



The Bel Air Bond

A quarterly publication from the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

www.belairmd.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
PAGES 6 - 8



Updates to Shamrock Park
PAGE 5



Bel Air Police join community efforts to reduce overdose incidents and death

PAGE 9



Two new Board of Town Commissioners get to work

PAGE 10 - 11



Stay in touch at
www.belairmd.org



(L to r): Harford County Executive Barry Glassman; Hayden Anthony, Management Assistant, Facilities & Operations, Harford County; Susan Burdette, Mayor of Bel Air; Barkley Creighton, Project Manager, Bureau of Capital Projects; Melissa Thomson, Facilities & Operations

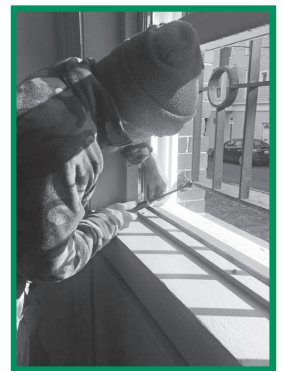
Harford County Courthouse restoration combines historical accuracy and energy savings

In one form or another, Harford County's Courthouse has stood on Bel Air's Main Street since 1791. The current building, an Italian Renaissance style with Palladian-style windows, was completed in 1859, after a fire from a stove in the County Commissioner's office demolished a large portion of the structure in the previous year.

Harford County Government, with guidance and approvals from the Town of Bel Air's Historic Preservation Commission, recently undertook a major renovation of the courthouse windows and brickwork. The goal is to maintain the historic nature of the design while adding current energy efficiency standards.

Contractors who have experience in preservation projects are in the process of removing each window, rebuilding it off-site and then reinstalling each one in its original location. In an innovative approach to maintaining historical accuracy, workers are also building custom interior storm windows of a single pane of glass that will magnetically fit on the interior of the historic window.

(Cont. Page 3)



Restoration of Harford County Courthouse windows includes installation of interior storm windows so that sight lines remain historically accurate. Photo courtesy of Harford County Government.

Dear Neighbors:

As I sit at my desk and look out the window, I see ice on the trees, birds on the feeders and neighbors with coats, gloves and scarves. It is still winter, but I have suggestions about how you can play golf, enjoy the arts, meet famous people and learn some new skills without leaving the Town of Bel Air.

Play games at Jurassic Golf

Play your way through 18 holes of adventurous blacklight mini-golf featuring animated dinosaurs, fossils and a prehistoric aquarium. Enjoy 20 new and classic arcade games. The new Jurassic Golf is located at 331 Baltimore Pike, site of the former Kunkel Auto Parts. The staff is very accommodating and the course is 100% ADA accessible for all ages.

Visit the Bel Air Library

Eat, Drink, Read. This is the title of the Bel Air Library’s Winter Reading Program for adults. Register in person or online and read or listen to at least five books. Once you complete the program, stop in and pick up a special collector’s mug (while supplies last). The program ends March 3.

Meet award-winning cookbook author, caterer, food blogger and curator of unique culinary concepts, Baltimore’s Kerry Dunnington, on February 25 at 2:00 p.m. Copies of her newest book, *The Seasonal Kitchen: Farm-Fresh Ingredients Enhance 165 Recipes*, will be available for purchase.

Take a photographic tour of Tangier Island, Virginia with photographer Irene Hinke-Sacilotto on March 20 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy music and art!

Visit the Starving Artists Art Show and Sale at the Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace. The gallery features a selection of original artwork ranging from watercolors and photography to pottery and jewelry. All framed and unframed artwork is priced at \$99 or less through February 25.

Celebrate Irish culture and history through music with Amhranai Na Gaeilge, the only all-male Irish Chorale in the Mid-Atlantic region. This free program will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on March 10 at 7:30 p.m and is sponsored by the Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission.

See you around Town!

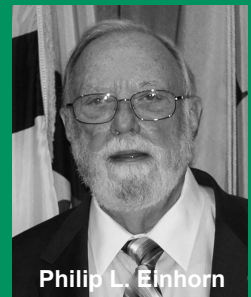


Susan Burdette

Board of Town Commissioners



Susan U. Burdette



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Amy Chmielewski



Patrick T. Richards

On the cover:

The Town of Bel Air’s Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) provided guidance to Harford County Government about restoring the windows and mortar of the 1859 structure. Jennifer Mainster Hanna chairs the HPC. Members are Paul Edmeades, Scott Farley, Peg Lucas, Timothy Coale and Brian Payne. Bob Fisher of the Town of Bel Air’s Planning Department serves as the staff liaison and Brendan Hopkins represents the Board of Town Commissioners.

(Cont. from page 1)

In addition to the window restoration, contractors will remove the exterior wrought iron grates that cover the windows. Each will be sanded, repainted and reinstalled.

Robert Fisher, of the Town of Bel Air Planning Department and liaison to the HPC, applauded the Harford County Government for its detailed approach to the restoration: "I am impressed with the project design and how closely the County adhered to the U.S. Government's Secretary of Interior standards for the preservation of historic properties," he said. "These methods and materials are expensive, but the Courthouse is an important building and an historic place in downtown Bel Air."

Repairs to deteriorating bricks and mortar on the Courthouse also included extensive attention to detail. Contractors matched mortar color. In some instances, damaged and worn bricks were removed, reversed and replaced.

Cindy Mumby, spokesperson for the Harford County Executive, stated that restoration of historic structures is an important priority for the administration and that a recent county-wide building survey identified the problems with windows and bricks at the Courthouse.

"The Harford County Courthouse is an historic and functioning building that still provides a very important public service. It is important for it to be functional and energy-efficient while we, at the same time, honor its history."

Grace Callwood was 7 years old when she founded We Canceve in 2012. After her own experience with cancer, she wanted to help other homeless, sick and foster children.

Grace, now cancer-free, is looking for youth board members for We Canceve. This is a very active organization. Over the past several years, Grace has led numerous projects that benefit local children in need.

Eligibility: Youth ages 8-18 from Harford and Baltimore counties and Baltimore City; Academics: 2.5 GPA or higher; Application closes: February 9, 2018. For more information: email peoplewhocare@wecanceve.org.



Grace Callwood (l) with a group of youth volunteers.

Presented By The Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission

An Irish Journey

Performed by the Irishman's Chorale
Amhranai Na Gaeilge

Saturday, March 10th • 7:30 pm
Doors Open at 6:45 pm
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1200 E. Churchville Rd • Bel Air

The concert is a musical journey celebrating the history, traditions, and people of Ireland. Experience the harmonious voices of the only all male Irish Chorale in the mid-atlantic region.

Remember the wearin' of the green while enjoying an evening of music, dining, and shopping in historic Bel Air.

For more information call:
410.838.0584

FREE ADMISSION



BE A PART OF IT

JOIN THE ALLIANCE!

NEW! \$15 for Friends Membership
\$25 for Family Membership
\$75 for Nonprofit Membership
\$95 for Business Membership

CELEBRATE OUR MANY EVENTS

- MD State BBQ Bash
- First Fridays
- Summer Movie Nights & more!

AND PROJECTS

- Hometown Hero Banners
- Bike Rack
- Hearts of Harford

VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNBELAIR.COM



It's not spring yet! Stay ahead of winter woes and help the environment

By Steve Kline, Director of Public Works

Even late winter can bring significant snow and ice and make travel treacherous. As snow piles up, the first line of defense should simply be to shovel sidewalks and plow streets to keep them clear and prevent ice formation. When ice does form, salt (sodium chloride) is the most commonly used de-icer. However, salt can have adverse effects on the environment. Consider other more environmentally friendly de-icing products such as potassium chloride, calcium chloride and magnesium chloride, as well as calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). Most can be found in hardware stores under various trade names – check labels for chemical content.



While these alternatives can be spread in a dry form or sprayed as a liquid, their real advantage is as a catalyst to regular salt. They tend to increase the efficiency of salt thereby reducing the amount that needs to be applied. When over-applied, chloride compounds can be harmful to the environment. The best strategy is to reduce the use of these chemicals as much as possible. Below are some ways that can provide effective ice control and prevent excess runoff of chemicals to Maryland's streams, rivers and Chesapeake Bay:

- Avoid use of salt by clearing walkways of snow before it turns to ice. Salt and de-icers are not effective when more than three inches have accumulated.
- Consider the temperature. Salt and CMA have a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 15 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Track winter weather and only use salt and de-icers when a storm is imminent. If a winter storm does not occur, sweep up any unused material, store and reuse for the next big storm.
- Apply de-icing products discriminately, focusing on high-use and graded areas where traction is critical. Apply the least amount necessary to get the job done. This will save money in product costs and will also help minimize property damage to paved surfaces, vehicles and vegetation.
- Reduce salt and chemicals by adding sand for traction. Some local highway departments use 80 percent salt and 20 percent sand for main arteries and a 20 percent salt, 80 percent sand mix for smaller residential roads.
- If you observe ongoing issues of ineffective ice management or examples of poor application, such as excess piles of road salt left to disperse, share your concerns with the property manager of your residence or business, or with the Town of Bel Air at 410-638-4536.

To Bel Air Bond readers:

In the near future, the Bel Air Bond newsletter is going paperless!

If you still want to receive a paper copy, please notify Donna Driver at the Town of Bel Air, Department of Administration: 410-638-4550 or email: ddriver@belairmd.org.



The latest Bond and back issues are available online at: www.belairmd.org.

Town Administrator Jesse Bane
COMMITTEE ON ELDERLY AND NEEDY
CITIZENS

Go to any study of the demographics of the Town (and there are several) and one will find an emphasis on the growing population of those residents 65 and older. One reports that the Town of Bel Air has a greater percentage of persons 65 and older than the municipalities of Aberdeen and Havre de Grace.

If one looks at the numbers, there are 2,014 residents 65 and older (14.8% of the total population) in the Town of Bel Air. If you consider those 55 years of age and older, there are 3,368 residents (27.9% of the total population). Further, there is an expected increase of 15% in this age group by 2020.

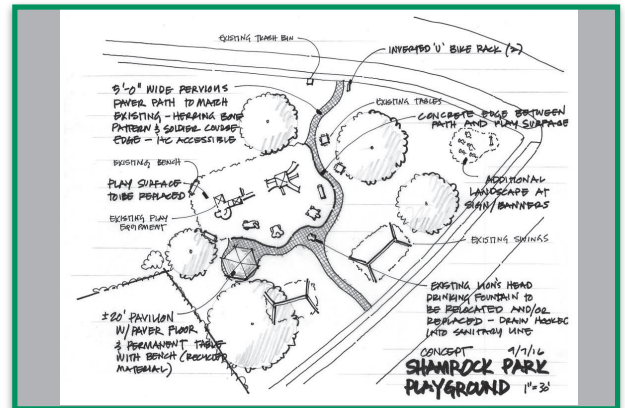
The most recent market study for Bel Air (March, 2016) references the needs of this demographic now and into the future. It cites the need for independent and age-restricted housing within the Town limits and the need for amenities within walking distances from the communities in which the elderly live.

Fortunately, the Charter for the Town established a committee to address the needs of the elderly long before these issues surfaced. And, for several months now, committee members have taken an in-depth look at more than just housing with plans to release a report, with recommendations, to the commissioners. The report will point out gaps in services and what needs to be done for the Town to position itself to address the needs of this population now and into the future.

The Committee for Elderly and Needy Citizens meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. in the Town Hall conference room. Members of the community and the public are invited to attend any committee meeting to provide input and suggestions. For more information, please contact us at Town Hall. Your comments will be well received.



.....
Future family-friendly updates on tap for Shamrock Park playground



Shamrock Park’s play area, one of the Town’s most well-used green spaces, will have a new look during 2018.

Thanks to interviews with people who bring children to the play area, planners had a clear idea of what renovations were most important to park visitors.

Parents and caregivers wished for: maintaining the small, neighborhood “feel” of the playground focused on small children; a shelter/pavilion; and improved drainage so that mud doesn’t build up after rainfalls.

The Lions Club of Bel Air, in conjunction with the Lions International Centennial celebration, donated \$22,000 toward the cost of the pavilion, a paver floor and a picnic table near the playground.

The playground is used daily by many children after school.

Other expected improvements include paver pathways for ADA accessibility; improved surface drainage, utilities, trash receptacles and landscaping replacement and/or improvement of the playground’s sub-base, play surface, and playground edge; a bike rack; and replacement or repair of the lion’s head drinking fountain.

Over 40 people are members of The Lions Club of Bel Air. They have a long tradition of supporting community projects. During 2017, the Lions contributed over \$36,000 in services and donations to service activities in and around Bel Air.

Last year, the Lions completed over 270 service projects and nearly 6,000 hours of service. In addition, the Bel Air Lions Foundation provided \$1,000 scholarships to twelve Bel Air area high school students for outstanding community service.

Frequently visited venues

Bel Air Armory
37 N. Main St.

Harford County Public Library, Bel Air
100 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

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

Humbert Amphitheater
Shamrock Park at Lee & Hickory Avenues

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.

Painter and decorator by day, Mr. Popper spends his time dreaming of Antarctic adventures. One day, a packing crate arrives on his doorstep and a penguin waddles out! A family treat with original songs and performing penguin puppets. Ages 4 – 104. Admission: \$10 – \$20. 443-412-2211

Tuesday 13
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY OF HARFORD COUNTY PROJECT (Campaign 42)
Historical Society of Harford County
This group of local volunteers meticulously gathered stories of the county's African American population from Harford's earliest days to now. Presented by Roxann Redd-Wallace and Margaret Ferguson. Explore the journey with them while enjoying your lunch. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Free. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Wednesday 14
VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER
Rockfield Manor
Rockfield Manor hosts its 17th 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.

Thursday 15
GIRLS NIGHT OUT
Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join your best girlfriends for a night of shopping, discounts, food and drink specials in downtown Bel Air. Follow the Downtown Alliance on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute information. www.downtownbelair.com

Friday 16
CURIOUS GEORGE
Harford Community College, Amoss Center, 7:00 pm.
Join Curious George, star of books, movies and the award-winning PBS television show. In this musical, George takes the audience on a fun-filled adventure in which he learns about Rome, meatballs and the "secret ingredient" to cooking! Admission: \$10 – \$16. 443-412-2211

Saturday 17
THE YOUNG IRELANDERS
Harford Community College, Amoss Center, 3:00 p.m.
The Young Irelanders combine the best sounds and traditions of traditional Irish and Celtic music with folk, pop, and world sounds. Admission: \$15 - \$25. 443-412-2211

Saturday 17
LECTURE & TEA: FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM: MARGARET MORGAN'S PETITION FOR LIBERTY
Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.
Learn how one woman's struggle to save herself and her children from slavery led to a landmark Supreme Court decision.

Presented by historians Iris Leigh Barnes and Jacob Bensen. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Monday 19
PRESIDENTS DAY: A WINTER WALK IN THE WOODS
Looking for something to do with the kids on the school holiday? Meet at the Liriodendron lower parking lot (end of Broadway) for a short winter hike. Scatter food for birds & wildlife and experience wonders of the winter woods. Afterward, warm up at Liriodendron Mansion with hot chocolate & a snack. Free. Please RSVP: 410.879.4424 or info@liriodendron.com

Saturday 24
MASTER CLASS & CHAMBER CONCERT
Music Land, 200 Gateway Drive, Bel Air
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra trumpeter Rene Hernandez coaches pre-selected students in a master class, followed by a concert by Mr. Hernandez. Admission: Free; Spectators register online; donations accepted at www.mdcenterforthearts.org. Class: 11:00 a.m. – Noon; Concert: Noon – 1:00 p.m. Sponsor: Maryland Center for the Arts. 443-567-5216

Wednesday 28
MAIN STREET SOCIAL
Bel Air Downtown Alliance
Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Network and build professional connections. Follow the Downtown Alliance on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute information. Visit www.downtownbelair.com for location.

MARCH
Thursday 1 – Sunday April 29
PAST AND PRESENT ART SHOW
Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace
Selections of original artwork that includes oil and watercolor paintings, photography, pottery, glasswork, gourds, jewelry, tiles and scarves. *Past and Present* will show artists' interpretations of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Reception: Saturday March 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Gallery hours; Thursday – Sunday 11:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m. Contact: 410-420-9499 or www.artinharford.org

Saturday 3
SWEETS ON THE STREETS
Downtown Bel Air, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
A day full of special pop-up shops and local artisans who display and sell their hand-crafted works. Enjoy Main Street and all it has to offer while enjoying locally-made cupcakes, artisan chocolates, gourmet cookies and more. Follow the Downtown Alliance on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute information. Visit www.downtownbelair.com.

JANUARY

Thursday 4 - Sunday, February 25
STARVING ARTISTS ART SHOW & SALE
Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace
Selections of original artwork that includes oil and watercolor paintings, photography, pottery, glasswork, gourds, jewelry, tiles and scarves. All framed and unframed artwork priced at \$99 or less. Gallery hours: Thursday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 410-420-9499, www.artinharford.org

Wednesday 24
MAIN STREET SOCIAL
Bel Air Downtown Alliance
Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Network and build professional connections. Follow the Downtown Alliance on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute information. Visit www.downtownbelair.com for location.

FEBRUARY

Friday 2 through Sunday 4
58th ANNUAL BEL AIR GUN SHOW
Bel Air Armory
Over 100 tables of antique and modern firearms, camping/survival gear, hunting equipment and displays of U.S. and foreign military weapons and equipment. Sponsor: Harford County Izaak Walton League of America. Friday 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Admission: \$10. 410-303-6145

Friday 2
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
Harford Community College, Amoss Center, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 4

CHOCOLATE BREW AND WINE TOUR

A pub crawl in downtown Bel Air for beer and chocolate enthusiasts. Tickets include a drink at each pub, discounted food menu and chance to win sweet getaways. Follow the Downtown Alliance on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute information. Visit www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 4 – through Sunday November 18

PREHISTORIC CULTURE OF THE NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE: THE ICE HOUSE

Liriodendron Gallery

Meet local archeology expert Dan Coates at the Ice House to learn about local Indian activity prior to European contact. Dan welcomes individuals and small groups such as home-school students, Scouts and similar youth organizations. The exhibit follows the Maryland 4th grade social studies text, *The Maryland Way*. Bring your artifacts for an archeological analysis. Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. 410-808-2398

Sunday 4

BRIDAL SHOWCASE

Rockfield Manor, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tour Rockfield Manor and meet with professional vendors that will assist in making your day extra special. They include caterers, bridal boutiques, hair and makeup professionals, florists and DJs. 410-638-4565

Saturday 10

MASTER CLASS & CHAMBER CONCERT

Music Land, 200 Gateway Drive
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra cellist Bo Li coaches pre-selected students in a master class, followed by a concert by Mr. Li. Admission is free. Spectators register online; donations accepted at www.mdcenterforthearts.org and on site. Class: 11:00 a.m. – Noon; Concert: Noon – 1:00 p.m. Sponsor: Maryland Center for the Arts. 443-567-5216

Saturday 10

IRISHMAN'S CHORALE

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1200 E. Churchville Road. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Performance starts at 7:30 p.m. Amhranai Na Gaeilge is the only all-male Irish Chorale in the Mid-Atlantic region and 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. Admission: Free. 410-879-2012 or 410-838-0584

Saturday 10

SOUND THE SHOFAR

Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m. Sound the Shofar comes from the third movement of James Lee's work, in which the brass produce the sound of the shofar, an Israeli instrument made from the horn of a ram. Baltimore violinist, Emmanuel Borowsky,

is the soloist in this premiere of James Lee III's new work. Sponsor: The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Admission: \$20 adult; \$15 senior; \$10 child/student. 443-567-9414

Sunday 11

LEARNING BEE SERIES & SEASON OPENING

Hays House Museum, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Display of clothing from the Society's textile collection. Weaving demonstration and talk by Lizanne Smith, member of Warped Weavers. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Tuesday 13

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: SAVING TOODLES: STORIES OF DARING RESCUE AND DEDICATION

Historical Society of Harford County, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Scott McDaniel of Susquehannock Wildlife Society explains how this group protects our native wildlife and its habitat in the lower Susquehanna River basin and surrounding areas. Meet a few animals as well. Free. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Wednesday 14

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Historical Society of Harford County, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Friday 23

CAT IN THE HAT

Harford Community College, Amoss Center, 7:00 p.m. From the moment his tall, red-and-white-striped hat appears around the door, Sally and her brother know that the Cat in the Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat they have ever met. Admission: \$10 - \$16. 443-412-2211

Saturday 24

GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Bel Air Armory
Interested in how to discover your family history? Advance registration is required; space limited. Visit www.hcplonline.org or call any Harford County Public Library. Free. 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 24

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Historical Society of Harford County, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Tour the Society and learn about its many volunteer opportunities. Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Wednesday 28

MAIN STREET SOCIAL

Bel Air Downtown Alliance
Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Network and build professional connections. Follow the Alliance on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for up-to-the-minute information. www.downtownbelair.com for location.

Saturday 31

ROCKFIELD MANOR'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

501 E. Churchville Road. 11:00 a.m. 410-638-4565

APRIL

Tuesday 10

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: FARMING, HUNTING AND FISHING

Historical Society of Harford County, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Explore the mainstays of early Harford County with this presentation by Kerri Kneisley (Havre de Grace Decoy Museum), Lara Murphy (Steppingstone Farm Museum), Chris Scovill (Jerusalem Mill), and Wanda Boker (Havre de Grace Maritime Museum). Free. Contact: 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Wednesday 11

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Historical Society of Harford County, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Contact: 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Thursday 12

SPRING BOOK SALE

Harford County Public Library, Bel Air Branch, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Paperback, hardback and children's books. Member Night Only. Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library. 410-638-3151

Thursday 12 – Saturday 14

BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL

All show times at 7:00 p.m. with a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday the 14th. www.belairdrama.org

Friday 13 – Saturday 14

SPRING BOOK SALE

Harford County Public Library, Bel Air Branch, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Paperback, hardback and children's books. Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library. 410-638-3151

Saturday 14

13th ANNUAL KITE FESTIVAL

Rockfield Park Ball Fields, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Kite flying for all along with great music and food for the whole family. Volunteers will help kite flying novices. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and APG Federal Credit Union. Rain date: April 15. Free admission and free kites (while supplies last). 410-638-4550

Saturday, April 14

WWI ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

Liriodendron Mansion, Time: TBA
Learn how Liriodendron's first owner, Dr. Howard A. Kelly, helped wounded soldiers returning to Maryland from WWI, as we honor those who served in "The Great War." www.410.879.4424 or info@liriodendron.com

Saturday 14
14th ANNUAL A NIGHT IN PARADISE
 Bel Air Armory
 Enjoy live music with a southern shrimp feast and bull roast. Proceeds for community capital improvement projects. 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. Tickets: \$50. Contact: 410-879-9292 or www.gbacf.com.

Sunday 15
SPRING BOOK SALE
 Harford County Public Library, Bel Air Branch, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Paperback, hardback and children's books. Sponsor: Friends of the Bel Air Library. 410-638-3151

Thursday 19
GIRLS NIGHT OUT
 Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join your best girlfriends for a night of shopping, discounts, food and drink specials in downtown Bel Air. www.downtownbelair.com

Saturday 21
LECTURE AND TEA: ENVIRONMENTAL DILEMMA: CONOWINGO DAM'S IMPACT ON THE BAY

Historical Society of Harford County, 2:00 p.m.
 The Dam can no longer hold back sediment that could seriously pollute the Chesapeake Bay. Learn how to meet this challenge. Presented by Ted Evgeniadis, River Keeper. Contact: 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Saturday 21
5th ANNUAL SPRING FLING BIG BAND DANCE
 Bel Air Armory, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
 A fun evening of big band dancing with live big band dance music by the Bel Air Community Band Jazz Ensemble. Free light refreshments. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board through the Maryland State Arts Council. Free. 410-638-4550

Sunday 22
HARFORD COUNTY MARCH FOR BABIES for the MARCH OF DIMES
 Black Eyed Suzie's, 119 S. Main Street. Registration: 8:00 a.m.; Start: 9:00 a.m.; walk distance: 2.5 miles through downtown Bel Air. Money raised is a lifeline for babies in the NICU, connecting

them with critical treatments and care. www.marchforbabies.org

Sunday 22
LEARNING BEE SERIES: THE HISTORY OF THE HAYS HOUSE THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD
 Hays House Museum, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Harford County Councilman Jim McMahan (District C) describes his experiences with Frank Hays Jacobs, the last of the family to live at the Hays House. Contact: 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

Sunday 22 – Sunday May 27
ART GALLERY EVENT
 Liriodendron Gallery
 Artists John and Terri Hardwicke together create a beautiful and unique show of whimsical furniture, soft sculpture and illustrations. Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. Contact: 410-879-4424

Sunday April 29
BEL AIR COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT
 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1200 Churchville Rd., 3:00 p.m.

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>Appearance & Beautification Commission 2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Board of Appeals 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Commission on Elderly & Needy Citizens 4th Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Cultural Arts Commission 3rd Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Economic & Community Development Commission 2nd Thursday, 5:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4th Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Planning Commission 1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall</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 410-638-4518 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>

Police Department takes proactive measures to support recovery after overdose



Bel Air police are working with numerous community agencies and volunteers to match people who overdose with recovery services. Above (l to r): Joseph Ryan, Harford County Department of Community Services Office of Drug Control Policy; Volunteers Darrell Powe and Jose Rosado; and Bel Air Police Department Chief Charles Moore.

During 2017, in a town that covers just 3.03 square miles, Bel Air Police Department (BAPD) officers responded to 33 opioid/heroin overdoses and five fatalities from overdoses.

“Almost everyone, even police officers themselves, have family members and friends impacted by this crisis,” says BAPD Chief Charles Moore. “The numbers grow each year. We have to do something to reverse this trend.”

To meet this challenge, the BAPD joined with the Family and Children’s Services of Central Maryland, the Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy and other local agencies to form a yet-to-be-named response team that will connect those who overdose with support to help them seek recovery treatment soon after medical stabilization.

The new program will bring together local law enforcement, mental health, social services, drug enforcement and medical expertise, along with volunteer recovery coaches, some of whom have recovered from their own addictions. Coaches undergo extensive training by the Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy.

Chief Moore believes that the volunteer recovery coaches serve as an important cornerstone: “They bring a different level of empathy and credibility to the effort to help people recover permanently from substance addiction.”

With this new team in place, the responding BAPD officer, after following routine overdose protocol (that typically includes transporting the individual to a medical facility)

will ask the individual for permission to connect him or her to intervention services. If the individual agrees, a team that includes the recovery coach will visit within 24 hours. The Maryland Department of Parole and Probation is a partner and will go with the team if the victim is part of the department’s caseload. An armed BAPD officer in plain clothes will also accompany the team.

The goal of the visit is to connect the individual with services, including substance abuse treatment, that may lead to eventual recovery. The project can also link families and significant others to support services.

Darrell Powe recently volunteered as a recovery coach: “Remember the song ‘He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother?’ Drugs and alcohol have no color distinction. They affect rich, poor or whatever. The more you learn about it, the more you have to have some type of compassion for the person.”

Recently, the efforts to combat drug overdoses have been complicated by newer, more potent and cheaper synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanyl, substances that kill human beings in very small doses. They also create significant and even deadly threats to first responders who come into contact with these substances.

Mayor Susan Burdette has been a consistent supporter of the program and also points to its potential effectiveness in protecting police officers: “This pilot program also responds to the new kinds of stresses that face our officers,” said Mayor Burdette. “Continually responding to drug overdoses impacts them, especially if the victims are abusive and violent. At the same time, their families are very emotionally distraught. I commend Chief Moore for taking steps to help both victims and the officers. This new partnership provides a “back-up” for our officers. They will no longer feel that they only put a bandage on a drug overdose case. Instead, they are putting the victim and his or her family into the hands of professionals who will help continue the healing process.”

Chief Moore adds that all officers have received special guidance and ongoing support to meet these challenges. Corporal Matthew Gullion, who is also a pastor of a local congregation, has taken a particular interest in the issue and is frequently called upon to assist both officers and residents.

The BAPD modeled its program after a similar one in Cumberland, Maryland, said Chief Moore. “Primarily, we want to reduce overdoses and save lives,” he says. “In the long run, it also aims to reduce crime and support every individual and family who live in this community.”

Catching up with Amy Chmielewski, newly elected Town Commissioner

What made you decide to run for Town Commissioner?

I had served on the Bel Air Downtown Alliance for four years. I've lived here all my life and enjoyed getting involved with the Town. It sparked an interest in me and it was a perfect opportunity to get involved.

How does the Board of Town Commissioners help the Town of Bel Air to run smoothly?

It brings a different esthetic. There are five commissioners who have five different opinions to offer. We have a chance to deliberate and hear each other's opinions. It's much more efficient for the Town.

What do you bring to the board?

As a local for 41 years, I have seen how Bel Air has evolved and responded to the changes and challenges that have taken place here. I am proud that our Town has met so many of these challenges and remains such a vibrant place to be. I understand the history, values and spirit of the people who live here.

On the business side, my 25 years in the banking industry have instilled a commitment to accountability and an attention to detail. I enjoyed my time on the Bel Air Downtown Alliance's Board of Directors. It provided a behind-the-scenes understanding of what it takes to keep economic growth alive as well as how to plan for the future.

What are the challenges ahead?

I think the biggest challenge for the Town of Bel Air is to stay current. Making it not only a place to live, but a place that is a destination, a place to come visit. The other challenge is being able to stay small and unique. Not growing up, but possibly growing out. I don't want us to be the next Towson with tall, big buildings. That would intimidate people and keep them from moving here.

What is the most important thing that can be done to keep Bel Air economically healthy?

I think bringing in good businesses, but not the large box stores. We need smaller businesses. Like an AleCraft (a brewery that recently opened). We have The Nest, a new home goods store that just opened on Main Street across from Sunny Day Café. These businesses keep people coming to visit again and again. The economic vitality will grow. I would like to see updates at the Harford Mall. There are vacancies there and on Main Street like at the old Friendly's location. Friendly's hasn't been vacant that long and it is an older building that will probably need renovation. But it's the first building that you see coming into Town.

What do you want either newcomers or people who live in surrounding areas to know about Bel Air?

Bel Air is a fantastic place to live, work and visit. It is a beautiful town with a huge heart. The residents and business owners always make you feel welcome. I think it is important to know how much planning and hard work goes on in each and every department to keep Bel Air as such a unique place. The staff work hard and work across departments to coordinate projects. There are also dozens of volunteers that work on committees who bring so much expertise. People might be surprised that the people on the Historic Preservation Committee, the Appearance and Beautification Committee, the Committee on Elderly and Needy Citizens, and the Bel Air Economic and Community Development Commission are all volunteers. Some of them have served for decades. Finally, our first responders are second to none!

What is your favorite Town event and why?

My favorite Town event is the July 4th Celebration. My family, who live in different states, come in to attend. I have been doing the watermelon eating contest every summer since I was four years old. I can't tell you how many ribbons I have! My kids have them too. My brother's and sister's kids come into town and we make a day of it. We live so close to Town and we open our home, walk and come and go as we need to. It's been great, especially for my children who are now 19 and 15.



Catching up with Patrick Richards, newly re-elected Town Commissioner

What made you decide to run for re-election to the Board of Town Commissioners?

It was a difficult decision because my job requires me to be outside of Bel Air a lot. I talked with my family, with Town of Bel Air staff and with other board members about it. I just wanted to be sure that I was going to be able to live up to the commitment that is required. In the end, I looked at the challenges ahead, what I can bring to the Board and my great relationship with the staff and other Board members. It all blended together and I decided to run again. Our roots in Bel Air run very deep. That passion won out in the end.

How does the Board of Town Commissioners help the Town of Bel Air to run smoothly?

The best comparison is to a board of directors for a company. Our town administrator is our CEO, the Town staff are the various departments. It is the Board's role to weigh in on major decisions that have to do with strategy, substantial expenditures and contracts. It's really to maintain the Town's strategic direction. The board also lends support and gives approvals for expenditures above certain limits. It is an unbelievable partnership. I encourage people to come to the public sessions or work sessions. It is impressive how much work the Town staff juggles.

What do you bring to the board?

Because of my career as the Director of Global Real Estate for Laureate Education, I have extensive real estate experience. I think that helps. There are quite a few times that Town decisions are linked in some way, shape or form to real estate. Before running for office, I was on the Planning Commission for 10 years and got experience in the Town's planning and development perspective. In my role in the private sector I also have experience in budgeting, staffing and general management. I think a lot of those skills and perspectives are easily transferrable to the board position. Hopefully all of that is beneficial to the overall dynamic.

What are the challenges ahead?

Keeping the budget balanced and still maintaining our great quality of life and services here is probably one of our bigger challenges. Many of our funding sources are beginning to level off. Yet we have a continuing need and demand for more service. To continue to maintain that balance is going to be a challenge and the board and staff is focused on that during every discussion.

What is the most important thing we can do to keep Bel Air economically healthy in the coming years?

We are focused on how to increase residential development in the downtown area. Clearly, the Town will not be growing out. So we have to look at some type of growth opportunity in the Town limits. Looking for areas in Town that could accommodate further residential development might be a key way to look at financial growth through tax revenue. It would encourage more people to live, work and play in downtown Bel Air. We want to be very cognizant of the impact it would have on the larger community, though. We are looking to provide smart growth in pockets where we think it might make sense. How great would it be to have the sidewalks of Bel Air just as busy on a Sunday afternoon as they are on a Wednesday afternoon?

What do you want either newcomers or people who live in surrounding areas to know about Bel Air?

Whether it is a newcomer or anyone here in Town, we want folks to know how committed the Town staff and the Board of Town Commissioners are to the citizenry. There is not a decision or a topic that is discussed at any of our meetings that doesn't revolve around how it benefits or impacts the citizens. That is not well known because there is not a large attendance at our meetings. I want them to know they are being thought of and that we are looking out for their best interests.

What is your favorite Town event and why?

There are so many. Whenever we are here on the weekends or evenings, if it is nice out, there is nothing we like more than to get on our bikes and head into Town. We like the BBQ Bash and First Fridays. It's great being able to quickly get into Town for arts and entertainment events or just to grab dinner. Any and all of the Town events are great attractions for so many groups of people. There is always something here for everybody. It will be important for us to continue to improve on our events and offerings and that is one of our many missions.





All leased parking at the Hickory Parking Garage, Lee Street and Bond/Thomas public parking lots have been reduced from \$50 per month to a flat \$35 per month! That is just \$1.67 per day, making downtown parking more affordable for businesses and their employees. The Hickory parking lot by the Bel Air Library will be a flat \$25 per month, reduced from \$45. No more feeding the meters throughout the day or accumulating parking tickets! Get your permit today and start saving. Visit the Town of Bel Air Planning Department, 705 E. Churchville Road between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get your permit. If you have any questions, please call the office at 410-638-4540.

Another efficient means for parking is the pre-paid Smart Card. With an initial cost of \$4, load any dollar amount you desire onto the card. This is a great option for residents and frequent visitors to the downtown area for shopping and lunch. Experience what

downtown shopping has to offer without the worry of loading the meter. Unused funds remaining on your meter when you are finished shopping load back onto the card! No more overpaying for meters. For your convenience, these cards can be purchased and reloaded while in town at the Finance Department located in Town Hall, 39 N. Hickory Avenue. For further information, call 410-638-4555.



This
the

PRRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BEL AIR, MD
PERMIT NO. 50

Town of Bel Air
39 Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

