution from septic tanks, and more. Guidelines for housing development, community gathering spaces, and youth and senior services were also explored.

Galesville leaders, residents, and others in Region 9 have been involved throughout the Region 9 planning process. Click the link above for more information or to make comments. You may also contact Cathy Oliver (410-991-2186), a member of the Region 9 SAC, with your questions.

Your input on the draft Region 9 Plan is invaluable in ensuring that decisions and policies shaping the future of Region 9 benefit Galesville, our neighboring coastal communities, and visitors. Thank you, and stay involved!

\*Region 9 includes the coastal communities east of MD 2 From Edgewater to North Beach (The Mayo Peninsula, Galesville, West River, Shady Side, Churchton, Deale, Tracy's Landing, North Beach, and parts of Edgewater and Friendship).

## Help Keep West River & Our Oyster Reef Healthy and Productive!!

**Join Our Dedicated West River Oyster Gardeners!**

**New & Current Gardeners  
Oyster Handout - Sunday, Sept 29th - 1-4 PM  
Galesville Memorial Hall Parking Lot**

### Oyster Reef History

Since 2004, a group of volunteer oyster gardeners has been dedicated to restoring Galesville's Elmer Benning Oyster Reef. The oyster reef was donated to us by his daughter Margaret Ann Gaug and was designated a Sanctuary Reef (non-harvestable) by MD DNR in 2004.

Since then, in the fall of every year, many dedicated local gardeners have received oyster shells with attached oyster "spat" (baby oysters). The shells with spat are placed into wire cages and placed at our gardeners' docks/bulkheads in the River/Creeks, so the spat can safely grow to be healthy juvenile oysters by the following Spring. Each gardener then returns their oyster shells to be placed on our West River Oyster Reef to grow into productive adult oysters. For 20 continuous years we have expanded the reef habitat.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center undertook a long term study on Bay oyster reefs. Our oyster reef was selected as one of the oyster reefs in Maryland to be studied. The study determined our reef has a very healthy oyster population with a high quality reef habitat. Help us continue our progress!

### Become A NEW West River Oyster Gardener

Do you have access to a dock/bulkhead in the West River area? If so, on Sept 29th we can provide you everything you need to raise the baby oysters to become healthy juveniles. As juveniles (instead of baby spat) they will have a better chance to survive and grow to healthy adult oysters when placed on the reef. In June 2025, we will ask you to return your oysters and we will place them on the oyster reef where they will live out the rest of their lives providing water filtration and healthy natural habitat. Your family can participate and, if you would like, you may also participate in placing the oysters on the reef.

It is fun, rewarding and educational. We're making a difference for all critters in the River as they feed off the healthy habitat and the oysters filter the river water and

produce a cleaner and healthier West River and Chesapeake Bay.

We are always looking for more oyster gardeners. Will you join us and become a West River Oyster Gardener? Give us a call/text.

Please, new and current gardeners contact us by **September 25th** to let us know you want to participate – so we can be sure to have enough oysters and equipment.

**Let Us Know You Are Coming To Pick Up Your Oysters (or Want To Learn More Information) We Want To Be Sure We Have Enough Spat (baby) Oysters For All**

**Linda Andreasen 410-991-4422 or  
Mary Tod Winchester 443-223-8090**



*Chef Ewa Fraszczay*

## WRIA Fundraiser for the Memorial Hall Legal Fund



**Polish Dinner**  
Galesville Memorial Hall  
Saturday, October 19, 2024  
Serving at 5:00-8:00 p.m.  
\$35.00 per person

**Stół Wiejski- Traditional Polish Country Table**  
Assortment of Polish Meats, Kielbasa and Cheeses

**Zupa Ogórkowa**  
Polish Pickle Soup

**Chef Ewa Pierogi**  
Potato, Gruyere Cheese, Caramelized Onions (V)

**Pyzy**  
Potato Dumpling filled with Chicken (GF)

**Gołąbki**  
Ground Pork, Rice, wrapped in Cabbage Leaves,  
Covered with Tomato Sauce (GF)

**Gulasz**  
Polish Beef Stew

**Sides**  
Beet Salad  
Cucumber Salad

**Dessert**  
Paczki  
Polish Donuts

**Please make reservations  
by calling 443-607-6052  
or email  
dottierodda@gmail.com**

**THE GLORY OF GALESVILLE**  
**“Where the Past Meets the Present”**

A Crepe Myrtle blooms by my window  
As I sit in my easy chair  
The weather is hot today;  
Only go outside if you dare!

But it's only what we should expect  
It's summer in our little town.  
Winter will come soon enough  
So don't you dare to frown!

I'm a “newcomer” to this village,  
‘Tho I've lived here over 20 years;  
But I was welcomed with open arms  
And have shared some wine and beers.

Many have lived here all their lives  
And their ancestors before them.  
Truly, they are not at fault;  
Galesville is a land-locked gem!  
There are two restaurants in our town  
Down by the water side.  
Which has the best crab cakes?  
It's up to you to decide!

Two churches are on Church Lane  
OLOS is not far away.  
Which one to attend is your choice;  
You decide where to pray.

Improvement Society or Galesville Heritage?  
It's best to just support both.  
You have much to gain and nothing to lose.  
They don't require an oath!

We have the 4th of July parade  
And caroling at Christmas time.  
Many meals and events at the Hall,  
But some cost more than a dime.

Residents take care of their yards.  
Dogwoods bloom in the spring;  
Daffodils and tulips abound.  
Listen to the church bells ring!

There's a Magnolia tree on the corner  
Of Siegert Lane and Main;  
Purple Iris, Impatiens and Petunias  
Love a good summer rain!

Black-Eyed Susans bloom everywhere  
After all, it's the MD State flower!  
If you don't have some, plant them!  
It will not do to cower!

Green grass and, yes, some weeds  
Are carefully mowed every week.  
Rain barrels provide some moisture  
But be careful they don't leak!

The last day of October is special.  
Ghosts and goblins appear.  
Candy and treats are plentiful  
Kids come from everywhere!

In the Fall some trees have color  
And Winter might bring snow  
If it does, there will be much laughter  
And bring out machines that blow!

We don't have hills for sleds  
X-Country ski if there's snow.  
We used to have ice on Lerch Creek  
And skaters while the wind would blow.

And so, dear friends, if you wish  
To own a home in our town,  
It's best to know who is leaving,  
So you don't end up with a frown!

**GOOD LUCK!**  
By Ann Hewitt

**Calendar**

- Oct. 1 – GHS Board Meeting,  
Galesville Memorial Hall, 7:30 pm
- Oct. 7 – WRIA Board Meeting,  
Galesville Memorial Hall, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 11 – Wine for the Weekend at Susie Cosden's  
5:00-7:00 pm
- Oct. 13 – GHS, Soup Cookoff
- Oct. 19 – WRIA, Polish Dinner  
Galesville Memorial Hall, 5:00-8:00 pm
- 
- Nov. 4 – WRIA, General Meeting and Election,  
Galesville Memorial Hall, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 5 – GHS, Board Meeting,  
Galesville Memorial Hall, 7:30 pm
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Celebration,  
Galesville Memorial Hall, 11:00 am
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- Dec. 14 – WRIA, Holiday Social,  
Galesville Memorial Hall