

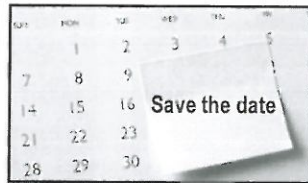


A quarterly publication from the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

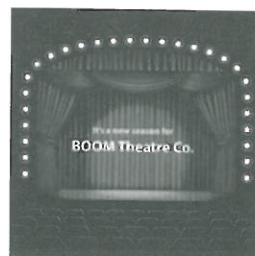
www.belairmd.org



FIND YOUR RHYTHM AT THE ARMORY
PAGE 9



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
PAGES 6 - 8



BOOM TAKES THE STAGE PAGE 10

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2022
Your Town Your Future

PLAN TO LOOK FORWARD PAGE 11



A dozen ways that Bel Air's website makes your life easier

We love to see you at Town Hall or answer questions by phone. Our job is to serve you. However, you can save time and, sometimes, money by doing some business online. Suggestions:

1. Plan your weekend.

Bel Air hosts concerts, art shows, movies and other public events. They are most often free. Get up-to-the minute details from the calendar on www.belairmd.org or at **Town of Bel Air Arts & Entertainment** on Facebook.

2. See photos and videos of recent events.

Missed an event? Look for photos and videos from recent events at www.belairmd.org/Gallery.

3. See what the future holds.

What are Bel Air's future plans for housing, signage, trees, roadways, business development and more? Review and/or download public documents that have examined these issues in detail. They include the Comprehensive Plan of 2016, the Wayfinding System Plan and the Bel Air Tree Plan. See www.belairmd.org/429/Comprehensive-Planning



Dear Neighbors,

“Cultures grow on the vine of tradition” - Journalist Jonah Goldberg

Start new summer traditions or carry on old familiar ones. Summer in Bel Air is the best place to create memories of smells, laughter, fun and experiences with family and friends. Take a look at our calendar for dates and times.

“On Your Mark, Get Set, Read” is at all Harford County Public Library branches, including Bel Air. Register for the **Summer Reading Program** and participate in programs, games, prizes and reading fun all summer.

Bring a picnic dinner and chair or blanket to Humbert Amphitheater for our sensational **Summer Concert Series** on Sunday evenings.

Harford County’s best block party is Bel Air Downtown Alliance’s **First Fridays** with local live music, beer and wine, food vendors and more!

Treat your children or grandchildren to a Friday **Outdoor Movie Night** under the stars at Shamrock Park with pre-movie entertainment.

“My parents brought me to Downtown Bel Air on the Fourth of July when I was a child and now I am bringing my grandchildren!” I often hear those words about **Bel Air’s Fourth of July Celebration**. It starts with a flag-raising at 6:45 a.m. followed by daytime events, that include a Grand Parade and a Firework Finale that will have you dreaming in red, white and blue after a full day of celebrating our country’s birthday!

Live music, crafters, children’s entertainment, a beer and wine garden and the best food ever will thrill all your senses at the **15th Annual Maryland State BBQ Bash**, which has become a Maryland tradition.

Now in its 51st year, the **Bel Air Festival for the Arts** on Sunday September 18 will complete your summer of traditions. There will be 350+ artists, craftspeople, food and continuous entertainment.

See you in Bel Air this summer!

Sincerely,
Mayor Susan Burdette

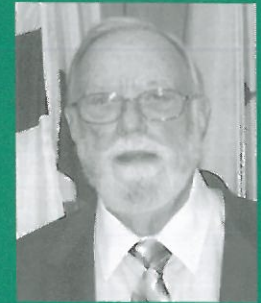


Jillian Noss, from St. Margaret School, was the Cecil/Harford District winner of the 2016 Mayor’s Essay contest. She described how she would make her community healthier if she were mayor.

Board of Town Commissioners



Susan U. Burdette



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Robert M. Preston



Patrick T. Richards

ON THE COVER:

The daylong Independence Day celebration is one of Bel Air’s most cherished family traditions. From the flag-raising at 6:45 a.m. to the fireworks at 9:30 p.m., there are free events that celebrate our nation and community. (Photo: Mike Krantz)



Cont. from P.1

4. **Pay your town taxes and fees.**
Save time by paying town-related bills online at www.belairmd.org/258/Pay-For
5. **Ask a question, voice a concern, give a compliment.**
Parking, sewage, snow removal, traffic . . . Tell us what is happening on **"Request Tracker"** or **"Contact Us."** Your concern will go directly to the person who handles the issue.
6. **Inquire about reserving the Bel Air Armory for an event.**
The Bel Air Armory now has a dedicated website at www.belairarmory.org. See photos that show how the armory transforms for various events.
7. **See what the Town Commissioners are talking about.**
The Town posts all agendas and minutes from board and commission meetings.
8. **Download permit applications.**
Before adding a fence or shed or changing signage, download an application. Directions for what to do next appear on all forms.
9. **Check the status of the day's events with inclement weather.**
Will the planned outdoor concert take place at Shamrock Park or "under cover" at Bel Air High School? Check **Town of Bel Air Government** or **Town of Bel Air Arts & Entertainment** on Facebook for last-minute event details.
10. **Download forms, maps and plans.**
Visit the Document Center at www.belairmd.org/166/Publications-Maps to download maps, historic preservation guidelines, strategic plans and parking guides.
11. **Follow Bel Air Police Department on Facebook.**
"Like" the **Bel Air Police Department** on Facebook to see safety messages, crime avoidance tips and current announcements about events that affect our ability to get around town.
12. **See how to make your yard and garden a welcoming place for local butterflies and birds.**
For inspiration, take a look at the variety of National Wildlife publications online that provide tips on promoting a natural habitat in your yard and neighborhood. See www.belairmd.org/216/Wildlife-Gardens



9am to 1pm, Saturday, October 1
at the Bel Air High School parking lot

More than just recycling – it is Upcycling!

Find a new home for your unwanted things and do your part to help save resources for the next generation. Contributors are invited to bring a single car load consisting only of items outlined below for recycling, refurbishment or reuse

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Bicycles | Sporting Equipment |
| Books | Eye Glasses |
| Cell Phones | Document Shredding |
| | Toys |

Sponsored By



Come to Bel Air and celebrate 41 years of healthy, fresh & locally-grown foods

FOR VENDORS & PROMOTIONS GO TO WWW.BELAIRFARMERSMARKET.COM

Saturdays

Now until November 19th, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

November 26th to December 17th, 10:00 a.m. -

Noon

Bond Street & Thomas Street

VEGETABLES. FRUITS. WINE. BEEF. PORK. CHICKEN.
FLOWERS. BREAD. SPICES. MILK. HUMMUS. PET TREATS.
ICE CREAM. PLANTS. JELLIES. HONEY. EDGE SHARPENING.
SOAP. PASTRIES. COFFEE. EGGS. HERBS. CHEESE. LAMB.
OILS. KETTLE KORN. SALSA. CAKES. JAMS.
LIVE MUSIC



The **Harford Artists Gallery** recently took on an even more elegant look. Leidos, an Abingdon-based engineering company, donated a cable-based art hanging system. It now provides an almost-unobstructed view of the paintings that hang in the Harford Artists Gallery, which is on the grounds of Rockfield Manor.

Harford Artists Alex Kopp (l) and Pattie Stonesifer say that the new system lends a professional look to the Gallery.

You can also see Harford Artists' work on display in local offices and businesses. These include: Bel Air Town Hall, Independent Brewing Company, the orthopedic and cardiology offices at Upper Chesapeake Health, Dr. Peggy Leary's dental office, Pairings Bistro, McFaul Activity Center, Harford Foot & Ankle, The Health and Rehab Center and Lifetime Dental Care.

Fall 2016 Lunchtime Concert Series

FREE 12 Noon on Office Street

September 2nd - Matt Kineke

September 9th - Regents of Jazz

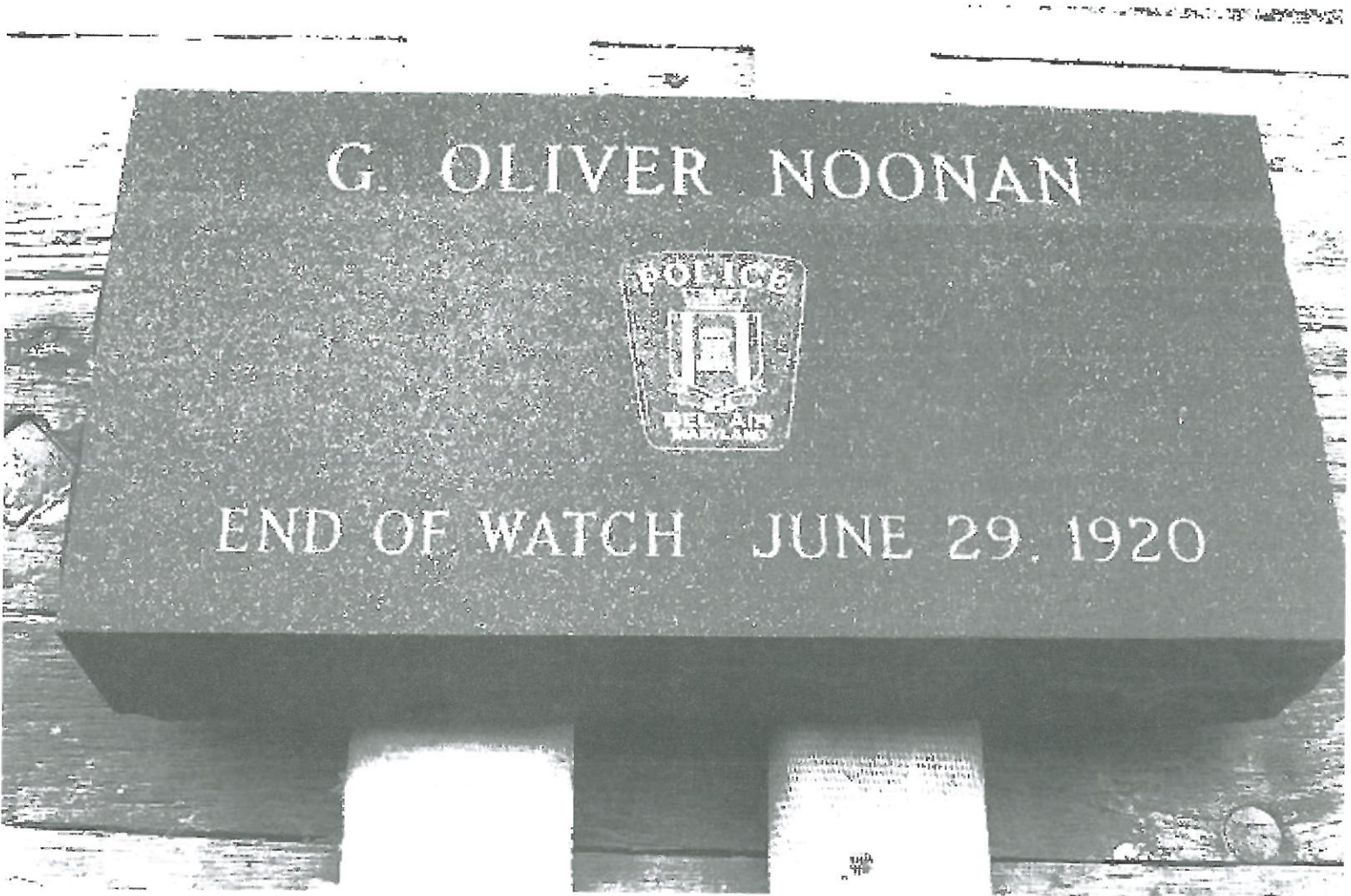
September 16th - The Smooth Groove

September 23rd - BAHS Jazz Ensemble & Chorus



Sponsored by the Town of Bel Air, the MD State Arts Council, and the Harford County Public Library through the HCCAB.





When **Town of Bel Air Bailiff (Officer) G. Oliver Noonan** was killed while doing his job on Friday June 25, 1920, there was scant public recognition of his death. In those days, it simply wasn't the custom to conduct large public memorials for fallen first responders. On that evening, Officer Noonan was involved in a physical altercation at Office Street and South Main Street. During the clash, confiscated fireworks exploded in Officer Noonan's pockets. His intestines were torn by the explosion. Within four days he died from peritonitis.

His violent line-of-duty death was virtually forgotten until historian and local adjunct instructor **Michael Dixon** uncovered the story.

When news of this discovery reached the **Bel Air Police Department (BAPD)**, officials immediately set out to right this oversight. To begin, the Town purchased a more fitting memorial for Officer Noonan's gravesite at Friends Cemetery on Scarborough Road.

For the first time, Officer Noonan was remembered at the annual **Fallen Heroes Day** at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens (May 6) as well as the **National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial candlelight ceremony** (May 13) in Washington D.C. With local Maryland State Police Barrack "D" covering duty for them, BAPD staff were able to attend this event and pay overdue tribute to Officer Noonan. Several Town Commissioners also were on hand.

Mr. Dixon, the Town of Bel Air and the Bel Air Police Department have now ensured that Officer Noonan's service to our community will never be forgotten.

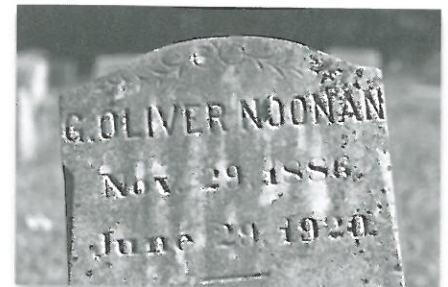


Photo: Kathi Santora

JUNE

Wednesday 22 through Sunday July 24
THROUGH THE EYES OF JASMIN MARIE
 Liriodendron Gallery
 Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.;
 Sundays 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Detailed, unusual embroidered art and
 acrylic paintings by artist Jasmin
 Johnson Hameen.
www.liriodendron.com

Friday 24
FREE OUTDOOR SUMMER MOVIE: Minions
 Shamrock Park
 Pre-movie festivities at 7:15 p.m. Movie
 at sunset. Pre-movie entertainment
 provided by the Bel Air Cultural Arts
 Commission. Sponsor: Kiddie Academy.
www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 26
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Baltimore Symphonic Band
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Wednesday 29
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: U.S. Navy Band Commodores
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park,
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

JULY

Friday July 1 – August 28
APPLES AND ORANGES
 Harford Artists' Gallery
 503 E. Churchville Rd. Gallery Hours:
 Friday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Paintings, photography, pottery and
 jewelry all created by local artists.
 Reception July 16th from 5:00 p.m. –
 7:00 p.m. www.artinharford.org;
 410-420-9499

Friday 1
FIRST FRIDAY!
 Downtown Bel Air Parking lot (next to
 Harford County Sheriff's Office),
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Bel Air Downtown Alliance's First Fridays
 features local live music, beer and wine,
 food vendors and more.
www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 3
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Retro-Rockets
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Monday 4
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
 Celebrate the birth of our country with
 all-day old-fashioned patriotic
 celebrations, fun and participatory
 events for the whole family. Flag-raising
 at 6:45 a.m. at Bel Air High School. See
 schedule Page 12. **GRAND PARADE AT 6:00 p.m.** on Main Street, followed by
 fireworks over Rockfield Park at about
 9:30 p.m. 410-893-4444. Sponsor: Bel
 Air Independence Day Committee, Inc.,
 a 501(c)3 organization.
www.belairjuly4.org.

Monday 4
INDEPENDENCE DAY OPEN HOUSE
 Hays House, 324 Kenmore Avenue.
 Special activities and music by the
 Catherine Street Consort.
 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Free. 410-838-7691

Monday 4
FIREWORKS & FUN ON THE 4TH
 St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 1200 Churchville Road, 7:00 p.m.
 Independence Day celebration on the
 lawn with snowballs, games and a great
 view of Bel Air fireworks.

Wednesday 6
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 8
FREE OUTDOOR SUMMER MOVIE: Pan
 Shamrock Park
 Pre-movie festivities at 7:15 p.m. Movie
 at sunset. Pre-movie entertainment
 provided by the Bel Air Cultural Arts
 Commission.
www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 10
THE BELLE AIRE MARKET
 Armory Marketplace (Behind Bel Air
 Armory), 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A Parisian bazaar right in Downtown Bel
 Air. Sponsor: The Painted Mill.
www.downtownbelair.com

Sunday 10
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Upper Chesapeake Chorus
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park,
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Tuesday 12
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: Bel Air's Yesterdays in Photos and Stories
 Historical Society of Harford County,
 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Learn about Bel Air's past through
 photos and stories. Drinks provided.
 Free. 410-838-769.
www.harfordhistory.org.

Wednesday 13
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Regents Jazz Ensemble
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Sunday 17
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Bel Air Community Band Jazz Ensemble
 Amphitheater in Shamrock Park
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Wednesday 20
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Chuck Baker Orchestra
 Amphitheater, Shamrock Park,
 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 22
FREE OUTDOOR SUMMER MOVIE: The Good Dinosaur
 Shamrock Park
 Pre-movie festivities at 7:15 p.m. Movie
 at sunset. Pre-movie entertainment
 provided by the Bel Air Cultural Arts
 Commission. Sponsor: Kiddie Academy.
www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 24
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Maryland Defense Force Band
 Amphitheater, Shamrock Park
 7:00 p.m. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and
 the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.
 Free. 410-803-9784

Wednesday 27

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC INSTITUTE & FESTIVAL

Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. This free "must-see" concert features the American Virtuosi and young virtuosos from around the world, Sponsor: Town of Bel Air, Harford County Cultural Arts Board, and the Maryland State Arts Council. 410-638-5323

Thursday 28 - 31

ANNUAL HARFORD COUNTY FARM FAIR

Harford County Equestrian Center 608 N. Tollgate Road. Annual event to promote Harford County agriculture and youth involvement in 4-H, FFA, and Ag Magnet Program. Includes carnival, tractor pulls, live entertainment. Adults: \$8; Ages 5-11: \$4; Free for ages 4 and under. 410-838-8663, info@farmfair.org or www.farmfair.org.

Sunday 31

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Bottle of Blues

Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

AUGUST

Wednesday 3

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Sounding Brass

Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 5

FIRST FRIDAY!

Downtown Bel Air Parking lot (next to Harford County Sheriff's Office), 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Bel Air Downtown Alliance's First Fridays features local live music, beer and wine, food vendors, and more! www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 7

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Big Bertha's Rhythm Kings

Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Wednesday 10

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: TBA

Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 12 – Saturday 13

14th ANNUAL MARYLAND STATE BBQ BASH

Bond and Thomas Streets. Friday 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. and Saturday Noon – 10:00 p.m. Live music, top quality BBQ, sponsor displays, crafters, merchant vendors and children's entertainment. Sponsor: Visit Harford! www.downtownbelair.com/bbqbash

Sunday 14

The Belle Aire Market

Armory Marketplace (Behind Bel Air Armory), 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. A Parisian bazaar right in Downtown Bel Air. Sponsor: The Painted Mill. www.downtownbelair.com

Sunday 14

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Jessica Lynn
Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Wednesday 17

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: TBA

Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 19

FREE OUTDOOR SUMMER MOVIE: Zootopia (subject to change)

Shamrock Park
Pre-movie festivities at 7:15 p.m. Movie at sunset. Pre-movie entertainment provided by the Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission. Sponsor: Kiddie Academy. www.downtownbelair.com

Sunday 21

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: TBA

Amphitheater, Shamrock Park, 7:00 p.m. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 26

FREE OUTDOOR SUMMER MOVIE: Star Wars, The Force Awakens (subject to change)

Shamrock Park
Pre-movie festivities at 7:15 p.m. Movie at sunset. Pre-movie entertainment provided by the Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission. www.downtownbelair.com

August 31 – September 11

BILL SHIMEK – PAINTINGS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

Liriodendron Gallery
Paintings on canvas, painted wood construction and shadow boxes. Sundays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 410-879-4424

SEPTEMBER

Friday 2

LUNCHTIME CONCERT: Matt Kineke

Office Street near the Courthouse. Noon – 1:00 p.m. Free. www.belairmd.org. 410-638-4550

Friday September 2 - October 30

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Harford Artists' Gallery
503 E. Churchville Rd. Gallery Hours: Friday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Reception September 10, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. www.artinharford.org.

Friday 2

FIRST FRIDAY!

Downtown Bel Air Parking lot
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Local live music, beer and wine and food vendors. www.downtownbelair.com.

Friday 9

LUNCHTIME CONCERT: Regents of Jazz

Office Street near the Courthouse. Noon – 1:00 p.m. Free. www.belairmd.org. 410-638-4550

Sunday 11

THE BELLE AIRE MARKET

Armory Marketplace (Behind Bel Air Armory), 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A Parisian bazaar in Downtown Bel Air. Sponsor: The Painted Mill.



Thursday 15
GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
 Downtown Bel Air
 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Shopping, discounts, food and drink specials in downtown Bel Air.
www.downtownbelair.com

Friday 16
LUNCHTIME CONCERT: *The Smooth Groove*
 Office Street near the Courthouse.
 Noon – 1:00 p.m. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Free. www.belairmd.org.
 410-638-4550

Sunday 18 – October 23
IMPRESSIONS OF HARFORD AND BEYOND
 Liriodendron Gallery, 502 W. Gordon Street. Five women who are artists and friends tell their story of experiences, travels and paintings.
 Sundays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.;

Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 410-879-4424

Sunday 18
BEL AIR FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS
 Shamrock Park, 39 N. Hickory Avenue, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 350 artists, photographers, and craftsmen will display hand made work. Continuous entertainment and festival foods. FREE shuttle bus service from the MVA parking lot on Rt. 24 to the festival grounds. Rain or shine. Sponsor: Bel Air Parks and Recreation and the Town of Bel Air. Free. 443-616-6708

Monday 19
15th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
 Maryland Golf & Country Club.
 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 All proceeds benefit the community.
 Sponsor: The Greater Bel Air Community Foundation, Inc.

Information on fees and sponsorships at www.gbacf.com or 410-879-9292/410-836-6366.

Friday 23
LUNCHTIME CONCERT: *Bel Air High School Jazz Ensemble & Chorus*
 Office Street near the Courthouse.
 Noon – 1:00 p.m. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Free. www.belairmd.org.
 410-638-4550

Saturday 24
11TH ANNUAL HARFORD COUNTY WINE FESTIVAL
 Rockfield Manor, Noon – 6:00 p.m.
 Enjoy wines from around the world, food, crafts and live entertainment. Hoist a stein in the Oktoberfest Beer Garden. VIP area with samples of premium wines and gourmet food from Pairings Bistro. Tickets and more information: 410-638-4565 or www.harfordcountywinefest.com.

Committees & Commissions	Contact Us www.belairmd.org	Town Government
<p>Board of Town Commissioners 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Planning Commission 1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Board of Appeals 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Economic & Community Development Commission 2nd Thursday, 5:00 p.m., Armory</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4th Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Appearance & Beautification Commission 2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Cultural Arts Commission 3rd Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., Armory</p> <p>Tree Committee 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Planning Department</p>	<p>The offices of the Town Administrator, Human Resources, Police and Finance Departments are located in the Town Hall, 39 N. Hickory Ave. The Department of Public Works and the Planning Department are located at 705 E. Churchville Rd. The Department of Economic Development and Visitors Center are in the Bel Air Armory at 37 N. Main St. The Police Department is open 24/7. Other office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays.</p> <p>There are many free publications at the Visitors Center, Town Hall and online. Topics include business assistance, historic preservation, parking guides, a walking tour and an event calendar.</p> <p>In addition to the Board of Town Commissioners meetings at 7:30 p.m. on first and third Mondays, the public may attend Commissioners' work sessions, held at 5:15 p.m. on the preceding Tuesdays. Direct questions/concerns to the Commissioners c/o Town Hall in writing or by phone: 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711.</p> <p>For sewer system, refuse collection, recycling, street light outages, call 410.638.4545. For sewer emergencies, call 410.638.4545 during business hours or 410.638.4500 at other times.</p>	<p>Town Administrator Jesse Bane 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711</p> <p>Administration Department Michael L. Krantz, Director 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711</p> <p>Finance Department Lisa M. Moody, Director 410.638.4555 or 410.879.2712</p> <p>Economic Development Department Trish Heidenreich, Director 410.838.0584</p> <p>Police Department Charles Moore, Chief of Police 410.638.4517 or 410.638.4500</p> <p>Planning Department Kevin Small, Director 410.638.4540 or 410.879.9500</p> <p>Public Works Department Stephen D. Kline, Director 410.638.4536 or 410.879.9507</p> <p>Bel Air Bond Editor Kathi Santora, The Writing Studio ksantora@gmail.com; 443.695.3345</p>

Tap your inner rhythm with Zumba®

The last thing instructor Gina Baez (upper right) wants you to do if you take a Zumba® class at the Bel Air Armory is to stress about what to wear, whether you can learn the steps and how your fitness level compares to others in class.

Each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, she says, the Armory fills with people of all ages, outfits, shapes and dance abilities. At the stroke of 7:00 p.m., overhead lights dim. The playful beat of Latin and international music pulses through the air. Then Gina leads them all – the newcomers and the regulars – through an hour of salsa, marengo, bachata and reggaeton steps.

“The Armory doesn’t feel like a gym,” says Gina. “There are no mirrors. The only thing that is illuminated is the stage where people can see me.”

Along with addictive music and dance, Zumba® delivers an hour of what most doctors order: a sweaty combination of interval and resistance training. Some devotees call it “exercise in disguise.”

Becoming a certified Zumba® instructor allowed Gina, a native of Mexico, to tap into her heritage of dance here in the United States.

“Dance has always been a part of my life, especially flamenco and tap dancing. I was always moving. I came to the US to teach (Spanish) after college and I was craving that again. I need to dance.”

After several years devoted to career, marriage and children, she discovered Zumba® after a friend invited her to a class at a Bel Air gym. She eventually became a licensed instructor. “I’ve been a teacher, so being in front of a class feels natural.”

She encourages her class to adapt the pace to fit their own needs and to allow about a month to get comfortable with the steps.

“People say ‘I don’t know how to shake my hips. I don’t have any Latin in me.’ Try some classes, she says: “The Latin in you will flourish.”



In its 5th year, BOOM Theatre Co., takes on new leadership, new theater challenges

Harford County native and Harford Community College graduate Joshua Fletcher recently took over leadership of The Boom Theatre Co. He talks about moving forth with the vision of Ryan Nicotra, the Bel Air High School graduate who founded the theater group in 2011.

What do you want people in Bel Air to know about BOOM Theatre Co.?

Our tag line says it all: We bring creative, smart and challenging theater to Harford County. There is a lot of great theater going on here, but we want to bring in plays that talk about social issues, that are politically driven and world-focused. A lot of times, people have to travel to Baltimore City to see those kinds of performances.

We have a lot of community support and funding from Maryland State Arts Council and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Harford Mutual provides a generous donation every year. In turn, we volunteer time for theater-related community and educational programs. Recently, we donated \$1,000 to SARC Harford County after our first annual V-Day production.

You said that your current venue at the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston holds about 30 audience members.

We are definitely smaller than most! Some people might look at that as bad, but I see it as good. We have a more personal relationship with the audience. Everyone in the audience is getting attention from the actors on stage and the staff. We often do “talk backs” after shows so we have a lot more public interaction than most.

What’s coming this season?

In August, we open with *Dark Play or Stories for Boys*. It’s an original play by Carlos Murillo and focuses on a boy who has made a life for himself by lying about things. He befriends someone on the Internet and the story gets more and more complicated. To what result? Come to the play and see!

In November, we present our annual Brave New Works Festival, which premieres five original plays written by our own BOOM members. It’s innovative theater that you won’t see elsewhere, even in Baltimore.

Finally, in May 2017, we will round out the season with *Hedda Gabler*, by Henrik Ibsen. It’s a very famous classic about a woman in the Victorian era who is tired of the restrictions placed on her. She enjoys stirring up scandal and that’s pretty much what she does throughout the whole play.



New director Joshua Fletcher joins cast members Victoria Scott and Ashley Harris before a recent performance at their home base, the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston, located at 1127 Old Fallston Road.

Final thoughts?

I just want to say to people who may be thinking of traveling elsewhere for theater: Trust me, you want to come to one of our shows. There is a lot of heart, a lot of talent, a lot of something here in Harford County. It really is here and people should come out and see.

Bel Air's future is looking up, as Town officials look at ways to match needs of residents and businesses with inevitable change

By Town Administrator Jesse Bane



Two recent documents will play a major role in the future direction of the Town of Bel Air. They are the Real Estate Market Analysis (commonly known as the Market Study) and the Town of Bel Air's Comprehensive Plan. Since the Comprehensive Plan will remain in draft form until approved by the Commissioners, a focus on the Market Study would be most appropriate at this time.

The document itself is rather lengthy (99 pages) and loaded with data. The conclusion should come as no surprise to those of us who work and live here: "Future market conditions in Bel Air are favorable for growth and there are great opportunities on the horizon."

According to the study, "... there is a tremendous opportunity to build on the strengths of the community and elevate the Town into a vibrant arts and entertainment destination, while maintaining the Town's character and attractive qualities, including single-family homes and green space." It further concludes that "Bel Air's downtown is well-positioned to be the epicenter of this transformation consisting of new restaurants, boutique destination retail establishments, entertainment venues, and upscale housing units."

It also states that Bel Air's future growth "... will depend on vertical growth (taller buildings and greater densities) and horizontal growth (annexation of strategic sites adjacent to the Town's boundaries)."

To capitalize on opportunities identified in the study, the authors (Camoin Associates) prepared a series of recommendations to assist the Town in its planning, to include developing a strong vision for the town:

- revitalize key commercial areas
- attract new restaurants to Town, especially upscale establishments
- Establish good communication and exchange of information with business owners and potential new property developers
- market the Town to visitors and businesses, and
- continue to improve the downtown atmosphere.



This is but a thumbnail sketch of the market study contents. There is so much more we could talk about but limitations on space for this article will not allow it.

For more information, please contact Town Hall or the Downtown Alliance. You can review the Real Estate Marketing Analysis at www.belairmd.org. We look forward to your questions, comments and concerns.

The 2016 Bel Air Independence Day Celebration: HONORING OUR HOME-TOWN HEROES!

Monday, July 4th, 2016 • Bel Air, Maryland

For full details, registration times and more information, please call (410) 893-4444
or visit our web site at www.BelAirJuly4.org



At Bel Air High School

- 6:45 am: Flag Raising Ceremony
- 7:00-11:30 am: Blueberry Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

6:00 pm: Bel Air INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

- Begins at Idlewild & S. Main — Ends at N. Main & Gordon!
- Reviewing Stand at the County Office Building!

At Rockfield Ball Park

- 8:00 am: Flag Ceremony
- 8:30 am: Horseshoe Pitching

At the Hays House

- 8:45 am: Flag Ceremony
- 9:00 am - noon: Tours; Activities; Catherine Street Consort



9:30 pm (approx.):

Bel Air JULY 4 FIREWORKS DISPLAY over Rockfield Ball Park



At Shamrock Park - Family Fun Activities!

- 8:45 am: Flag Ceremony
- 9:00 am - 12 noon: Face Painting
- 9:00 am: Water Balloon Toss
- 10:00 am: Costume Contest
- 11:00 am: Uncle Sam Says
- 11:00 am: Bicycle Rodeo (at Bel Air Elementary School)
- 11:30 am: Watermelon Eating (at Shamrock Park)



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