

The Bel Air Bond

A quarterly publication of the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

www.belairmd.org



Christian Honig, manager of the recently opened Chick-fil-A on Baltimore Pike, is a Harford County native and a 1999 Bel Air High School graduate.

Customer service is also on the menu at Chick-fil-A

When Manager Christian Honig interviewed job candidates for the recently opened Baltimore Pike Chick-fil-A, he wasn't necessarily looking for those with a lot of experience at serving chicken, waffle fries and sweet tea.

Instead, he was looking for employees who simply like to serve customers. More than half of the 120 new employees at the Bel Air location count Chick-fil-A as their first job.

"You can train people to make a sweet tea or a delicious chicken sandwich," says Honig, who also manages the Forest Hill Chick-fil-A location. "We hire for character. We look for people who have a positive outlook and who are excited about serving the community."

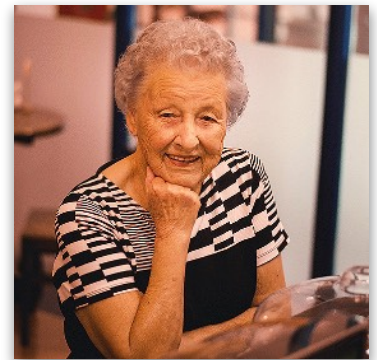
Randy Eastep is the owner/operator of both the Forest Hill and Bel Air franchises and started as a Chick-fil-A team member as a high school student in 1996: "We teach the right way to treat people. We strive to have a positive influence on them. Our employees can decide what to do with that."

Honig says that the busy pace at the 5,000 square-foot Chick-fil-A is best managed by workers who love teamwork. However, he adds, the experience can be life-changing. "I look at us as an organization that develops leaders," he says. "Our responsibility is to call out the good and to see the potential they may not see in themselves."

News, features
and goings-on



Outdoor summer concert series schedule. P. 4



About 28% of people who live in Town are 55 and older. The Town of Bel Air is working to make sure that they, as well as people in need of all ages, get the support they need. P. 6 - 7



Out and about all day: Kim Butler tends to student safety as well as parking enforcement. P. 9

Summer 2019

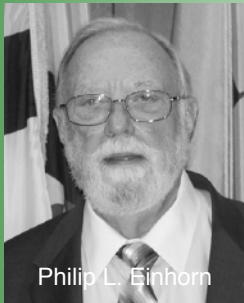
Board of Town Commissioners



Susan U. Burdette



Amy Chmielewski



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Patrick T. Richards

Dear neighbors,

On June 20 we bid farewell to Major General Randy S. Taylor, Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications – Electronics Command and Senior Commander, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He will relinquish command and we will welcome Major General Mitchell L. Kilgo.

As the APG Commanding General for a 16,000-person, two-star global command and the senior commander of a 28,000-person military base, General Taylor served as the U.S. Army’s command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance material integrator. APG is the *Army’s premier home of innovation in support of joint warfighter readiness.*

What does this mean for Harford County and our town? APG is the 6th largest employer in Maryland and supports over 39,289 jobs, \$2.1 billion in wages, and 72,500 acres of laboratories as well as range and test facilities and other buildings.

General Taylor and his spouse Lucas opened their home so that we could discuss partnerships and services for Bel Air over dinner. They invited residents to events like Oktoberfest and Discovery Fest and initiated an annual full-day Opioid Summit for business and government leaders.

General Taylor believes that the greatest fear of the spouses and families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice to our nation is that they will be forgotten. He created a Gold Star Memorial which will become an annual tradition to honor their memory.

We thank General Taylor for his service, inspiration and kindness to Harford County and we will be forever grateful for his commitment to the community. Bel Air benefits from APG’s presence and appreciates its value. We look forward to our continuing partnership with APG and its new command.

See you around Town!

Mayor Susan Burdette



Major General Taylor built bridges to Harford’s leadership community, including at a recent open house for them.



Major General Randy S. Taylor and Mayor Susan Burdette

**FREE OUTDOOR
SUMMER
MOVIE NIGHTS**

A BEL AIR DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE EVENT
BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Patient First **M&T Bank**
Understanding what's important*

JUN 7 **JUN 21** **JUL 5** **JUL 19** **AUG 2** **AUG 16**



ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 7:15 PM

MOVIE NIGHTS

FEATURED MOVIE STARTS AT SUNSET

Pack up the kids, grab your blankets, and join us this summer for another exciting season of food, fun, and films under the stars.

#BEBELAIR DOWNTOWNBELAIR.COM G+ f @ in



At the Historical Society of Harford County



Tuesday June 25
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Hays House will host an American Girl Party. Children, accompanied by an adult and their favorite dolls, are invited to a party at Hays House with delectable treats, games and crafts. There will be a treasure hunt with prizes, storytelling and a special tour of the 1788 Hays House from a child's point-of-view. This event is open to children ages 5-12 years. Cost is \$15 per child/adult pair. A second child is \$5. Advance, paid registration is required and space is limited. Call 410-838-7691.



Tuesday July 9
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Natalie Weeks, from Granova Poultry, an inter-generational family-owned Harford farm, will explore the history of farmers markets, CSAs and pick-your-own businesses in the county.



Sunday August 18
2:00 p.m.

Frank Wrabel will share his knowledge of the B & O Railroad and its impact on Harford County. Mr. Wrabel specializes in a broad range of railroad topics that include the PRR/Northern Central Railway, railroad engineering, structures and passenger service.



Friday August 9th, 4:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday August 10th, 12:00 - 10:00 p.m.
The Mary Risteau District Court Parking Lot
2 South Bond Street
www.belairmaryland.org/md-bbq-bash/



2019 Town of Bel Air Summer Concert Series

William A. Humbert Amphitheater @ Shamrock Park

(Behind Town Hall - 39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air, MD - Hickory Ave. & Lee St.)

The rain location is Bel Air High School Auditorium.

Please call (410) 803-9784 for rain/heat info. 2 hours before the concert.

From: 7:00 p.m. To: 8:15 p.m. - FREE Admission

- Sun. 6/02 Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra
(Opioid Awareness Concert)
- Sun. 6/09 Bel Air Community Chorus
- Sun. 6/16 Bel Air Community Band
- Sun. 6/23 Baltimore Symphonic Band
- Sun. 6/30 Navy Country Current
- Wed. 7/03 Trinidad and Tobago Baltimore Steel Orchestra
- Sun. 7/07 Bel Air Community Band Jazz Ensemble
- Wed. 7/10 The Colliders
- Sun. 7/14 Blues in the Night Big Band
- Wed. 7/17 Intermuse Music Festival featuring The Borowsky Family
- Sun. 7/21 Fast Eddie and The Slowpokes
- Wed. 7/24 Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition
- Sun. 7/28 U.S. Navy Band 'The Cruisers'
- Wed. 7/31 Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band
- Sun. 8/04 Upper Chesapeake Chorus
- Wed. 8/07 Harford Youth Jazz Ensemble
- Sun. 8/11 Juliet Lloyd
- Wed. 8/14 Sounding Brass
- Sun. 8/18 229th Maryland National Guard Band

Concerts are sponsored by the Town of Bel Air through the Bel Air Recreation Committee.

5/31/19

Go play outside.

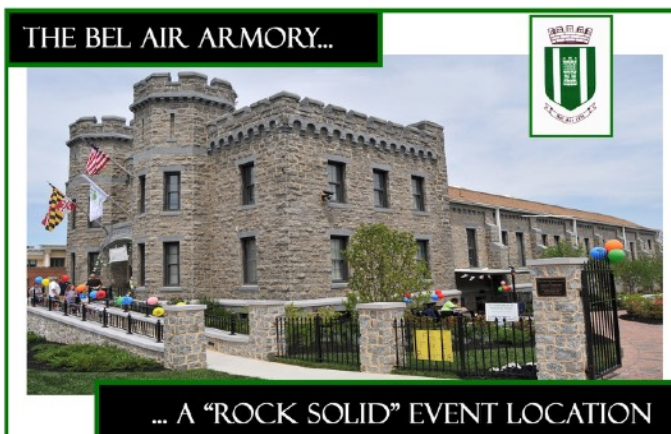
Looking for an event space? Rent the Bel Air Armory, conveniently located on Main Street in downtown Bel Air!

The Armory is a unique venue available to rent for many events including fundraisers, bull roasts, holiday parties, pageants, trade shows, conventions, music/theater/dance performances, reunions, retirement parties, business meetings, bingo, auctions, festivals, lectures and more.

The Armory's event hall boasts original hardwood flooring with a grand open space to accommodate up to 400 people.

Its dimensions are approximately 56'x 94'. A stage at one end of the hall is approximately 35'x 20'. This stage is perfect for hosting various entertainment and concerts.

Consider the Armory for your next event! Contact Julia Potler, Armory Manager, at jpotler@belairmd.org or 410-638-4506.



Frequently visited addresses, phone and websites

Town of Bel Air Government
410-638-4550
www.belairmd.org

Humbert Amphitheater
Shamrock Park
Lee Way & Hickory Ave.

Liriodendron Gallery
502 W. Gordon St.
www.liriodendron.com

Bel Air Armory
37 N. Main St.
410-638-4506

Hays House Museum
324 Kenmore Ave.

Bel Air Downtown Alliance
www.downtownbelair.com

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

Harford Artists Gallery at Armory
Marketplace, 37 N. Main St.
www.artinharford.org

Rockfield Manor
501 E. Churchville Rd.
www.rockfieldmanor.com

Historical Society of Harford County
143 N. Main St., www.HarfordHistory.org

Committee on Elderly and Needy focuses on neighbors at risk

Chapter 10 of the Town Code provides for the **Committee on Elderly and Needy Citizens** whose purpose shall be to:

- A. Serve as an advisory committee to the Board of Town Commissioners
- B. Examine, study and evaluate the Bel Air living environment from the standpoint of its elderly and needy residents
- C. Identify problems being experienced by the Town's elderly and needy citizens and through periodic meetings or reports advise the Board of Town Commissioners of these problems and recommended solutions
- D. Through a mutually agreed arrangement, coordinate the Committee's activities and recommend solutions with the Town's Economic and Community Development Commission



For several years, the Committee remained dormant, only to be reestablished several years ago. Its five members are chaired by Fran Johnson, a Town resident, and they are currently assessing needs, identifying resources and collaborating with local agencies, businesses and churches.

According to the Town's market study of 2015, 14.7% of the Town's population is 65 years and older. Additionally, 28% are 55 and older. Close to one third of our residents meet the older demographic. Our Commissioners and staff have been working to meet their needs, now and in the future. Actions so far:

- improved sidewalk conditions for accessibility and safety
- new and upgraded crosswalks and signage
- added bus signage and installation of a new bus shelter on Pennsylvania Avenue (in collaboration with Harford County Government)

If you have ideas on how to improve services for our seniors, please feel free to contact me at Town Hall. With your help, the Committee will continue its work to make Bel Air an accessible and supportive community for our seniors and those in need. The Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of every month (with the exception of July and August) at Town Hall. Meetings begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. and residents of the Town are welcome to attend. Minutes of those meetings and meeting agendas are posted on the Town's web page.

Jesse Bane, Town Administrator

In the coming months, the Committee on Needy and Elderly Citizens will work to identify seniors and other at-risk people in the Town of Bel Air. This effort will help the committee to identify needs and provide information and access to resources for people who need them. If you or a member of your family would like to be included in the list, please call or email Town Administrator Jesse Bane at 410-638-4550 or jbane@belairmd.org.

When in need, hundreds have turned to LASOS in Bel Air

For 10 years now, the Executive Director and founder of LASOS, Melynda Velez, has helped non-native residents of Harford County to settle into their new community.

“When you move to a new place, all you need is support and to know that someone is standing next to you,” says Ms. Velez.

To do this, Velez and volunteers coordinate advocacy, literary and financial education, translation, job referral, mentoring and an annual summer camp.

At the 10-year mark, she says, she can clearly see how LASOS has helped so many people in need build new lives.

“We have six graduates who came through us as young children who are graduating this year as valedictorians or salutatorians,” says Velez. She adds that many who have passed through LASOS doors on Courtland Street in downtown Bel Air have gone on to become local homeowners, taxpayers and community leaders. “Many of our people are the backbones of the service industries in town,” adds Ms. Velez.

Some individuals who have received LASOS support now own businesses or have managerial positions. They, in turn, are in positions to hire others and to pass on the sense of community that they found in Harford County.

LASOS is supported by personal and corporate donations, grants and fundraisers. As a small nonprofit, LASOS often is able to immediately respond to people with specific needs such as clothing, household items and job-finding help.

LASOS is located at 33 W. Courtland Street in Bel Air. Visit www.lasos.org



Melynda Velez is the founder and executive director of Lasos.

H₂O Help to Others Program is a nonprofit that assists people who have problems paying water bills. The program is sponsored by Maryland American Water for its customers: Contact 1-888-282-6816 or go to www.dollarenergy.org or www.marylandamwater.com (Go to the customer service and billing menu and select “Low income program.”)

This is an income-based program for Maryland American customers of any age who meet the qualifications. Every water customer in the Town of Bel Air is a Maryland American customer.





Mayor Susan Burdette, Director of Planning Kevin Small and members of the Bel Air Tree Committee recently surprised **Senior Planner Bob Syphard** with a special recognition for his work in ensuring the health and beauty of trees that grow within Bel Air boundaries. Mr. Syphard retired in May.

Mayor Burdette noted that, during Mr. Syphard’s 27 years of heading the **Bel Air Tree Committee**, the Town has been recognized on a state and national level for a number of projects that reflect Bel Air’s commitment to balancing inevitable growth with natural landscapes. Areas of work have included:

The Rt. 24 Streetscape, which included the planting of 300 – 400 trees between the MVA and Best Buy, Bond Street Streetscape, Main Street Streetscape, beautification by trees on Rt. 924, Rt. 22 and Rt. 1, The Town of Bel Air Memorial Tree Grove, American Liberty Elm Project and Major’s Choice Arbor Day White Oak project.

Wayne Merkel, a state forester and also an original committee member, presented an additional recognition on behalf of the Bel Air Tree Committee. He added that Mr. Syphard has headed an Arbor Day celebration every year and also coordinated an inventory of trees on all 167 streets in town. Over the years, the committee has also identified and inventoried champion trees.

Pictured above, l to r: Rowan Glidden, previously vice-chair of the Tree Committee and now Senior Planner at the Town of Bel Air; Kathy Pearce, Administrative Assistant, Department of Planning; Marion McCarron; Frank Lopez; Commissioner Phil Einhorn; Mike Simini, Chair; Mayor Susan Burdette; Bob Syphard and Wayne Merkel.

Simple advice from your school crossing guard: Heads up, slow down

Kim Butler, the Bel Air Police Department (BAPD) crossing guard who makes sure that St. Margaret and Bel Air Elementary School students cross Hickory Avenue safely, has some advice for drivers who are approaching school zones and crosswalks: “Pretend that it is your kids who are crossing the street.”



During mornings and afternoons, Kim Butler is the school crossing guard on Hickory Avenue. In between, she monitors parking enforcement.

“I think people don’t leave home in ample time to get to their destination . . . They get to the school zone and keep driving fast, even though I am in the middle of the street,” she says. “Some motorists try to go around the stopped car in front of them. Sometimes I have to step out in the road to stop cars that are trying to come around to keep them from getting close to the kids and their parents.”

You might say becoming a school crossing guard was a given, since Ms. Butler’s own mother was a long-time school crossing guard in Baltimore City.

Ms. Butler recently retired from a 26-year career in the US Army, serving most of those years as an Army recruiter at the Festival at Bel Air and Harford Mall.

She has enjoyed being part of the town so much that she recently applied for an additional assignment in the BAPD parking enforcement division. She performs parking enforcement between crossing guard shifts.

Don’t expect to find her in the parking enforcement jeep too often, though. Ms. Butler likes to get out and walk. She enjoys providing directions to parking areas, telling people about the Town’s Park Mobile app and chatting with passersby and shopkeepers.

She gives tickets as needed, of course. “I make sure that people follow the rules. And I am stickler for legal parking in the handicapped spaces. I am always checking to make sure that people with permits are in those spots.”

Ms. Butler, an Aberdeen resident, has come to know and like Bel Air so much, that she now makes a point to come into town on the weekends to attend many events with her grandchildren. “I like it here and I’ve gotten to know so many people. This is my town now!”

School crossing zones are in effect from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The speed limit in these areas during that time is 25 mph. In the Town of Bel Air, Ms. Butler or another guard is on duty from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. for St. Margaret’s School. The crossing guard is on duty from 8:45 – 9:15 a.m. for Bel Air Elementary School students.

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9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

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Committees & Commissions **Town Government**

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, 8:00 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

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 Administrator
L. Jesse Bane
410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711

Administration Department
Michael L. Krantz, Director
410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711

Finance Department
Lisa M. Moody, Director
410.638.4555 or 410.879.2712

Economic Development Department
Trish Heidenreich, Director
410.838.0584

Police Department
Charles Moore, Chief of Police
410.638.4518 or 410.638.4500

Planning Department
Kevin Small, Director
410.638.4540 or 410.879.9500

Public Works Department
Stephen D. Kline, Director
410.638.4536 or 410.879.9507

Bel Air Bond Editor
Kathi Santora, The Writing Studio
ksantora@gmail.com; 443.695.3345

FINANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS



To increase efficiencies and to reduce paper, the Finance Department now offers these services to taxpayers:

- ◆ E-billing
- ◆ Auto draft for monthly utility billing
- ◆ Ability to view on-line account history and bills for both sewer and real estate
- ◆ Acceptance of credit card payments
- ◆ Acceptance of e-check payments

E-billing: We encourage taxpayers to enroll in the e-billing program for both monthly utility bills and annual real estate tax bills. Save the Town (and you, the taxpayer) money by eliminating paper billing. Email finance@belairmd.org and provide your account number, name, property address and preferred email address. This change will be effective with your next utility or real estate tax bill.

Auto draft: The Town has moved to monthly utility billing, and is now able to offer automatic draft at no additional cost. Please visit www.belairmd.org, and click on the “Finance Department News” under the News Flash to complete the form. This change will be effective with your next utility bill.

View On-line Account History/Bills: We now offer each taxpayer the opportunity to view the account history and bills for both utility and real estate taxes.

Credit Card Payments: We accept all credit card companies. The convenience fee is 2.95%. Please remember to process your payment at least three business days before the due date, since we post your payment based on the date we receive the funds.

E-check Payments: The convenience fee is \$1.05. Please process your payment at least five business days before the due date, since we post your payment based on the date we receive the funds.

Customer ID/Pin Number: Each invoice now shows a Customer ID and Pin Number. Use this information to access your online account and make payments.

Please feel free to call us with any further questions at 410-638-4555. We hope you will take advantage of these options, especially e-billing.



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Orangetheory FITNESS **Anchor Mechanical**
Anchor Mechanical is a member of the Bel Air Alliance. Services for your Home and Business.

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5:00 to 8:00 pm

Beer and Wine Tickets: \$5 each **FREE ADMISSION**

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 TRIPWIRE SEPTEMBER 27

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The 2019 Bel Air Independence Day Celebration: 2019 Theme: Celebrating Bel Air – Our Home Town!



Thursday, July 4th, 2019 • 6:45 am - 10 pm • Bel Air, Maryland

At Bel Air High School:

- 6:45 am: Flag Raising Ceremony
- 7-11:30 am: Pancake Breakfast

At Rockfield Ball Park:

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

At the Hays House:

- 9:00 am - noon: Tours & Activities

At Shamrock Park:

- 8:45 am: Flag Ceremony
- 9 am: Water Balloon Toss
- 10 am: Patriotic & Fantasy Costume Contest
- 11 am: Uncle Sam Says
- 11 am: Bicycle Rodeo (at Bel Air Elem. School)
- 11:30 am: Watermelon Eating Contest



Bel Air INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

- Start Time: 6 pm sharp!
- Begins at Idlewild & S. Main — Ends at N. Main & Gordon!

Bel Air JULY 4 FIREWORKS

- Start Time: approximately 9:30 pm
- Fired from Rockfield Ball Park



Times & events subject to change. For details & more info.. call (410) 893-4444 or visit www.BelAirJuly4.org. © 2019 Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc.