



A quarterly publication from the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

www.belairmd.org



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
RECOGNIZES BEL  
AIR POLICE WORK  
PAGE 5**



**ENTREPRENEURS  
COMING HOME  
AGAIN PAGE 9**



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
PAGES 6 - 7**



**ABOUT THE MA &  
PA CONNECTION  
PAGE 10**



## Bel Air Armory heads into 2017 with a bustling calendar and new manager

It's a safe bet that any Town of Bel Air resident and business owner has done business with Cheryl Coulter. For close to 28 years, Coulter was the face and voice of the Department of Public Works, where her duties included answering telephone inquiries and issuing Use & Occupancy Permits to new businesses. For the last two years, Coulter was usually the first face that greeted visitors to Town Hall as the go-to administrative support person in the Department of Administration and Human Resources.

Her new position as the Events Manager at the Bel Air Armory is yet another chapter in Coulter's Town of Bel Air career. Helping the 200+ events that take place at the Bel Air Armory each year come to life is tailor-made for someone who thrives on organization and planning.



**Cheryl Coulter was recently appointed as the Bel Air Armory Events Manager.**

"Cheryl is a dedicated civil servant who has a reputation for going above and beyond the call of duty," says Michael Krantz, Director of Administration. "She often makes valuable suggestions that make events that much more special. Her attention to detail is much appreciated." (Cont. Page 3)

Dear Neighbors,

The Town’s Department of Public Works and Police Department are ready to serve and protect you through the next few months of busy events and winter weather. Communication is such an important part of keeping everyone safe and informed. Here are some important phone numbers and websites for contact information registration. We will work to make sure that you are notified and well-informed.

**County and Town emergency alerts by phone, texts and emails**

- If you have a published (phone book) home telephone number, you are automatically in the system.
- If you have a private/unpublished home phone or a cell phone, you must register your information with a computer (see below) or by calling Ms. Linda Ploener, Branch Manager of Emergency Preparedness and Planning at the Harford County Department of Emergency Services (410-638-4029.) If you get her voicemail, leave your name, full street address, phone numbers and email address.
- If you would like to register by computer, visit [www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org) and click on EMERGENCY ALERTS. Register your phone number and email address.

Remember, in addition to the above alert system, if you want to receive Town emails or text messages about bid postings, job openings, News Flashes, Calendar Events and committee and commission agendas, you may subscribe online. Visit [www.belairmd.org](http://www.belairmd.org), click on NOTIFY ME and easily subscribe to these many notifications.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy 2017.

Sincerely, Mayor Susan Burdette

P.S.: Here is one of my favorite quotes about the winter season:

Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.  
 Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.  
 Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.  
*Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.*  
 — Yoko Ono

**Spring 2017 arrives on Monday  
March 20.**

In the meantime, check page 12 for snow survival tips from the Bel Air Department of Public Works.



**Board of Town  
Commissioners**



Susan U. Burdette



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Robert M. Preston



Patrick T. Richards

## The Armory and the Town of Bel Air

(Cont. from Page 1)

Few buildings in town generate a range of emotions and memories like the Milton A. Reckord Armory. It was originally constructed in 1915 as a home for Company D of the First Maryland Regiment of the Maryland National Guard. In the following years, residents visited the armory to enlist in the service, attend patriotic festivals and speeches, train for military service and cheer the end of world wars.

Early on, though, the Armory also was a community gathering place that hosted proms, concerts, operas, art shows, plays, musical recitals and meetings. The Harford County Library and the Department of Motor Vehicles have called it home at several points over the years.

“Most people who have been living here for a while have a memory associated with the Armory,” says Coulter.

She herself recalls testing for a first driver’s license years ago at the Armory. As the new manager, she now sees a promising future of continued community events and making memories, especially for the people who call Bel Air home.

“This space is part of our community. It is available to groups, businesses as well as anyone around town who wants to host a party or event and does not have that space at home,” Coulter adds.

### Want to book the Armory?

Coulter answers as many as five inquiries a day about reserving space for events. She believes that the competitive price range and the building’s capacity (up to 400 people, depending on the event configuration) makes the Armory a fit for small businesses, families and nonprofits.

She notes that Frederick Ward Park at the Bel Air Armory is a public park and has a garden, stage, table and chairs. It is available to reserve as an in-town green space for event photos and small gatherings. As a public space, however, it must remain accessible for pedestrian traffic through the park during events.

For more information on reserving, catering guidelines, support services and costs, contact Cheryl Coulter at 410-638-4506 or [ccoulter@belairmd.org](mailto:ccoulter@belairmd.org). The Armory accommodates personal and corporate parties, trade shows, business meetings, weddings, art shows, bull and oyster roasts, auctions and more.



## Harford Artists add new dimension to Armory Marketplace in 2017

by Angela Robertson, Grants/Economic Development Coordinator

Now in its sixth year as a designated Arts and Entertainment (A & E) District, Bel Air is a hub for cultural and arts events. The 2017 calendar for the A & E District shows Bel Air is filled with great opportunities, including a variety of festivals, lectures and outdoor concerts. Economic Development Coordinator Angela Robertson recently talked with Alex Kopp, who leads the marketing and publicity efforts for Harford Artists' Gallery. Here is what Alex had to say about what's coming up with the Harford Artists Association (HAA):

***Harford Artists Gallery has been a part of the A & E District since it was designated in 2011. What sort of response have you seen from the community regarding your move from Rockfield Cottage to Armory Marketplace on Main Street?***

The response from the community has been wonderful. Many of our guests have commented that they are so excited about our expanded gallery in the new location and the businesses have also been very welcoming. We partner with the Town and the Downtown Alliance and are very engaged in activities that happen downtown. In 2017, we will start offering workshops that will be open to the community and further engage the community.

***In January, HAA opens their second exhibit, *Starving Artists*, in the new space at Armory Marketplace. Where did the idea for a *Starving Artists* exhibit originate? What will your customers likely see when they visit the exhibit?***

January and February are traditionally slow retail months following the holidays. We started the *Starving Artists* exhibit as a great way for customers to purchase local artwork at wonderful prices. All of the artwork at the exhibit will be priced \$99 or less. People can expect to see the gallery filled with all types of artwork including painting and photography, some framed and hanging on the wall, others unframed, as well as sculpture, pottery and artisan jewelry. This is our fifth year for the *Starving Artists* show and each year has grown in popularity. The exhibit runs from January 5th through February 26th; gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Alex Kopp, Harford Artists' Association

***As a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for HAA, I understand you are hosting a big event in April for the community. Can you tell me more about that?***

We are hosting an event at the Armory on Friday, April 28th, featuring Victoria Wyeth, granddaughter of Andrew Wyeth. The *Wyeth on Wyeth* event will include a meet and greet with Victoria followed by a presentation with an introspective look at the artwork and life of her grandfather. To complement the lecture, the gallery will be hosting a *Wine, Wyeth & Chocolate* open house with a Wyeth-inspired gallery exhibit. Tickets are \$45 and include the lecture, meet and greet, gallery open house and catered refreshments. They can be purchased at the Harford Artists Gallery or by downloading the order form at [www.artinharford.org](http://www.artinharford.org). There will also be a selection of limited edition Andrew Wyeth numbered prints and signed prints for sale during the event.

**Harford Artists Gallery and Association is a non-profit organization completely run by volunteers. The goal of HAA is to promote the visual arts in Harford County and support the arts community through exhibits, education and community involvement. All artwork exhibited at the gallery is created by Harford County artists.**

## Liriodendron Gallery welcomes Harford County Public Schools students to art show

For the second year, art and music created by Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) students enrolled in fine arts classes will fill the galleries at Liriodendron.

The Annual Young Artists Showcase will take place on Wednesdays and Sundays between March 12 and April 9 and coincides with Youth Art Month, a celebration of the visual arts in America's schools. On many exhibit days, HCPS music students will present live performances. Exploration Art School is also participating.

Liriodendron was the summer home for the family of Dr. Howard Kelly, one of the four founding physicians of Johns Hopkins Hospital, his wife Laetitia and their nine children. "It was Dr. Kelly's wish that the mansion be used by the community. One of our goals is to continually invite people and children into a home that was always filled with the fun and laughter of children. This show provides such a wonderful and important opportunity for the community to support children and their expression through beautiful art," said Liriodendron Gallery Director Mary Jane Blasi.

Teachers in HCPS's fine arts program say that bringing art from the classrooms into the community is both a learning experience and as well as a source of pride.

"We try to create opportunities for students to experience the joy and love of seeing their work displayed (to the public)," says Jeffrey Winfield, Supervisor of Fine Arts for the HCPS. "Arts based education helps our students to become career and college ready."

**There will be a free reception that is open to the public on Sunday March 12. Gallery hours are Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. Admission is free; the opening day reception on March 12 is also free and open to all.**



The Annual Young Artists Showcase will highlight art from a wide variety of media and includes submissions from students from Pre-K to high school.

Have you ever been to First Fridays in Bel Air? How about a Summer Movie Night? You have, without a doubt, heard about the Maryland State BBQ Bash. The Bel Air Downtown Alliance, in partnership with the Town of Bel Air, organizes these, and many other events.

While the Alliance knows how to bring people into Bel Air for a good time, we do so much more than that. For over fifteen years, the Bel Air Downtown Alliance has worked toward a sustainable community in which people want to live, work, and play. We aim to attract and welcome diverse neighborhoods where parks, schools and commercial centers are vibrant assets that enrich the quality of life. Aren't you proud to live in such a great community? The Alliance's work with the Maryland Main Street Program is putting Bel Air on the map as a destination!

In 2017 we look forward to receiving nonprofit accreditation, applying for and seeing the results of grant funding like the Façade Improvement Grant, growing event repertoire, increasing membership, and cultivating new businesses for Downtown Bel Air. We will finalize the Heart of Harford Public Art Project, and start the Main Street Bike Rack and Kiosk programs, among many other things. You can be a part of all the excitement! Connect with us at [downtownbelair.com](http://downtownbelair.com) and learn how you can get involved.

A message from . . .

**BELAIR Downtown Alliance**

**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.

**JANUARY**

Now through February 26

**STARVING ARTISTS ART SHOW AND SALE**

Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace

All artwork created by local artists is \$99 or less. Reception January 14th, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Gallery hours: Thursday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. [www.artinharford.org](http://www.artinharford.org) 410-420-9499

Friday 20

**PETER RABBIT TALES**

Harford Community College – Amoss Center, 7:00 p.m.

In celebration of Beatrix Potter’s 150th birthday anniversary, Enchantment Theatre brings her captivating stories to life. Using fantastic masks, whimsical puppets, gorgeous scenery and original music, the magical, marvelous World of Beatrix Potter comes alive on stage. Admission: \$15 - \$25. 443-412-2211

Sunday 22

**LIVE FROM NASHVILLE**

Harford Community College – Amoss Center, 3:00 p.m.

Phenomenal fiddling, fancy footwork and top-flight vocals as this incredible production direct from Music City features an afternoon of America’s greatest country, folk and patriotic songs. This song-and-dance spectacular will have your toes tapping to music from Roy Acuff, Patsy Cline and Johnny Cash to Ricky Skaggs, Charlie Daniels Band, Garth Brooks, The Judds, Taylor Swift and more!

Admission: \$20 - \$30, 443-412-2211

Sunday 29

**THE WINTER DOLDRUMS: A Sunday Afternoon of Music and Fine Art**

Harford Community College (HCC), Joppa Hall, 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy the HCC music faculty in their annual concert in the Chesapeake Theater.

Following the music performances, stroll over to the Student Center and admire the Fine Arts faculty’s annual exhibit of paintings, sculptures, photographs, digital art and ceramics in the Chesapeake Gallery. Join the HCC Artists in Residence “After Hours” at a reception featuring hot jazz, cool drinks and tasty treats. Admission: \$15. 443-412-2211

**FEBRUARY**

Friday 3 – Sunday 5

**57TH ANNUAL BEL AIR GUN SHOW**

Bel Air Armory  
100+ tables of firearms and outdoors equipment vendors. Ongoing raffles, including for a fishing style kayak raffle and several firearms. Locally catered food available for purchase. Sponsor: Harford County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Friday 5:00 - 9 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Admission: \$10 adults; students under 16 free. 410-303-6145

Wednesday 8 - Sunday 19

**PORTRAITS OF CARE**

Liriodendron Gallery, Sundays 1:00 - 4:00 & Wednesdays 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Photographs by Irna Jay. Black and white photographs representing the clients of the Adult Day Care Center in Bel Air, which has been serving Harford County’s elderly for more than 30 years. Admission: free.

Friday 10

**THE RAINBOW FISH**

Harford Community College, 7:00 p.m.

With her lovely coloring and shimmering scales, the Rainbow Fish is used to being the most beautiful creature in the ocean. So, when the other fish ask her for some silver scales, she refuses. ArtsPower has turned Marcus Pfister’s bestselling book into a touching musical about sharing true friendship with others. Admission: \$15 - \$25. 443-412-2211



Saturday 11 & Tuesday 14

**CANDLELIGHT VALENTINE’S DAY DINNER**

Rockfield Manor

Rockfield Manor hosts its 16th annual Valentine’s Day Dinner catered by Pairings Bistro. Enjoy a perfectly paired menu with great wine in an intimate setting. Live music sets the tone for this romantic evening. For tickets and reservations, contact Pairings Bistro at 410-569-5006. Space is limited.

Saturday 11

**VOICEPLAY**

Harford Community College – Amoss Center, 7:00 p.m.

As seen on Season 4 of NBC’s “The Sing-Off,” VoicePlay performs their own incredible brand of entertainment. What began quite literally as a street corner barbershop act, has now evolved into an internationally acclaimed touring sensation. For all ages. VoicePlay’s recordings and concerts have to be heard to be believed.

Admission \$20 - \$35. 443-412-2211

Tuesday 14

**VALENTINE’S DAY CELEBRATION, A ROMANTIC DINNER IN THE STACKS**

Historical Society of Harford County  
Catered four course meal with select wines chosen to enhance your dining experience and the delightful ambiance of a strolling violinist. Proceeds to help the Society’s Building Restoration Fund. 6:30 p.m. \$70. 410-838-7691, [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org).

Thursday 16

**GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Downtown Bel Air from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Grab your best girlfriends for a night of shopping, discounts, food and drink specials in downtown Bel Air. Follow the Alliance on Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute details. [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Sunday 19

**WINE EXPO 2017**

Harford Community College – APGFCU Arena  
Attend the 18th Annual Winter Wine Expo to sample fine wines from around the world, taste great craft brews and savor delicious food from some of the area’s top restaurants. Must be 21 years old to attend. Admission: \$40. 443-412-2211

**MARCH**

Thursday 2 - Sunday April 30

**WYETH-INSPIRED ART SHOW**

Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace  
Gallery art show with artwork inspired by Andrew Wyeth. Reception: Saturday March 11 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Gallery hours: Thursday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. [www.artinharford.org](http://www.artinharford.org) 410-420-9499

Friday 3 – Sunday April 12

**PHOENIX FESTIVAL THEATER PRESENTS ASSASSINS**

Harford Community College – Chesapeake Center  
March 3, 4, 10 & 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
March 5 & 12 at 2:00 p.m.  
Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by John Weidman, directed by Todd Starkey. *Assassins* is an explosive tale of the American Dream gone awry. A multiple Tony Award-winning musical, *Assassins* combines Sondheim’s brilliant lyricism and rich music in a revue-style tale addressing our nation’s culture of celebrity and the violent means taken to obtain it. Clever, original, dark and surprisingly funny. Admission: \$16 - \$20. 443-412-2211



Saturday 4

**SWEETS ON THE STREETS**

Downtown Bel Air, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
NEW in 2017! *Sweets on the Streets* is a day full of special pop-up shops and local artisans displaying and selling their hand-crafted works. Enjoy Main Street while checking out local confectioners serving up delicious cupcakes, artisan chocolates, gourmet cookies and more. Follow the Bel Air Downtown Alliance on Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute Information. [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Saturday 4

**A MIRACLE OF A SEASON**

Bel Air High School  
Kile Smith – Commissioned Work for the SSO TBA Premiere; Haydn – Symphony No. 96 in D Major, “Miracle”; Elgar – Variations on an Original Theme, Enigma, Op. 36  
7:30 pm.  
Sponsor: Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Admission \$20 adult; \$15 senior; \$10 child/ student. 410-569-2602

Saturday 4

**IRISHMAN’S CHORALE**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
1200 E. Churchville Road  
Doors open: 6:45 p.m.  
Performance: 7:30 p.m.  
Amhranai Na Gaeilge is the only all-male Irish Chorale in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Chorale is dedicated to the preservation of Irish culture and history through music. They perform both traditional and contemporary music by Irish composers and lyricists, as well as patriotic, spiritual, ballad, sea chantey, and fun songs. Sponsor: Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission. Free admission. 410-879-2012 or 410-838-0584

Sunday 12 – Sunday April 9

**HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS YOUNG ARTISTS’ SHOWCASE**

The Liriodendron Gallery

The Gallery kicks off the 2017 season with a second annual children’s art show by students from Harford County Public Schools and Bel Air’s Exploration Art School. Sponsor: The Liriodendron Foundation, Inc. Open Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 410-879-4424

Sunday 12

**IT’S PERSONAL AND PRIVATE**

Hays House Museum, 1:00 – 4:00 pm.  
The Museum opens its 2017 season with a program that looks at cleanliness in the days before indoor plumbing. Presented from the womanly point of view by Kathy Scholl and Susan Wooden. Display of vintage lingerie and undergarments from the historical society’s collection. Adults: \$5, Students & Seniors: \$3, Children under 4, free. Sponsor: Historical Society of Harford County. 410-838-7691

Sunday 12

**PREHISTORIC CULTURE OF THE NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE – THE ICE HOUSE**

The Liriodendron Gallery  
Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Learn from local archeological society representatives about evidence of Native American activity in the region prior to European contact. This permanent exhibit is located in the historic Ice House at Liriodendron. 410-808-2398

Tuesday 14

**BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: BATA BUILDS A CITY**

Historical Society of Harford County, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
Presentation by author Larry Carmichael and discussion about Bata Shoe Company and its growth and lasting legacy in Harford County. Free. 410-838-7691

Thursday 30 - Saturday Friday 31

**BOOK SALE**

Harford County Public Library, Bel Air Branch  
Paperback, hardback and children’s books. Thursday is Foundation Member Night, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.; Open to all on Saturday & Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library, 410-638-3151

## Governor's Office recognizes Bel Air Police Department's 24/7, year round focus on youth



(L to r) Paul Ciepiela, President of Maryland Crime Prevention Association. BAPD Officer Rick Krause, Tammy Leighty, Michele Gerace and Gina Krause

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention recently recognized Bel Air Police Officer Rick Krause, Bel Air Parking Enforcement Officer Michelle Gerace and department volunteers Tami Leighty and Gina Krause for dedication to the Town's youth policing and community programs. The group received the 2016 Governor's Crime Prevention Award for Outstanding Proactive Crime Prevention Programs for its work in the School Resource Officer Program, the Bel Air Police Department Explorer Program (Post 9010) and the Bel Air Police Department Youth Camp. The ceremony took place in December 2016 at the annual Governor's Crime Prevention Awards luncheon.

Bel Air Police Chief Charles Moore says that the Town's crime statistics (among school-aged residents) are low in comparison to the school population and criminal activity in surrounding areas. He believes that hands-on and consistent work by law enforcement professionals and community volunteers in these three programs is a major factor.

"All three programs indirectly impact crime by promoting healthy child/teen development and fostering a trusting relationship between law enforcement and the youngest members of our community," says Chief Moore. "These leaders provide strong and disciplined role models for our children with advice and direction concerning sobriety, crime prevention and the ingredients for leading a successful and wholesome life."

**The Bel Air Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) Program** oversees law enforcement for nearly 6,000 students and nearly 800 teacher/staff population in six public and private schools located within the boundaries of Bel Air. As the SRO lead,

Officer Krause handles all disturbances and other student issues. Some are serious in nature, including child abuse, child neglect, weapons crimes, emergency evaluations, drug activity and assaults. Officer Krause has developed a strong relationship with students, families and school personnel and they often call on him during off-duty hours for advice and direction. Officer Krause spends many off-hours at countywide child-oriented events. His wife Gina assists during his "McGruff Crime Dog" presentations by donning the costume.

Krause also oversees the **Bel Air Police Department Explorer Post 9010**, which trains teens and young adults in many aspects of law enforcement and promotes discipline, responsibility, high moral standards, good grades and active community involvement. There are now over 30 active members, one of the highest participation levels of similar programs in Harford County. After taking part in specific training, Explorers support the community and local businesses by assisting with traffic direction at community events and preparing event venues. Dozens of former Bel Air Police Department Explorers now serve in EMS, law enforcement and military organizations.

BAPD Parking Enforcement Officer Michele Gerace, whose three children are also graduates of the Explorer Program, regularly volunteers many hours to the program. She coordinates the annual bingo fundraiser. The heart of this event is the merchandise donations that Ms. Gerace raises from local businesses and BAPD employees. Donated items then go toward the making of 20 baskets, each with a value of at least \$125, as well as door prizes.

The **Bel Air Police Department Youth Camp** operates three summer sessions with the help of Explorers and volunteers. The camps are very affordable for Harford County residents and offer lessons taught by police officers, Explorer members and volunteers. Lessons are balanced with physical and intellectual instructional techniques for children. The staff donates hundreds of hours, providing guidance, feeding the children each day and preparing a graduation video. The event concludes with a graduation ceremony where the camp video is presented, along with awards and lunch. Some camp graduates evolve into future Explorers.

"The success of these programs would not be possible without the dedication and tremendous spirit of volunteerism exhibited on a daily basis by the Bel Air Police Department Community Policing Staff and volunteers," says Chief Moore. "It is extraordinary that all of the award recipients manage to accomplish their full-time jobs and remain highly active in the Bel Air Police Department Community Policing Program."



**Escape the Winter Blues at Liriodendron**  
**502 W. Gordon Street**

410-879-4424, [www.liriodendron.com](http://www.liriodendron.com)

**February 8, 12, 15 & 19: Portraits of Care**

Wednesdays 1:00 -7:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Black & White photography exhibit by Irna Jay, representing the clients of the Adult Day Care Center in Bel Air, which has served Harford County's senior population for over 30 years. FREE admission.

**February 20: A Winter Walk in the Woods**

10:00 a.m. Bring the kids for an outdoor activity on President's Day, led by a local naturalist. The kids can feed the wildlife as they walk, and we'll have hot chocolate to warm up when you return to the mansion. **FREE but please RSVP** 410.879.4424

**February 22: Paint-In at the Mansion**

1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Local artist friends of the Liriodendron will be painting during our Wednesday Open House. Meet the artists, see them at work, learn what inspires them! FREE admission.



Wish to tell the motorists around you about your hometown? Stop by Town Hall to pick up an MVA organizational license plate application or visit our website. The cost is \$25 payable to the MVA. Download the application: [www.belairmd.org/130/Administration](http://www.belairmd.org/130/Administration)



Committees & Commissions	Contact Us <a href="http://www.belairmd.org">www.belairmd.org</a>	Town Government
<p><b>Board of Town Commissioners</b> 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p><b>Board of Appeals</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p><b>Economic &amp; Community Development Commission</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 5:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p><b>Historic Preservation Commission</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p><b>Appearance &amp; Beautification Commission</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p><b>Cultural Arts Commission</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., Armory Marketplace, Suite 103</p> <p><b>Tree Committee</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> 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><b>Town Administrator</b> Jesse Bane 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711</p> <p><b>Administration Department</b> Michael L. Krantz, Director 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711</p> <p><b>Finance Department</b> Lisa M. Moody, Director 410.638.4555 or 410.879.2712</p> <p><b>Economic Development Department</b> Trish Heidenreich, Director 410.838.0584</p> <p><b>Police Department</b> Charles Moore, Chief of Police 410-638-4518 or 410.638.4500</p> <p><b>Planning Department</b> Kevin Small, Director 410.638.4540 or 410.879.9500</p> <p><b>Public Works Department</b> Stephen D. Kline, Director 410.638.4536 or 410.879.9507</p> <p><b>Bel Air Bond Editor</b> Kathi Santora, The Writing Studio <a href="mailto:ksantora@gmail.com">ksantora@gmail.com</a>; 443.695.3345</p>

## There's no place like home on Main Street

Two Bel Air entrepreneurs who have made names for themselves on a national level have “come home” to open businesses on Main Street.

**Jason Hisley**, owner of **La Cakerie**, has participated in several television pastry contests and most recently captured national attention when he won *Cake Wars* in March 2016.

La Cakerie is an artisan bakery that is committed to using fresh, wholesome and seasonal ingredients. In addition to the traditional sweets that have put Jason Hisley on the map, La Cakerie soon plans to offer savory items such as quiche, panini and soups.

Hisley, a Bel Air High School graduate, promises that his sweet and savory items all go great with his “amazing cups of coffee.”

His favorite specialty, however, is creating custom and originally designed cakes. “You can find inspiration in our catalogue, online or sketch something yourself,” he says.

**Julie Ter Borg**, owner of **Julie Ellyn Designs**, has been creating handcrafted gemstone designs and elegant jewelry since 2009 in her spare time. Julie began selling her work on Etsy and immediately attracted a strong following. Her work received celebrity recognition by being featured on TV shows including *The Vampire Diaries*, *Jane The Virgin*, *Cedar Cove* and *The Hart of Dixie*.

Three months ago, Ter Borg, a career scientist, decided to devote herself full-time to a retail store. “I love to craft and create hand made items,” she says.

At just under 2500 square feet, there is room in her store for her own creations as well as about one dozen “pop-up” shops for artisans who sell their art online. “Having a physical pop-up shop gives customers a chance to come in and see an artist’s designs in person,” she says.

Julie Ellyn Designs is a specialty boutique that showcases unique jewelry designs as well as handcrafted items and also helps support the local community, “Another wonderful thing about handmade is that items can often be customized to fit your needs,” says Ter Borg, who offers an array of classes on site as well as children’s parties.



**Jason Hisley, LaCakerie, 22 S. Main St.**



**Julie Ter Borg, Julie Ellyn Designs, 18 S. Main St.**



**Join the Historical Society of Harford County on February 14 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. for a romantic dinner and music.**

Guests can celebrate love with a catered four-course meal and select wines. Violinist and North Harford High School student Toby Alexander Ziegler will add just the right notes.

Reservations must be made by February 9th, 2017. For more information or to make reservations please call 410-838-7691 or visit our website: [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org)

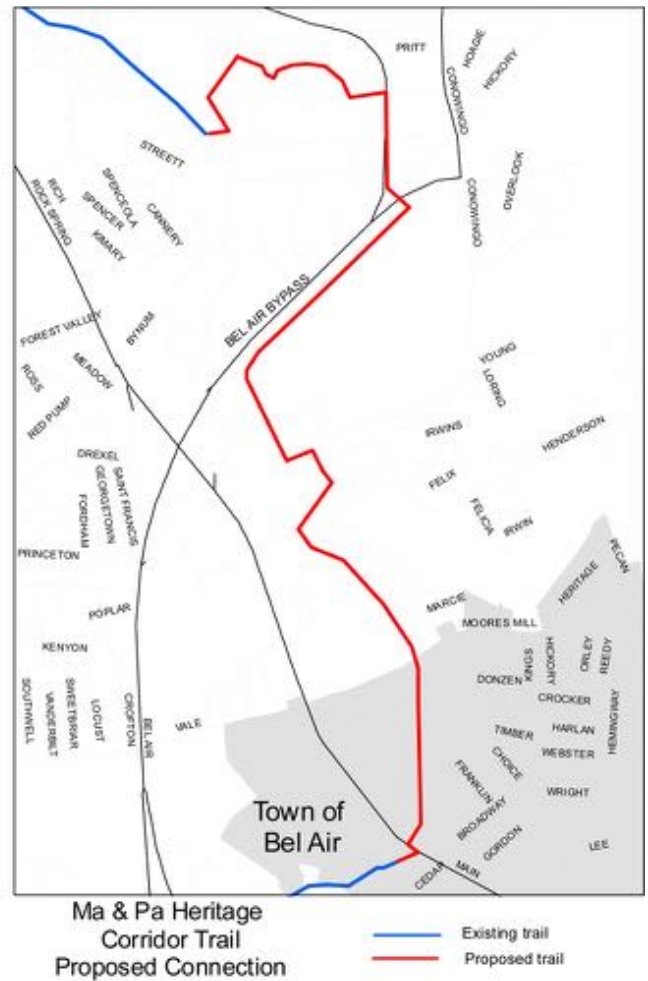
## Many worked together to make MA & PA Heritage Trail connection a reality By Town Administrator Jesse Bane

For more than a decade, the popular MA & PA Trail was actually two trail segments located between Bel Air and Fallston as well as between Forest Hill's Blake's Venture and Friends Parks. The recent acquisition of an easement to connect these two sections may be old news to some. However, this purchase has such monumental meaning and impact for the Town of Bel Air and Harford County that the story bears repeating.

Some years ago, the Hooper family, who owned land that would help link the two trail sections, entered into negotiations with Harford County to transfer the land to Harford County Parks and Recreation. Over the years, the Town of Bel Air and members of the nonprofit MA & PA Heritage Trail, Inc. also continued in the negotiations.

A hint that an agreement had finally been reached first appeared in an article in *The Aegis* on November 9, 2016. In a front page article, reporter Erika Butler wrote that, during their November 7, 2016 meeting, Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners voted 4 – 0 to spend \$75,000 to purchase an easement from the Hooper family. The funds would be applied to costs to create ingress and egress as well for installing and maintaining amenities along the MA & PA Trail. At the time, the Commissioners were aware that Harford County Government continued in sensitive negotiations for land purchase.

On November 10, 2016, County Executive Barry Glassman announced before a public gathering at the Williams Street Trailhead in Bel Air that his administration had finalized the purchase of a parcel of approximately 13,500 square feet of private property in Bel Air on what was once the path of the historic Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad. Finally, what many had hoped for over many long years became a reality: the MA & PA Trail will become complete. He added that completion of the trail connection would require an investment of approximately \$2 million which was already a part of his capital budget. Groundbreaking will take place in Spring 2018; completion is expected in 2020. The result will be a trail that runs unbroken for almost 9 miles.



Both current sections of the MA & PA Trail are the most heavily used county-owned recreation facilities. Closing the gap will encourage more use. Additionally, it will be a tourism and economic boost for Bel Air and the County. There are few who would debate the value of this trail to the citizens of Bel Air and Harford County. While it took many years to realize what was once only a dream, the reward was well worth the wait. Not only does the trail signal continuing economic prosperity for the Town, this land is a part of our history and it needed to be preserved. Bel Air would not be the Town it is today were it not for the path the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad blazed through our land to service the needs of our Town and surrounding farms. It was important that we did everything we could to secure and preserve this open space for the future of our

children. We needed this land. Our hats are off to those who worked tirelessly over the 20-plus years to make this dream a reality. We are forever grateful that they never abandoned their quest. History may forget the names of those who achieved this, but it will never forget what they did.

## Department of Public Works: We are ready for winter weather. Are you?

All winter and as always, Bel Air's Department of Public Works personnel will make driving conditions in Town as safe as possible. In emergency weather, we work regardless of the time of day or night in any and all conditions.

- When shoveling your driveway try to put the snow on the side of the driveway opposite from the direction of the plow trucks. This will keep the snow from being deposited back in the driveway as we clear the road.
  - Please be aware that it is unsafe and against the law to blow or shovel snow into the road. If these areas freeze they could become a hazard.
  - Do not allow your children to make snow forts near the edge of the roadway.
  - Please slow down when you see a plow truck. With blowing and drifting snow, the visibility is not good for either you or the driver. The trucks are putting down salt for your benefit so avoid following too closely, since salt will bounce off the road.
  - Remember to shovel snow away from fire hydrants so they can be found easily in case of an emergency.
  - Please remove portable basketball hoops from the street and place them back from the curb on your property. The Town cannot be responsible for damages to equipment left in the right-of-way during snow emergency operations.
- Director of Public Works, Steve Kline**

