

# The Bel Air Bond

A quarterly publication of the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

www.belairmd.org



*The Bel Air Police Department (BAPD) headquarters, built in 1964, no longer has the space, technology and storage to accommodate the range of personnel who serve the town. Pictured (l to r) are seven of the BAPD's 47 sworn officers and support staff: Marti Lovely, Office Assistant; Zachary Miller, Officer First Class and the department training officer; Kathy Kares, Administrative Assistant; Michele Gerace, Parking Enforcement; Henry Marchesani, Detective Sergeant; Charles Moore, Police Chief; Janice Parrino, Police Communications Operator; Police Communications Operator Karla Melchior is seen at work on the right.*

## Police station needs seen as urgent

In 1964 the Town of Bel Air brought its administrative offices and police department into a new mid-century style building on Hickory Avenue. Together with the adjacent Shamrock Park and, eventually, the William A. Humbert Amphitheater, the corner of Hickory and Lee streets has become the heartbeat of Town.

However, much has changed around this local landmark during those years, including the workload of the Bel Air Police Department (BAPD) in a world where security and community involvement are more important than ever before.

The BAPD now serves 10,120 town residents and close to 700 businesses with 32 sworn police officers and 15 administrative staff. It manages increased traffic, more residences and businesses, and a stubborn drug epidemic. Policing styles have evolved to include community-style policing practices.

More urgently, the 5,265-square-foot police headquarters shows extensive deterioration.

"Our police station has a lot of problems that affect officers, staff and detainees," says Chief Charles Moore. "We have water intrusion, recurring black mold, poor ventilation, outdated evidence processing and storage areas, and inefficient office and work spaces. The hallways are so narrow that it is difficult for two equipped officers to pass each other." (continued P. 3)

News, features  
and goings-on



*Schlebr Pavilion honors a legacy of service. P. 4*



*Police Department awards highlight extraordinary work. P. 5*



*Balancing modern life with historic homes. P. 9 - 10*



*Calendar of events P. 6 - 8*

Board of Town Commissioners

Dear Neighbors,


*I am grateful for our town administrator, department leaders, staff and volunteers who have brought recognition, beauty, jobs, awards and honor to the Town of Bel Air and again this year we have made it one of the most desirable hometowns in America.*

**Top 2018 achievements include:**

- Our successful Bel Air/Estonia sister-city relationship with Narva included a business roundtable with their Embassy, a Harford Community College nursing student exchange program and an international art exhibition.
- We received Platinum recognition for our HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) City Campaign.
- The Community Development Network of Maryland Awards presented its Impact Award to the Armory Marketplace Project.
- The Schlehr Pavilion/Amphitheater at Rockfield Park was completed and dedicated.
- Maryland Municipal League State of Maryland presented its *Top Cop* award to Officer First Class Frank Graziano.
- We welcomed record attendance at the volunteer-run Bel Air Farmer’s Market, Bel Air Downtown Alliance Maryland State BBQ Bash, Harford County Wine Festival at Rockfield Park, Festival for the Arts and the Independence Day celebrations.
- The Town worked to resolve water supply issues with Maryland American Water Company in a way that benefited residential and commercial properties.
- The Town hosted 20 ribbon cutting events for new businesses.
- Improvements, including solar panels on Town Hall, have made Town facilities energy- and water-efficient and have yielded a 25% cost decrease.
- Bel Air was named “Maryland’s Best Place to Retire” in 2018 by SmartAsset.
- Bel Air initiated a Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) to meet the challenge of the rapidly growing opioid crisis. This partnership of government, healthcare, Family and Children’s Services and police has successfully reduced repeat overdoses.
- Bel Air is ranked one of the Top 10 Safest Cities in Maryland (2018).

We look forward to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019!

See you around Town!

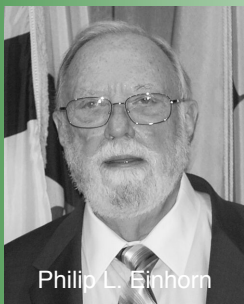
  
Mayor Susan Burdette



Susan U. Burdette



Amy Chmielewski



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Patrick T. Richards

## Police Department updates

(Cont. from P. 1) Equally important are the needs to support security of staff and detainees, state-of-the-art record and evidence storage, and provide a public meeting room.

Commissioners and staff explored solutions with Crabtree and Rohrbaugh Architects. They studied land resources and existing infrastructure, and interviewed police personnel and key staff. Three options emerged:

**Option #1:** Develop a 15,000-square-foot expansion to the police department and Town Hall that includes major renovations on both floors. In this design, the lower level would be accessed only by officers, police staff and incoming detainees. Estimate: \$8.5 million.

This option has the least impact on the current site. It avoids major changes to underground infrastructure and parking lots. It minimizes impact to Shamrock Park.

**Option #2:** This design adds 4,000 square feet to Option #1. It allows the Department of Economic Development, currently located in the Bel Air Armory, to be housed in the renovated building. This option requires some tree removal and redesigned parking. Estimate: \$9.9 million.

**Option #3:** New construction of a 21,000-square-foot facility to be located on the east side of the Bel Air branch of the Harford County Public Library. This plan frees space in the current Town Hall building for office consolidation of outlying departments. The cost of this option includes the necessary upgrades to improve accessibility, create usable office and expand storage spaces. Estimate: \$11.5 million.

At a recent public hearing, commenters discussed impact on green spaces and on the existing War Memorial located at Lee Street and Hickory Avenue. Several asked how police operations would be impacted during construction. (The memorial will be preserved with extensive input from local veterans organizations. Plans for ongoing police service will be developed.)

Chief Moore and Town Administrator Jesse Bane welcome comments from residents and businesses: “We see the new police station as a major step to providing the best in future community policing, staff and detainee security and public safety,” says Mr. Bane.

**Comments welcome:** Jesse Bane: 410-638-4550 or [jbane@belairmd.org](mailto:jbane@belairmd.org); Chief Charles Moore: 410-638-4518 or [cmoore@belairmd.org](mailto:cmoore@belairmd.org)



*Office and storage space is cramped and inefficient.*



*Water and mold permeate most spaces in the current station.*



*The Schlehr Pavilion adds yet another way to enjoy being outdoors in Bel Air.*

*The Schlehr family (above), along with guests and local county and Town officials, celebrated the dedication of the Schlehr Pavilion in September. Pictured at bottom right are Mayor Susan Burdette, Senator J.B. Jennings and Town Commissioner Phil Einborn. The structure was funded with a State of Maryland grant, sponsored by Senator Jennings.*

Construction of the Schlehr Pavilion nearly completes a master plan for Rockfield Park that was created in 1993.

Over those years, the Town has overseen renovations to the manor house and caretaker's cottage, created a garden that showcases native plantings, constructed a walking trail and improved parking.

Named to honor the Schlehr family for their years of service to the Town of Bel Air, the pavilion will be used for picnics, family gatherings, outdoor events and concerts, and is available for users as an outdoor classroom.

Chris Schlehr served as the Director of Public Works and Town Administrator from 1992 – 2003.

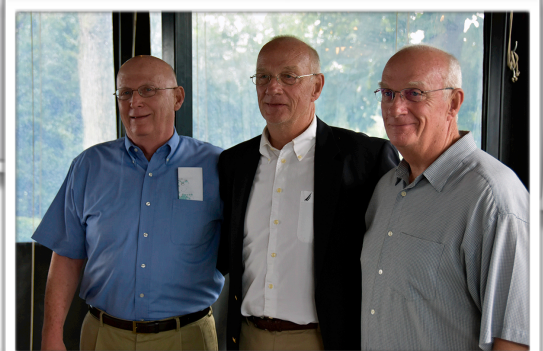
Peter Schlehr has served on the Town's Planning Commission for 27 years. His wife, Sandy Schlehr, serves on the Cultural Arts Commission and designed the shimmering glass heart sculpture that welcomes visitors to Town Hall.

Kristien Schlehr Foss is also a 15-year member of the Cultural Arts Commission.

Mayor Burdette also credited Director of Planning Kevin Small for his management of the pavilion project: "We would not have the pavilion without Kevin's planning skills, his design credentials and his awareness of community needs."

*Naming this new Pavilion in Rockfield Park was an easy task. There is no family in the history of Bel Air who has given so much of their passion, their skills, their values and thousands of hours of time to our community as the Schlehr family.*

**Mayor Susan Burdette**



*Chris, Peter and Michael Schlehr*

## Police awards reflect quick action and seamless teamwork

**Unit Citation: Officer First Class Jose R. Maldonado** investigated a home invasion with a victim who had limited English speaking skills. Officer Maldonado is bilingual and translated crime details. **Detective Corporal Matthew Gullion** responded to a possible suspect location and detained him. **Officer First Class Mark Zulauf** processed the crime scene and found a unique shoe footprint of the suspect. **Sergeant Edward D. Smith** supervised the investigation and made sure that all steps were followed from beginning to end. The officers' seamless teamwork and investigative skills held a dangerous individual accountable for his crimes.

**Letter of Commendation:** While working as a dispatcher, **PCO Karen M. Bucso** noted a similarity between two seemingly different calls for service. Both involved seriously injured people. After investigation, the connection became apparent. Her observations changed the investigation.

**Officer First Class John Ganovski, Sergeant Frank S. Krick** and **Sergeant Henry Marchesani** responded to a residence at which there was an armed suspect who had assaulted his roommate. Working as a team, the officers effectively and peacefully stabilized a dangerous situation. The **Medal of Valor** and **Silver Star** were awarded to **Sergeant Marchesani**; the **Chief's Exceptional Service Award** was given to **Sergeant Krick** and a **Meritorious Service Award** was presented to **Officer First Class Ganovski**.

**Lifesaving Award: Officer First Class Frank Graziano** arrived on the scene of a person who was not breathing. Officer Graziano's proper CPR techniques and fast thinking undoubtedly saved the life of a husband and father of two.

**Lifesaving Award: Detective Corporal Matthew Gullion** observed that a suspect in his patrol car was not breathing. Gullion removed him from the car and administered CPR. The subject was transported to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center by medical personnel, where he fully recovered.

**Lifesaving Awards: Corporal Matthew Gullion** assisted **Deputy Chief Rick Peschek** when a young woman was found inside a hot and locked car. The officers shattered the car window and administered naloxone, which revived her.

**Meritorious Service Awards: Officer First Class Jonathan Kauffman** and **Officer First Class Ryan Horstmann** were on routine patrol when they detected an odor of natural gas along Bond Street. The Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company arrived. The odor was traced to a commercial business. A potentially dangerous event was averted.

**Town Commissioner's Award: Officer First Class Ryan Horstmann** and **Officer First Class Jonathan Kauffman** responded to a home invasion. Based on a description of the subject, **Sergeant Edward Smith** identified and detained an armed suspect in the area. Sergeant Smith received a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Meritorious Service Award: Auxiliary Corporal Kevin Kadolph** was off duty when he observed smoke coming from a townhouse. Without hesitation Corporal Kadolph located an active house fire. Corporal Kadolph communicated the location to dispatch and gained partial entry to the home to search for occupants.

**Letter of Commendation: Administrative Support Professional Marti Lovely** noticed that the method for paying tolls in patrol cars was outdated. Officers were required to pay tolls with their own funds and get reimbursed. Ms. Lovely researched solutions with Maryland Transportation Authority personnel. Now, every patrol vehicle is equipped with toll transponders, resulting in efficiency and cost savings.

**Town Commissioner's Award: Officer First Class Mark Zulauf** has worked as a detective for five years and investigated nearly 200 serious crimes. Some high-profile cases included murders, robberies, thefts and burglaries.

**Life Saving Award: Officer First Class William Salvas** responded to a residence for a reported suicidal person. He found the front door of the residence was locked. Given the information he had received, Officer Salvas forcibly entered and found the victim lying face down on the floor. She was unresponsive. Officer Salvas performed a lifesaving procedure. The victim opened her eyes and her breathing became regular. Officer Salvas kept her alert until medics arrived.

**Unit Citation: Sergeant Henry Marchesani, Corporal Matthew Gullion and Officer First Class Sam Vivino** were recognized for extraordinary skill and investigative teamwork in the case of a commercial burglary. Approximately \$9,000 worth of merchandise was stolen and hundreds of dollars of damage was sustained by the business. The unit developed a complex investigative plan that led to residential and DNA search warrants. Three suspects were arrested and charged with burglary and theft. **Officer First Class Alexander Maro** was the primary investigator and received the **Chief's Exceptional Service Award**.

**JANUARY**

Through Sunday February 24  
**STARVING ARTISTS ART SHOW AND SALE**

Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace  
Original artwork that includes oil, watercolor, photography, pottery, glasswork, gourds, jewelry, tiles, scarves and more. All framed and unframed artwork priced at \$99 or less.  
Reception: January 12 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Gallery Hours: Thursday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 410-420-9499 or [www.artinharford.org](http://www.artinharford.org)

Friday 18  
**FAIRY TALE FESTIVAL**

Harford County Public Library, Bel Air Branch, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Celebrate all things folk and fairy tales with crafts, STEM activities and stories read by local community leaders. Stop in after early school dismissal!  
[www.hcplonline.com](http://www.hcplonline.com)

Tuesday 22  
**LECTURE & TEA: THE LITTLE HOUSE AT BEST ENDEAVOR**

Historical Society of Harford County  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Speaker Grace Fielder will tell the story of one of Harford County’s oldest properties and the early colonial property near Brooms Bloom Dairy.  
Admission: \$15. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Wednesday 23  
**MAIN STREET SOCIAL**

Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Network to make lasting connections and build mutually beneficial relationships right here in Bel Air. Free to BADA members. [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Friday 25  
**LAURA INGALLS WILDER**

Harford Community College, Amoss Center, 7:00 p.m.  
Laura and her family travel across America in search of a place they can call home. This uplifting story by one of America’s most beloved authors is adapted for the stage in a musical format by ArtsPower National Touring Theatre. Admission: \$10 - \$16. 443-412-2211

**FEBRUARY**

Friday 1 – Sunday 3  
**59TH ANNUAL BEL AIR GUN SHOW**  
Bel Air Armory, Friday 5:00 – 9 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
New, used and antique/collectible firearms and firearms accessories, handmade knives, hunting equipment and historical displays. Food available by Atlantic Catering. Sponsor: Harford County Izaak Walton League of America.  
Admission: \$10. 410-303-6145

Saturday 2  
**THE STORY OF THE MA & PA RAILROAD**  
Historical Society of Harford County  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
For almost a century, the MA & PA Railroad was the lifeblood of Harford’s dairy farmers, canners, commuters as well as the connection for much of the county’s

mail, packages and trade goods. Walt Holloway, the grandson of Bel Air’s former station manager, will share memories with pictures and stories of the times.  
410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Thursday 7  
**LET’S PLAY GAMES DAY!**  
Harford County Public Library, Bel Air Branch, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Create fun family memories while playing games such as indoor mini-golf and life-sized games in the children’s department.

Saturday 9  
**MASTER CLASS & CONCERT WITH BSO CONCERTMASTER JONATHAN CARNEY**  
Music Land, 200 Gateway Drive  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
BSO Concertmaster and violinist Jonathan Carney will coach up to four students on a solo piece of their choice. Students should bring their own instrument and music. After class, Mr. Carney will perform a 30-minute concert for the public. Sponsor: Maryland Center for the Arts. Suggested minimum donation: \$10. 443-567-5216 or [www.mdcenterforthearts.org](http://www.mdcenterforthearts.org)

Tuesday 12  
**BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES BOUND FOR THE LINE: HARFORD COUNTY AND FUGITIVE SLAVES**  
Historical Society of Harford County  
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Celebrate Black History Month with the story of Harford County’s involvement with the Underground Railroad. Guest speaker: Jim Chrismer. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

**Frequently visited venues**

**Bel Air Armory**  
37 N. Main St.

**Humbert Amphitheater**  
Shamrock Park at Lee & Hickory Aves.

**Liriodendron Gallery**  
502 W. Gordon St.

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

**Hays House Museum**  
324 Kenmore Ave.

**Rockfield Manor**  
501 E. Churchville Rd.

**Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace**  
37 N. Main St.

**Historical Society of Harford County**  
143 N. Main St.

Wednesday 13

**GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: GETTING YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW, ORGANIZING YOUR RECORDS**

Historical Society of Harford County  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Sometimes the most difficult part of research is organizing the wonderful material you find. Genealogist Christopher Smithson will help. Admission: \$10. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Thursday 14

**VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER**

Rockfield Manor, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
A romantic evening catered by Pairings Bistro. Live music sets the tone. Contact Pairings Bistro at 410-569-5006

Saturday 16

**POPOVICH COMEDY PET THEATER**

Harford Community College, 3:00 p.m.  
A family event featuring the unique blend of comedy and juggling skills of former Moscow Circus veteran Gregory Popovich and the extraordinary talents of his performing pets. Admission: \$15 - \$25. 443-412-2211

Sunday 17

**WINE EXPO**

Harford Community College, Amoss Center, 3:00 p.m.  
Sample over 250 fine wines from around the world and an impressive selection of craft beer. Top local restaurants offer a selection of small plates. Admission: \$40. 443-412-2211

Monday 18

**WINTER WALK IN THE WOODS**

Liriodendron Mansion  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Children and adults alike will enjoy this free nature hike in the parkland surrounding the Liriodendron. Free admission and refreshments. [www.liriodendron.com](http://www.liriodendron.com)

Thursday 21

**SIP & SHOP**

Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Gather friends and come to downtown Bel

Air for fun shopping and dining.

[www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Sunday 24

**MUSIC AT THE MANSION: JOHN FLYNN**

Liriodendron Gallery, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Singer-songwriter and activist John Flynn follows in the footsteps of the likes of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. Admission: \$15. [www.liriodendron.com](http://www.liriodendron.com)

Wednesday 27

**MAIN STREET SOCIAL**

Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Network to make lasting connections and build mutually beneficial relationships right here in Bel Air. Free to BADA members. [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Thursday 28 – Sunday April 28

**PHOTOGRAPHY ART SHOW**

Harford Artists Gallery at Armory Marketplace  
Art show featuring photography; paintings and other art forms also on display. Reception: March 9 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Gallery Hours; Thursday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 410-420-9499 or [www.artinharford.org](http://www.artinharford.org)

**MARCH**

Friday 1 – Sunday 10

**URINETOWN, THE MUSICAL**

Harford Community College  
Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, *Urinetown* is praised for reinvigorating the very notion of what a musical could be. Tickets: \$16 - \$20. 443-412-2211 or [LIVEatHarfordCC.com](http://LIVEatHarfordCC.com) for location.

Saturday 2

**CHOCOLATE BREW AND WINE TOUR**

Downtown Bel Air, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
A “pub crawl” for beer and chocolate enthusiasts. Tickets include a drink at each pub, discounted food menu and a chance to win sweet giveaways. Tickets: \$50. [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Saturday 9

**IRISHMAN'S CHORALE**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1200 E. Churchville Road.

Amhranai Na Gaeilge, the only all-male Irish Chorale in the Mid-Atlantic region, performs 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. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Performance at 7:30 p.m. Admission: free. 410-838-0584 or [www.belairmd.org](http://www.belairmd.org)

Saturday 9

**NIGHT REFLECTIONS**

Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.  
Concert opens with English composer David Osbon's new work *Dearly Ransomed Soul*, which is a nocturne. Sponsor: Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. 443-567-9414

Sunday 10

**LEARNING BEE SERIES OPENING**

Hays House Museum  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Celebrate Women's History Month as Mary Ann Jung performs *Margaret Brent and the Indians*. Admission: \$5 adults; \$3 seniors/ students. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Tuesday 12

**BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: 1917 – THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND ON HARFORD COUNTY**

Historical Society of Harford County  
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Once Harford County was mostly rural farmland. Rich Wiltison, a historian from APG, will take you back in time to one of the most significant changes in Harford County's history, the building of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Wednesday 13

**GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: MY ANCESTOR WAS A QUAKER**

Historical Society of Harford County, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Many Harford County natives have Quaker ancestors. Christopher Smithson will help attendees locate these ancestral records and discuss local Quaker settlements. Admission: \$10. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Saturday 16

**MASTER CLASS & CONCERT WITH BSO OBOIST MELISSA HOOPER**

Music Land, 200 Gateway Drive 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra oboe player Melissa Hooper will coach up to four students on the oboe on a solo piece of their choice. Students should bring their own instrument and music. After the master class, Ms. Hooper will perform a 30-minute concert. Sponsor: Maryland Center for the Arts. \$10 suggested minimum donation. 443-567-5216 or [www.mdcenterforthearts.org](http://www.mdcenterforthearts.org)

Saturday 16

**PEG + CAT**

Harford Community College 3:00 p.m.

Based on the Emmy-winning PBS Kids show, this totally awesome musical features wild comedy, countless favorite songs from the show and Peg’s super coolest pal Ramone! Admission: \$15 - \$25. 443-412-2211 or visit [LIVEatHarfordCC.com](http://LIVEatHarfordCC.com) for location.

Friday 22 – Sunday 24

**PIPPIN**

The John Carroll School Heir to the throne, the young prince Pippin is in search of the secret to true happiness and fulfillment. He seeks it in the glories of the battlefield and the intrigues of political power. In the end, Pippin

finds that happiness lies not in extraordinary endeavors, but rather in the ordinary moments that happen every day. See dates and times and ticket information at [www.johncarroll.org](http://www.johncarroll.org).

Saturday 23

**VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**

Historical Society of Harford County, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come for a free tour of the Historical Society and learn about the many available volunteer opportunities. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Saturday 23

**TAKE A CHANCE ON ART LOTTERY**

Bel Air Armory, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

All ticket holders take home a piece of original artwork. Evening includes lite fare, cash bar, music and lottery drawing. Sponsor: Harford Artists’ Association. Tickets: \$75. 410-420-9499 or [www.artinharford.org](http://www.artinharford.org)

Sunday 24

**LEARNING BEE SERIES: BOOK TALK**

Hays House Museum 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Discussion about books that feature women in American history. Admission: free. 410-838-7691 or [www.HarfordHistory.org](http://www.HarfordHistory.org)

Sunday 24

**BRIDAL SHOWCASE**

Rockfield Manor, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Tour Rockfield Manor and meet with professional caterers, bridal boutiques, hair and makeup artists, florists and DJ vendors that will assist in making your day extra special. 410-638-4565 or [www.rockfieldmanor.com](http://www.rockfieldmanor.com)

Wednesday 27

**MAIN STREET SOCIAL**

Downtown Bel Air, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Network to make lasting

connections and build mutually beneficial relationships right here in Bel Air. Free to BADA members. [www.downtownbelair.com](http://www.downtownbelair.com)

Saturday 30

**MASTER CLASS & CONCERT WITH BSO VIOLIST PETER MINKLER AND CHAMBER MUSIC**

Music Land, 200 Gateway Drive, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra violist and series coordinator Peter Minkler will coach up to four students on the viola on a solo piece of their choice. He is also looking for advanced violin, viola, and cello students to form a chamber group to perform following the class. Teachers, parents, friends and family are welcome to observe the master class and concert. Go online to reserve your student’s place or to save a seat to observe the class and enjoy the concert. Sponsor: Maryland Center for the Arts. \$10 suggested minimum donation. 443-567-5216 or [www.mdcenterforthearts.org](http://www.mdcenterforthearts.org)

Saturday 30

**GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

Bel Air Armory, 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Interested in discovering more about your family history? Space at the conference is limited and advance registration is required. Admission: free. Call any Harford County Public Library or visit [www.hcplonline.org](http://www.hcplonline.org).





The Community Development Network of Maryland presented its 2018 Impact Award to the Town of Bel Air. The award recognizes the impact of the Armory Marketplace project on the Town and its residents.

The project converted the former Armory garages from a long-time vacant building to a business incubator for new and emerging businesses. It is also the home to Harford Artists Gallery. Armory Marketplace currently employs 31 full- and part-time employees. Pictured with the Town Commissioners in the background are Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator, Mayor Susan Burdette and Patti Sterling, Grants Coordinator.



The Cultural Arts Commission seeks to sponsor organizations for the rental of the Bel Air Armory for arts-related events. If you are a non-profit organization located in Harford County that would like to hold an arts-related event in the Bel Air Armory and would be interested in a sponsorship from the Town of Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission, please contact Angela Robertson in Economic Development at arobertson@belairmd.org or 410-838-0584.



Visitors, shoppers and residents to the Town of Bel Air can now pay for parking on their mobile device. The ParkMobile app is now available at approximately 500 downtown spaces. New stickers and signage will provide information to drivers on how to use the app. ParkMobile is a free app available for iPhone and Android devices. Users can also register on parkmobile.io. The ParkMobile app lets users remotely view and update/add time for their parking spot.



In Spring 2019, The Town of Bel Air is switching from quarterly to monthly sewer billing. Monthly sewer billing means 12 smaller bills that will follow Maryland American Water's billing cycle. Additional information will be posted on the Town's website under the Finance – Sewer Utility Billing tab. If you have any questions or comments please contact the Finance Office:410-638-4555 or finance@belairmd.org.

*Preservation is simply having the good sense to hold onto things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them.*

Richard Moe  
 President  
 National Trust for Historic Preservation  
 1993-2009



Though many owners of historic homes spend years on room-by-room renovations, **Jillian and Dan Lader** (above with daughter Eloise) updated most of the Livesey-Deaner House on Powell Avenue before moving day.

The Laders searched for an older home in the Town for several years. Many suitable properties were already renovated and outside their price range. Jillian spotted a for sale sign in front of the circa-1920s bungalow on Christmas Eve 2016. She sensed that they had found their home, though Dan persuaded her to wait until the day after Christmas to make the call.

Her instincts were spot on. Though the house had been cared for over the years, it was dated. However, it sat on a triple lot, an unusual feature for an in-town property. The location is just blocks from Jillian’s job as Manager of Communications at Harford County Public Schools.

During negotiations, the couple learned that the house was already designated as a historic property. It would mean that the Town’s Historic Preservation Commission is required to approve exterior changes. There was no hesitation, once they learned that they were not under any obligation to return the house to any previous exterior design. They were surprised to learn that they could combine mortgage and construction costs and start on major renovations at once.

During construction, they appeared before Bel Air’s Historic Preservation Commission to obtain approvals for several exterior changes. A rear two-story addition holds a new family room/kitchen combination and expanded bedroom spaces. They also sought approval for some windows and deck. The HPC does not review interior changes.

“The HPC was extremely supportive and welcoming,” says Jillian. “They wanted the house to stay historic and so did we. Now we are part of Bel Air history. We should ask the HPC to change the name to the Livesey-Deaner-Lader House!”



The Kelly Group, a financial services firm on E. Gordon St., was located next to the circa-1860s Proctor House. When **Bill Kelly (above) and Bryan Kelly** needed to expand, renovating the neglected property wasn't their first option.

The Gothic Revival style house's peeling paint and rotten exterior wood were more noticeable than its unique vertical board and batten siding, steep-pitched gable roof and late-Victorian porch design. One day, Bill was nearby when a window fell out of its frame and onto the yard.

Then-Town Administrator Chris Schlehr asked him to consider saving it and adapting it for use by The Kelly Group.

"It was 2008, in the middle of a bad economy and he wanted us to buy a run-down piece of real estate," recalls Bill. "But we did."

For Bill and Bryan, it was a sound business decision as much as a contribution to Bel Air's historic preservation. There were historic tax credits as well as the cost savings of keeping the original Kelly Group office building in place. The house was already registered with the Maryland Historical Trust, which eliminated a costly wait to apply for approval.

Projects of this magnitude, he says, require a lot of "soft costs." Before the first piece of peeling paint was stripped, Bill and Bryan consulted historical architects, structural engineers, storm water analysts and other experts. He recommends that those considering historic properties understand Maryland Historical Trust regulations, as well as those of their local jurisdiction. The renovation took a year.

"We brought back to life something that was started in the 1860s," says Bill. "There is an important legacy here for the Town. The Kelly Group plans to be a '100-year-business' and, as long as we and successor partners are here, that legacy will continue."



**Sandy and Pete Schlehr (above)** weren't thinking about historic preservation when they purchased the Chilcoat House at 327 E. Broadway in 1974. Though it dated to the 1920s, the white clapboard four-square had been rental property for most of its life. It was affordable and even offered a view from their rear yard of the playing field where they first met playing touch football next to St. Margaret's School.

For the next 40+ years, the Schlehrs slowly made the house into a family home, doing a large amount of the labor either themselves or along with help from skilled friends.

Many of those years were spent removing plaster from almost every inch of the house and replacing it with drywall. Sandy Schlehr recalls: "We often worked during the summer [*when she wasn't working at her career as an art teacher for Harford County Public Schools*]. We worked without a fan or air conditioning to minimize dust. We carried plaster down the stairs, bucket by bucket."

Though they have reconfigured and renovated most of the house, including a rear outdoor living space, the front of the home remains largely true to its 1920s origin.

The Schlehrs saw having the property designated as a historic property as a chance to become part of a movement to preserve the beauty and legacy of Bel Air's past. The designation also allows a tax credit on approved renovations from the Historic Preservation Commission.

Pete and Sandy are often approached by people who mention an interest in buying the house. After 44 years and untold hours of work, they have no plans to move. Instead, they hope to celebrate the Schlehr-Chilcoate House's 100th birthday in seven years and invite every friend, family member, contractor and laborer who has helped them make a lifetime home in Bel Air.

## Committees & Commissions

### Board of Town Commissioners

1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

### Appearance & Beautification Commission

2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Board of Appeals

4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Commission on Elderly & Needy Citizens

4th Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall

### Cultural Arts Commission

3rd Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Economic & Community Development Commission

2nd Thursday, 5:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Historic Preservation Commission

4th Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Planning Commission

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Tree Committee

2nd Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Planning Department

## Contact Us [www.belairmd.org](http://www.belairmd.org)

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.

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.

In addition to the Board of Town Commissioners meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 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.

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.

## Town Government

### Town Administrator

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### Economic Development Department

Trish Heidenreich, Director  
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