



A quarterly publication from the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

www.belairmd.org



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Police department welcomes Officer Hendren back on shift

For Officer First Class Kayhla Hendren, November 20, 2013 couldn't have been more routine. She was directing traffic at Williams Street and W. Broadway around a fire scene. Without warning, a vehicle turned the corner and struck her knee. She fell backward to the ground and the car rolled over the right side of her body. A typical day on the job became one that changed the next three years of her life.

The story of Hendren's determination to return to the emotionally and physically demanding work of a police officer after her extensive injuries is one that is already the stuff of legend around the Bel Air Police Department.

"There were a lot of skeptics out there who didn't believe she could come back," says Police Chief Charles Moore. "She's proven them all wrong."

"I am stubborn," adds Hendren, who began telling people that she wanted to be a career police officer as far back as kindergarten.

The force of the vehicle was so great that it destroyed her firearm.

(Cont. on p. 3)



Officer Kayhla Hendren smiles as she reports to work for the first time since she was injured while directing traffic at a fire scene.

Dear Neighbors,

“Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.” — Lauren DeStefano

Bel Air is celebrating the year’s grand finale with all sorts of colorful sights, smells, sounds and sensational things to do!

Are food and dancing your interests? October 7 is the **Final First Friday in Downtown Bel Air**. Enjoy local live music, beer, wine and food from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A **Halloween Dance Party** for infants through five years old will take place in the Children’s Department at the Bel Air Library on October 29. Later that evening, adults are invited to wear Halloween costumes to a **Fall Fling Big Band Dance** at the Bel Air Armory. Finally, meet author **Becky Diamond** on November 20 at the Bel Air Library and explore *The Thousand Dollar Dinner*, the story of the 19th-century culinary challenge that helped launch fine restaurant dining in America as we know it today.

Movies anyone? Join us for the annual **Bel Air Film Festival** from October 13 - 15. We are proud to present fascinating, high-caliber films, followed by open discussion. This year’s line-up includes *Dark Horse, Landfill Harmonic, Advanced Style, and Miss Sharon Jones!*

Shopping? The Bel Air Library has a **book sale** on Oct. 7 and 8. **The Belle Aire Market** at Armory Marketplace on October 9 features antiques and artisan items. Special savings and incredible buys will be offered at our **Small Business Saturday** in downtown Bel Air on November 26. Support our unique stores at Harford Mall, Bel Air Plaza, Bel Air Town Center and Tollgate Marketplace. One of my favorite places to buy gifts that keep on giving – books and one-of-a-kind art pieces – is the **Authors & Artists Holiday Gift Sale** at the Bel Air Armory on December 3.

Finally, please kick off your holiday season with the commissioners and me at our annual **Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting** on December 4. It begins with a concert at 2:30 p.m. on Main Street and ends with a community bonfire, sing-along and tree lighting.

I hope you have had a good year in Bel Air! We are very grateful for our dedicated and capable staff working for us at Town Hall in the departments of Administration, Economic Development, Finance, Planning, Police and Public Works. If you are one of our hundreds of volunteers, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. We have a strong and beautiful Town due to your generous giving of time and talents.

Autumn is the perfect finale for another year in the **Heart of Harford**.

Sincerely, Mayor Susan Burdette

ON THE COVER:

Three years after being injured in a line-of-duty accident, Ofc. Kayhla Hendren (at right with back to camera) returned to work. Co-workers, including her shift partners, welcomed her as she drove into the Bel Air Police Department’s parking lot that day. They are Cpl. Sergio D’Alto, Sgt. Frank Krick, Cpl. David Madden and Ofc. John Ganovski.



Board of Town Commissioners



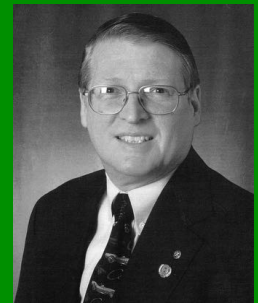
Susan U. Burdette



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Robert M. Preston



Patrick T. Richards



Bel Air officers saluted Officer Kayhla Hendren when she drove into the police parking lot on her first day back to work.

(Cont. from p.1)

Police and medical response colleagues, already on scene for the fire call, called for the helicopter transport from Bel Air High School to R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

Medical staff took stock of her injuries: shattered right ankle, partially torn posterior cruciate ligament of the right knee and a damaged flexor tendon in the right elbow. Most troublesome, though, was the concussion that caused an almost complete vision loss and cognitive difficulties for two months.

Inpatient rehabilitation after discharge from the hospital was out of the question, says Hendren, who is married and had a three-year-old daughter and a 7-month-old son at the time.

Instead, she embarked on months of grueling physical therapy, several major surgeries and chronic pain.

Colleagues rallied to help her. The Bel Air Police Association donated a recliner, which provided a place for her to recuperate at home. They organized meal deliveries and drove Hendren to physical therapy and medical appointments.

Doctors often implied that she had reached “maximal medical improvement.” That meant only one thing to Hendren: an end to her law enforcement career. She credits physical therapist David Barringer and physical therapist assistant Nicole Dodson at Drayer Physical Therapy for rallying behind her: “They told me that, as long as I was in the fight, they were in the fight.”

“Returning to full duty as a police officer is not something that is taken lightly,” says Chief Moore. “We have to make sure that she can take care of herself as well as all of us.”

Once medically stabilized, Hendren underwent four hours a day of work conditioning that included running on the treadmill while wearing 30 pounds of police gear, weightlifting and strength training. In addition, she was required to catch up on all training including firearm certifications.

“I wanted my children to see that you work hard for something that you want,” says Hendren. “I wasn’t going to let one incident control the rest of my life.”

Chief Moore and the entire force were on hand to welcome her back to work: “It’s a victory for her and for us.”

Community Collection

FOR A CAUSE

Saturday, October 1
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Bel Air High School Parking Lot

More than just recycling – it is Upcycling!

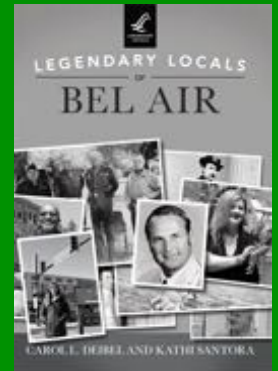
Find a new home for your unwanted things and do your part to help save resources for the next generation. Contributors are invited to bring a single car load consisting only of items outlined below for recycling, refurbishment or reuse

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



What do former Bel Air High School Coach Al Cesky, Diane Lyn of 101.9, Olympic skater Kimmie Meissner and John Wilkes Booth have in common?

All grace the cover of *Legendary Locals of Bel Air* authored by Carol Deibel, retired Director of Planning for the Town of Bel Air, and Kathi Santora, editor of the *Bel Air Bond*. Meet more than 100 unique people, past and present, who have made a lasting impact on Bel Air.



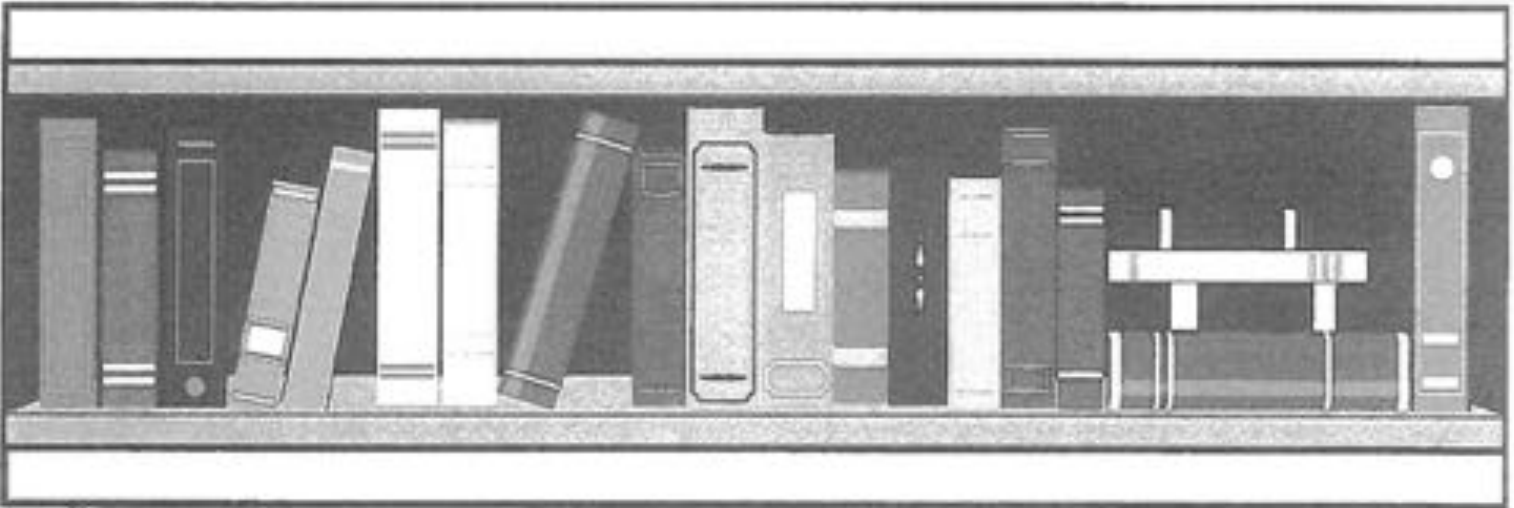
Support local businesses and purchase it at Preston’s Stationery and Two Sisters Gallery.

Walk this way: Two artful crosswalks boost library and walking trail safety

Two new crosswalks recently appeared in the Town of Bel Air. It's safe to say that you won't see anything like them elsewhere.

- The MA & PA Trail is the most frequently-visited public outdoor space in Harford County. A new crosswalk at the intersection of Williams and Ellendale Streets will help usher these visitors onto the trail. The crosswalk design was a collaboration between the Harford County Department Parks & Recreation and Full House Press. It is based on the logo from the MA & PA Heritage Trail, Inc., which supports and advocates for the trail.
- The Town of Bel Air partnered with the Harford County Public Library to create an artful solution to a pedestrian crossing on busy Pennsylvania Avenue near the Bel Air branch library entrance. A book-themed crosswalk fits the spirit of the library and provides an eye-catching reminder to motorists.

Town staff worked with Full House Press and Harford County Public Library to create an image that would reflect the nature of the services the library provides. The result is an image of a bookcase filled with various books at different sizes and colors. This project also fulfills the goals of the arts and entertainment district and those of the newly adopted Comprehensive Plan.



Department of Public Works: Leave leaves (and grass clippings) for us

The Town of Bel Air Department of Public Works reminds residents and commercial mowers that Town Code prohibits sweeping or depositing lawn clippings or leaves in streets, sidewalks, gutters or other portions of the storm water system.

Though it can seem harmless, the practice has serious and far-reaching consequences. Streets and gutters flow into the storm water drainage system that flows into area streams and, eventually, the Chesapeake Bay. Grass clippings contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in waterways. This can take much needed oxygen away from fish. In addition, disposing of grass clippings or leaves in the street or other portions of the storm water drainage system can create flooding, which potentially could result in property damage.

When mowing the first few passes with the lawnmower, blow grass clippings into the lawn, not the street. If there are grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to move leaves back into the lawn. Remember, grass clippings add free fertilizer to your lawn, so it's best to let the clippings lay on the lawn instead of bagging or blowing them into the streets.



The Town of Bel Air collects loose leaves from October 1st to December 31st and the first full two weeks in April. The leaves should be raked just to the back of the curb or sidewalk and not into the street.

Please consult your Town Recycling Calendar for more information on all Town recycling and refuse collections or you can visit the Town web site at www.belairmd.org under Public Works for more information.

Bel Air's first community garden concludes a bountiful season

Thanks to an agreement that included government, non-profit, business and church partners, the Bel Air Community Garden provided 32 locals with a place to grow vegetables and flowers this past summer.

The garden, located on St. Matthew Lutheran Church property, came together after Pastor Blaise Sedney read the section of the Town's Comprehensive Plan that addressed healthy living. He realized that the church included several unused acres that had potential.

Last spring, a local farmer plowed the area and church members and other volunteers prepared the soil. With support from the Greater Bel Air Community Foundation, Constellation and Home Depot, the garden took shape. Throughout the summer, plots filled with corn stalks, rows of zinnias and sunflowers, pumpkins and a variety of summer vegetables.

The Town and St. Matthew Lutheran Church expect to continue the garden project next season.



Reverend Blaise Sedney (l) and Julie McDonnell of St. Matthew Lutheran Church worked with parishioners, neighbor and local businesses to initiate the Bel Air Community Garden.

Frequently visited venues

Bel Air Armory
37 N. Main St.

**Harford County Public Library
Bel Air Branch**
100 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

Harford Artists Gallery
Armory Marketplace
37 N. Main St. Suite #104

Hays House Museum
324 Kenmore Ave.

Historical Society of Harford County
143 N. Main St.

Liriodendron Gallery
502 W Gordon St.

Rockfield Manor
501 E. Churchville Rd

SEPTEMBER

Sunday September 18 – Sunday October 23
IMPRESSIONS OF HARFORD AND BEYOND
Liriodendron Gallery
Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays
1:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Five women who are artists and friends -
Barbara Love, Robin Capecci, Sandra Norris,
Barbara Kirchner and Alexandra Kopp - tell
their stories of experiences, travels and
paintings. Sponsor: Harford Artists
Association, 410-879-4424,
www.liriodendron.com

Friday 23
LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Bel Air High School Jazz Ensemble & Chorus
Office Street near the Courthouse
Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Lunchtime concert with food vendors
available; tables and chairs provided.
Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Admission: Free.
410-638-4550, www.belairmd.org

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! Quench your
thirst and hoist a stein in the Oktoberfest
Beer Garden. Sample premium wines and
feast upon gourmet food from Pairings
Bistro in the VIP area. 410-638-4565 or
www.harfordcountywinefest.com

Sunday 25
BEN FRANKLIN SPEAKS
Hays House Museum
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Interpreter David Fisher
portrays Ben Franklin in the days of the
signing of the US Constitution. Adults \$5,
Students & Seniors \$3, Children under 4,
free. 410-838-7691

OCTOBER

Wednesday 5
HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2016 ANNUAL DINNER
Guest of honor is guest of honor is Richard
Schumann as Patrick Henry.
www.harfordhistory.org, 410-838-7691

Thursdays 6, 13, 20 & 27
ROCKING CHAIR STORY TIME
Rockfield Manor, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Each week, local officials and celebrities will
read exciting stories to children 5 and under.
Meet local leaders and celebrate the
community! Depending on the weather,
readings take place on the patio or fireside
in the Manor. A simple craft will be provided
for children to take home. The October 27th
story time will be a “Not So Spooky” story
time! Costumes welcome. Children must be
accompanied by an adult. Admission: free.
Registration required. Sponsors: Rockfield
Manor and Harford County Public Library.
410-638-4565 or www.rockfieldmanor.com/
events.

Thursday 6
BOOK SALE/Members Only Night
Harford County Public Library, Bel Air
Branch, 5:00 – 7:30 pm.
Paperback, hardback and children’s books.
Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library.
410-638-3151

Friday 7
FINAL FIRST FRIDAY OF 2016!
Downtown Bel Air Parking Lot (next to
Harford County Sheriff’s Office)
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wrap up the warm weather season with
local live music, beer and wine, food
vendors. www.downtownbelair.com

Friday 7 – Saturday 8
BOOK SALE
Harford County Public Library
Bel Air Branch, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Paperback, hardback and children’s books.
Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library.
410-638-3151

Sunday 9
THE BELLE AIRE MARKET
**Armory Marketplace (Behind Bel Air
Armory)**
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
A regular seasonal open air
market featuring antiques and finely crafted
artisan items. The Belle Aire Market evokes
feelings of a Parisian bazaar right here in
Downtown Bel Air. Sponsor: The Painted
Mill. www.belairmaryland.org

Sunday 9
THE ART OF HEARTH COOKING
Hays House Museum, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Experience the sounds and aromas of
seasonal foods prepared at the hearth by
Pam Williams, an 18th-century culinary
history interpreter. Adults \$5, Students &
Seniors \$3, Children under 4, free.
410-838-7691, www.harfordhistory.org

Sunday 9
BOOK SALE/\$5 Per Bag Day
Harford County Public Library
Bel Air Branch, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Paperback, hardback and children’s books.
Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library.
410-638-3151



Tuesday 11

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

Historical Society of Harford County

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Learn about genealogy with Mary K.

Worthington. Bring your lunch, beverages

provided. Free. 410-838-7691

Saturday, October 15

HISTORY ON PARADE

Historical Society of Harford County,

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Exhibits from area

museums including the Junius Booth Society

and Tudor Hall, Lock House Museum,

Maritime Museum, Decoy Museum,

Jerusalem Mill, the Northern Chesapeake

Archeological Society and more.

www.HarfordHistory.org, 410-838-7691.

Thursday 13 – Saturday 15

TOWN OF BEL AIR FILM FESTIVAL

Bel Air Armory

Must-see films and special guests. \$5 per

film includes popcorn and a drink. A \$10 All-

access Pass is also available. Children under

10, free. www.townofbelairfilmfestival.com

or 410-838-0584

Sunday 23

CHILDREN'S COLONIAL GAMES DAY

Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Ave.

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

An afternoon of games and activities for the

whole family. Board games and, weather

permitting, outdoor activities enjoyed by our

forefathers. Adults \$5, Students & Seniors

\$3, Children under 4, free. 410-838-7691

Friday 28 – Friday Dec. 23

AROUND THE WORLD

Harford Artists' Gallery

Gallery hours: Friday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. –

5:00 p.m.

All works are created by local artists

featuring paintings, photography, pottery

and jewelry. Reception: November 12th

from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. 410-420-9499,

www.artinharford.org

Saturday 29

FALL FLING BIG BAND DANCE

Bel Air Armory, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Live big band dance music by the Bel Air

Community Band Jazz Ensemble. Food, beer

and wine available for sale. Halloween

costumes welcome. Free. Sponsor: Town of

Bel Air, Harford County Cultural Arts Board

and the Maryland State Arts Council.

410-638-5323

Sunday 30 – Sunday December 11

SCAPES BY CINDY MEHR

Liriodendron Gallery, Sundays 1:00 – 4:00

p.m.; Wednesdays 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

This solo exhibit features a series of oil

paintings that are inspired by silly putty

sculptures and scraps of realistic images.

410-879-4424, www.liriodendron.com

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5

ARCHER LECTURE & TEA

The Historical Society of Harford County,

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. *From Debutante to Activist*

to Peace and Social Justice: The Life of

Adelaide N. Noyes presented by historian

Jim Chrismer 410-838-7691,

www.harfordhistory.org

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

Historical Society of Harford County

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Diamonds: Myth, Mystery and Reality by

Bob Rich, Saxon's Jewelers. Bring your lunch,

beverages provided. Free. 410-838-7691

Friday 25

CCA "WINE" DOWN SOCIAL

Bel Air Armory, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy a glass of wine and light hors

d'oeuvres while listening to seasonal music

and previewing this year's decorated trees.

www.uchfoundation.org

Saturday 26

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IN

DOWNTOWN BEL AIR

See all that downtown has to offer with

special savings and incredible service at all

businesses. Great food, drink and plenty to

see and do. See www.downtownbelair.com

or Facebook for up-to-date information.

Saturday 26 – Sunday 27

CCA FESTIVAL OF TREES

Bel Air Armory, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00

p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Beautifully decorated trees, wreaths and

gingerbread houses, available by silent

auction. Gift boutiques, bake sale, fresh

greens and children's crafts and

entertainment. Adult \$7. Children 12 and

under, free. Sponsor: Chesapeake Cancer

Alliance. 410-836-7226 or

www.uchfoundation.org

DECEMBER

Thursday 1

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND HOLIDAY

HAPPY HOUR

Rockfield Manor, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Kick off

the holidays with Rockfield Manor's

Christmas tree lighting and holly jolly happy

hour! Enjoy the Manor's festive décor while

sipping warm wassail, grazing on savory

snacks and listening to Christmas carols. \$10

per person. Tickets at 410-638-4565 or

www.rockfieldmanor.com

Friday 2

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Historical Society of Harford County,

7 - 10:00 p.m. Holiday kickoff with tree

display, wassail, music and camaraderie.

Saturday 3

AUTHORS & ARTISTS HOLIDAY GIFT SALE

Bel Air Armory, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Meet

local authors and artists from many different

genres and find one-of-a-kind gifts for

everyone on your list. Free gift wrapping,

courtesy Bel Air Downtown Alliance.

Admission: Free. 410-838-0854

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND GREENS SALE

Hays House Museum, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The museum is richly arrayed in natural

holiday decorations. On-site greens sale

cosponsored by Hays House and the Country

Garden Club of Harford County. On Sunday,

music by the Catherine Street Consort. Free.

410-838-7691

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & SALE

Harford Artists' Gallery

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. All works created by

local artists featuring paintings,

photography, pottery and jewelry.

410-420-9499, www.artinharford.org

Sunday 4

27th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING

Downtown Bel Air. Concert on Main Street in front of the Courthouse at 2:30 p.m. Parade begins at 3:30 p.m. (down Main Street to Lee Street to Shamrock Park). Community bonfire and singalong in Shamrock Park with free cookies and hot chocolate at 4:00 p.m. Tree lighting at Town Hall at 4:45 p.m. Scheduled to appear: Stilt walkers, acrobats, local high school marching bands, costumed characters and mascots, beauty queens, performance units, dancers, floats, musical groups and some special equestrian guests, ending with The Living Christmas Tree and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus! Event is weather permitting. In case of bad weather, the event will be cancelled and not rescheduled.

Tuesday 6

BEL AIR COMMUNITY CHORUS

PRESENTS: *THERE IS A FAINT MUSIC*

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe St., 3:00 p.m. Free winter concert. 443-910-2658

Sunday 11

BEL AIR COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe St., 3:00 p.m. This 85-member concert band will perform quality popular seasonal music for all ages. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Admission is free.

Thursday 15

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. A night of shopping, discounts, food and drink specials in downtown Bel Air. See www.downtownbelair.com or Facebook for up-to-date information.

Saturday 17

WINTER CONCERT

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1200 Churchville Road, 7:30 p.m. The Harford Choral Society sings music from Handel’s Messiah; seasonal classics with vocal soloists. \$25 adult, \$20 senior, \$10 student, under 12 free. Online and advance tickets discounted. 410-734-7974

Sunday 18

10th ANNUAL MERRY TUBA CHRISTMAS

Bel Air High School
Registration 2:00 p.m.; Rehearsal 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.; Doors open 4:30 p.m.; Performance 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Bring your tubas, euphoniums and baritone horns! Registration: \$5; Music \$15 (unless you have music from a previous Tuba Christmas event). Free for audience. Bring a music stand, dress festively and decorate your instrument.

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>

Library celebrates reading and local heritage



Bel Air Town administrator Jesse Bane (l) and Mayor Susan Burdette (2nd from r) joined Delegate Susan McComas, Alex M. Allman, Chair of the Harford County Public Library board of trustees, Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Public Library and Harford County Councilman Chad Shrodes in the ribbon cutting for the new Bel Air Library Children's Department. Photo by Christine Sullivan.

The newly-renovated children's department at the Bel Air branch of the Harford County Public Library celebrates nature and technology as well as the Harford County heritage of its youngest patrons.

"I am grateful that Harford County Public Library CEO Mary Hastler, the library's Board of Trustees, its staff, county elected officials and the many sponsors had the vision for this extraordinary place and recognize the value of library service to children," says Mayor Susan Burdette.

Geared toward children from birth to middle school, the space includes a 19-foot sculptured steel tree, technology lab equipment, a town square with a Harford County heritage focus and a reading garden.

Sculptors hand-painted and hand-finished the NatureMaker tree, which includes a whimsical collection of carved initials. Birds, squirrels, a raccoon, an owl, a frog and a butterfly also make the tree their home.

StreamWorks is geared toward middle-school children. It features 3-D printers (including an art 3-D printer), maker space and comfortable seating.

The Harford County heritage theme is displayed in town square buildings such as a post office, a general store, and livery and blacksmith. Each area provides interactive play experiences.

In another nod to local heritage, children and caregivers can "hop aboard" a replica Ma & Pa Railroad and read their way across Harford County.

"We want young families to live, work and play in here in Bel Air," says Mayor Burdette.

Have you moved?

Haven't received your tax bill yet? Has your mailing address recently changed? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, then please contact the State



Department of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT) at 410-836-4800 in order to provide them with your new mailing address. For real estate tax purposes, the SDAT maintains the permanent property record; therefore, if your mailing address is different than your property address, you will need to contact them to make this change. Once you have contacted SDAT, please call the Town's Finance Department at 410-638-4555 with the same information in order to change the sewer record.



Town of Bel Air Holiday Events

Festival of Trees, Bel Air Armory
November 25, 26 & 27

Authors & Artists Holiday Gift Sale
Bel Air Armory
December 3

Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting
December 4

Merry Tuba Christmas
Bel Air High School
December 18

Check details at www.belairmd.org or 410-638-4550

Bel Air moves to enhance security at Town Hall without impact on customer service
By Town Administrator Jesse Bane

Coming from a law enforcement background with 42 years’ experience in working to keep citizens and businesses safe, I was quite concerned when I came to Town Hall last year with the safety and security of our employees as they conducted business on a daily basis. The employees, too, expressed concerns to me regarding their safety given the recent history of attacks on government offices and personnel.

On several occasions, it became necessary for me or a member of the police department to escort persons from the building who were combative or disorderly to the detriment of both the employees and others who came to Town Hall with the expectation of conducting business in a safe and civil environment.

We recently conducted a work session at Town Hall in which a local architect presented recommendations that would alter the way we greet residents and those who do business with the Town.

While some citizens have commented that changes to our security were long overdue, others have commented that they are sorry to lose the small town atmosphere they enjoy when they walk into Town Hall. Please know every consideration was given to the project and our charge to the architect was that we strike that delicate balance between security and friendly service.

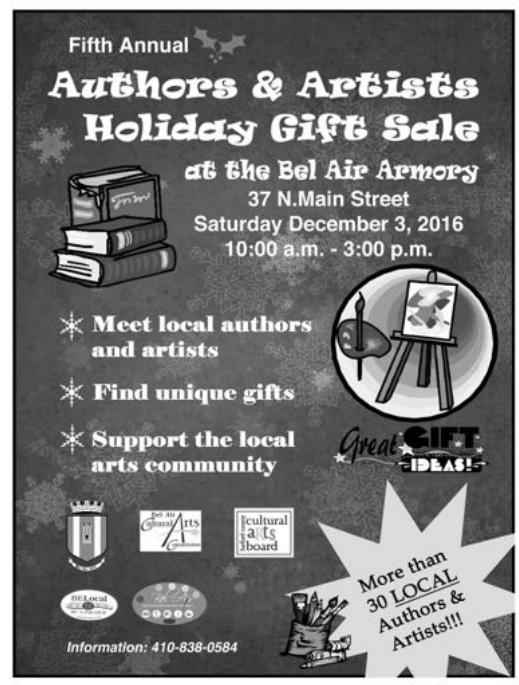
You will find little change to the Rotunda as Town Hall meetings will continue to be conducted in an open environment. What you will notice is the disappearance of the waiting areas when you visit the Finance Office and the Administration Office. Direct contact with the employees will not go away as they will greet and serve you from windows very similar to those you would find in banks. And, you will continue to receive the friendly and professional service to which you have become accustomed. We are even discussing options to provide waiting areas to make your visits to Town Hall more comfortable and inviting on those days when our volume of traffic does not allow us to wait on everyone in a timely fashion.

We ask for your patience when you visit Town Hall over the next several months as construction is scheduled to begin sometime in mid to late September. Once it begins, it should move very quickly.

As always, I value your input. Please feel free to contact me as your concerns are the concerns of the Town also. We want to hear what you have to say.



Enhancements will provide more secure work places for Town staff who work in finance and administration offices. (L to r): Donna Driver, Cheryl Coulter, Cindy Pierpoint, John Bentkowski and Patti Cassidy.



We've rounded up more than 35 of Harford County's best authors and artists for a one-stop holiday shopping destination. Purchase unique gifts for everyone on your list as well as a few for yourself! On your way out the door, the Bel Air Downtown Alliance will wrap purchases for free.

Shoppers on the hunt for inspired gifts will discover paintings, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, photography, glass ornaments, prints, note cards, artisan gourds and hand-sewn fabrics. Harford's authors cover most fiction and non-fiction genres including historical novels, suspense, genealogy, nature, fine photo journals, children's books as well as local poetry.

New this year, artists from the ARC Northern Chesapeake Region will participate as vendors. They will offer a wide selection of paintings, prints and holiday cards.

Throughout the day performers, including the Bel Air High School Pop Choir, will fill the Bel Air Armory with sounds of the season.

Parking in downtown Bel Air is free that day. Event sponsors are the Town of Bel Air, Harford County Cultural Arts Board, and the Bel Air Downtown Alliance. The event is supported by the Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission and the Bel Air Arts and Entertainment District.

Future is green at Plumtree Run stream bank

A grant of \$411,595 from the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will support a stream bank restoration on a section of Plumtree Run.

Plumtree Run now shows signs of accelerated bed and bank erosion and meander migration. This area is urbanized and in desperate need of restoration to avoid high erosion caused by storm water flows.

The Plumtree Run Stream Bank Restoration project will improve water quality and habitat by incorporating stream restoration, wetland creation and floodplain connectivity. This project will realign approximately 1,240 linear feet of stream channel and 0.10 acres of wetland. This represents a drainage area of 0.37 square miles that is 56.5% impervious. Estimated nutrient loads will be reduced by 97.13 pounds of nitrogen, 85.01 pounds of phosphorous and 57,624.82 pounds of suspended solids per year.

Ecotone, Inc. from Forest Hill will supply the design and construction of the restoration. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2017 and should be fully completed by September 2017.

Towson University (TU) has received a research grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and will work with the Town on the project. As part of their research, they will monitor the restoration site before and after construction. TU students will also follow-up the restoration for one year after the completion of the project to determine if the phosphorus and nitrogen levels have decreased.



Tickets include a soda and popcorn.

TOWN OF BEL AIR FILM FESTIVAL

Comfortable table seating is provided.

October 13-15, 2016

Join us in celebrating the art of filmmaking. We are proud to present fascinating, high caliber films, followed by open discussion.

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Bel Air Armory

37 North Main Street - Bel Air

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