

The Bel Air Bond

A quarterly publication of the Town of Bel Air, Maryland



www.belairmd.org

News, features
and goings-on



Carolyn Carter (l) and Betty Mull were unsure about joining a senior center until they visited the McFaul Activity Center. Now they are regulars.



It's not too soon to mark your calendar for holiday events. P. 5



The Authors and Artists Annual Holiday Gift Sale returns. Meet David Jennings, who chairs the committee. P. 6

Senior centers offer classes and camaraderie

On the days that Carolyn Carter and Betty Mull each decided to see what the Harford County Senior Center at Bel Air was all about, they both admit to some misgivings.

Ms. Carter was recovering from a stroke, alone at home. "I said, 'don't put me in with the seniors!'" when her sister suggested that she consider attending the center.

Ms. Mull happened to visit the center during the time when her late husband was undergoing treatment with dialysis at nearby Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. "I didn't think there was anything there to interest me," added Ms. Mull, a retired Harford County Public Schools assistant principal.

Both say they quickly changed their minds when they saw the center's classes and activities. They were also taken by the friendliness of the staff and members. Now, Ms. Carter attends every day. She joined the knitting and crocheting group, and turns out more than 100 newborn baby caps a month for Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. Ms. Mull also attends daily and is a front-desk volunteer two days a week.

Debbie Gemuendt is the Senior Center Lead Coordinator at the McFaul Activity Center in Bel Air. She says that many are surprised by the variety of activities that appeal to seniors at all stages of their pre- and post-retirement years. (Cont. p.3)



REB RECORDS

The newest Armory Marketplace shop is a blast from the past. P. 9

Fall 2019

Board of Town Commissioners



Susan U. Burdette



Amy Chmielewski



Philip L. Einhorn



Brendan P. Hopkins



Patrick T. Richards

Dear Neighbors,

In August, Governor Larry Hogan joined Ambassador Jonatan Vsevirov of Estonia to enact a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Maryland and Estonia. It was a special day for our state as well as for Bel Air since Narva, Estonia has been our sister city since April 2014.

This agreement strengthens a partnership that the two jurisdictions have built over the past several years. It commits Maryland and Estonia to exchange ideas about economic development, tourism, education, drug abuse prevention and cultural arts. The MOU will last for five years with the opportunity for renewal.

Ties between Maryland and Estonia began in the early 1990s with the State Partnership Program between the Estonian Defense League and the Maryland National Guard. In 2017, Lt. Governor Lloyd Rutherford led a trade mission to Estonia focused on e-government and cybersecurity.

The Town of Bel Air has also built a dynamic friendship with Narva. Under the leadership of the Bel Air/Narva Partnership Committee, this relationship has flourished with some very innovative events. These include a business roundtable with their Embassy, a Harford Community College (HCC) nursing student exchange program and an international art exhibition. A series of free classes were offered to Harford County residents at HCC with focus on history, culture and Estonian food.

For more information about our sister-city relationship, visit <https://www.belairmd.org/408/Sister-City-Narva-Estonia>.

See you around Town!


Mayor Susan Burdette



Governor Larry Hogan and Estonian Ambassador Jonatan Vsevirov recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that sets in place a plan for future exchange of ideas and friendship.



Bel Air Mayor Susan Burdette (O) was on hand for the signing since the Town of Bel Air and Narva, Estonia have had an active sister city friendship since 2014. She is pictured with Governor Larry Hogan, Milton Davis, Chair, Maryland Estonian Exchange Committee and Ambassador Jonatan Vsevirov. Photos courtesy of Governor Hogan's office.

(Cont. from p.1)

“We are a senior activity center,” says Ms. Gemuendt. “We highlight the word ‘activity.’ Our goal is to get people involved and to thrive.” In addition to Bel Air, Harford County’s senior activity centers are also located in Edgewood, Fallston and Havre de Grace.

Membership is free and allows entrance to all four centers. Senior activity center members follow their own interests. Some, say Ms. Gemuendt, arrive early and take part in fitness classes and leave to work or spend their day elsewhere. Others come to play cards, games, billiards, bingo, see scheduled movies, eat lunch and to simply chat with friends.



Rick Selander regularly meets friends for billiards.

Members also have access to classes.

A seasonal schedule, available in print and online, lists dozens of opportunities including dancing, fitness, drawing, knitting and crochet, language and culture, and yoga. Charges for 10-session classes are about \$25 a semester.

Access to the fitness center is free to senior center members during daytime hours. Fitness orientation instruction is offered once a month.

Though activities make the center a vibrant place for seniors at many stages of their lives, Ms. Gemeuendt says that the daily catered meal program is one of the most essential services offered at the McFaul Activity Center.

“The congregate meal program is founded with the idea of getting people to come together who may be living by themselves, perhaps for the first time, or people who do not cook,” she says. “A meal gathers people together.” There is a suggested donation of \$3 per meal, but Ms. Gemeuendt notes that donations are confidential and not monitored.

Ms. Carter and Ms. Mull, who were once unsure of their places in the Center, now attend most days.

Ms. Carter has advice for anyone who was, like herself, skeptical “Join. When I don’t come, I miss everyone. I don’t even like to take a vacation and be away from here.”

Ms. Mull agrees. “This is a caring place where the staff put people as their priority. It’s a great place to spend the day.”



Greg Cullison (front) and Stephanie Proudford are fitness room regulars.



(l to r) Charlotte Levin, Bessie Speyer and Chris Colvin relax in the game room.

Harford County residents, aged 55 and older are eligible to join Harford’s Senior Activity Centers. Come to any of the four centers for a tour and application. Membership is free. There are some charges for classes, which require pre-registration. Many people come to the centers by Harford Transit’s regular routes. At application, the staff will help find out if you are eligible for door-to-door service.

HAA will be hosting our Annual Family Art Festival.
 There will be face painting, caricature drawings, mural painting, lots of crafts and art projects for all ages, local authors, fun photo booth designs, yoga classes, music and more!!

YOU ARE INVITED

PLEASE JOIN
 HARFORD ARTIST ASSOCIATION

Fall in love

 with Art
 IN BEL AIR
 FREE FAMILY FUN

2019 2-6 pm
SUNDAY SEPT. 22nd
 410.420.9499
 37 N. Main St., Suite 104
 Bel Air, MD 21014
www.artinharford.org

THE BEL AIR ARMORY...



... A "ROCK SOLID" EVENT LOCATION

Contact Julia Potler
 410-638-4506
jpotler@belairmd.org

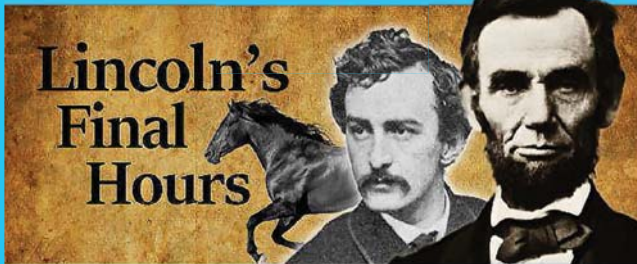


At the Historical Society of Harford County . . .



HARFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
A NIGHT AT THE COPA
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 7:30-10:30 | RICHLIN CATERING & EVENT CENTER

Entertainment featuring Elio Scaccio with special guest Julie Anna Gulenko & the comedy stylings of Larry Noto.
 Tickets: \$75 pp. Online at Eventbrite or call 410-838-7691.



Lincoln's Final Hours
 Tudor Hall Special Talk

Location: Tudor Hall, 17 Tudor Lane. Bel Air
 Sunday September 29, from 2 – 2:45 p.m.
 Come to Tudor Hall for a special talk about Lincoln's final hours by Kathryn Canavan, author of *Lincoln's Final Hours: Conspiracy, Terror, and The Assassination of America's Greatest President*. \$5 cash for those ages 13 and older. 443-619-0008 or SpiritsOfTudorHall@gmail.com

Genealogy: Building a genealogy profile and putting the story together with Mary Worthington Schweers

Wednesday October 9, 2019
 Historical Society of Harford County
 7 – 9 p.m.

Ms. Schweers will describe how to develop a genealogy profile and organize your findings into an actual story, one that tells the history of your family for future generations. \$10, 410-838-7691

To complete this form online, visit www.belairmd.org and click on "Finance Department News" under the News Flash section.

Town of Bel Air Utility Auto Pay (Bank Draft) Authorization Form

Automatically deduct your utility bill payment from your bank account each month. Complete the form below to set up Auto Pay or update your current Auto Pay information. Email it to utility@belairmd.org, hand-deliver to the Finance Department, or use the Finance Department's drop box, or mail it to the Town of Bel Air, ATTN: Finance Department, 39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014.

Within a few days of receiving your completed form, we will process a test file to withdraw \$.00 from your bank account. If that transaction is not successful, we will notify you. If it is successful, your Auto Pay will go into effect on the 24th of the month. Each month thereafter, we will send you a statement showing the amount of your Utility Bill which is the amount that will be deducted from your bank account on the 24th of each month. For more information, please email utility@belairmd.org.

Please circle all that apply from the following:

- Enrollment Stop my Auto pay, effective immediately
- Change my current information I want to receive my bills via email (shown below)

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Name * | Email |
| _____ | _____ |
| First Name Last Name | example@example.com |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Utility Acct# * | Phone Number * |
| _____ | _____ |
| XXXX-X | (Area Code) Phone Number |

Service Address *

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Street Address Line 1 | City State / Province | Postal / Zip Code |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Bank Name * | Bank Acct # * | Bank Acct Routing # * |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Please circle Checking or Savings Acct? * Checking Savings

I authorize the Town of Bel Air to withdraw payments against my bank account for my Utility bills until this authorization is revoked in writing and received by the Town of Bel Air at least 10 business days prior to presentation of a draft, or until the Town of Bel Air revokes this service due to insufficient funds or other non-payments. The bank is authorized to pay these drafts when so drawn and presented for payment and to charge the same to my account. I further agree to notify the Town of Bel Air if I withdraw this authorization.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Signature* | Date* |
| _____ | _____ |
| Print / Signature | MM/DD/YYYY |

*required fields

HIGHLAND ECHOES
SCOTLAND ON STAGE

7:30 PM | OCTOBER 10, 2019
THE BEL AIR ARMORY | BEL AIR, MARYLAND
910.338.0787 WWW.HIGHLANDECHOES.COM

Authors & Artists Holiday Gift Sale resumes in November

The Annual Authors & Artists Holiday Gift Sale brings together over 40 authors and artists with four dynamic musical and theater groups at the Bel Air Armory on November 2 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. David Jennings (below) chairs the event for the first time.

Tell us about yourself and why you volunteered to lead the show.

I am retired after 42 years civilian service in the Department of the Army at APG. I spent most of my career in video and movie production.



Shows like the Authors & Artists Holiday Gift Sale are a great chance to meet people and share stories as well as to sell art. Penny Comeau, Larry Garnett and Debbie Jennings make up the rest of the committee, working closely with the Town of Bel Air to make this event happen.

Tell us about the 2019 Authors & Artists Gift Sale. There is an even mix of authors and artists. Some authors will have brand-new releases on hand. The artists offer locally made jewelry, pottery, ornaments, notecards, photography, paintings and woodworking. There is live ongoing entertainment by Theaterworks LIVE (10:00 a.m.), Bel Air High School Jazz Ensemble and Bel Air High School Pop Choir (11:00 a.m.), Upper Chesapeake Chorus of the Sweet Adeline's International, Inc. (Noon) and Self Expression by John Sobus (1:30 p.m.).

Admission is free? Yes, because there are many sponsors: The Town of Bel Air, Maryland State Arts Council, Harford County Cultural Arts Board, the Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission and the Bel Air Arts & Entertainment District. We have great business support from all of the Armory Marketplace vendors and 14 restaurants in town.

Why are local authors and artists important to a community? Local authors and artists put their time, talent, and heart into creating the art we each enjoy. Their efforts help educate and inspire us, improving our daily lives.

More details on the 2019 Authors and Artists Holiday Gift Sale: <http://www.belairartsandentertainment.org> and on Facebook. Maps for parking and local restaurants and shops are online.

Community Collection
FOR A CAUSE

9am to 1pm, Saturday, September 21
Bel Air High School Parking Lot

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

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bicycles | Textiles | Sporting Gear |
| Books | Eye Glasses | Cell Phones |
| Hearing Aids | Dehumidifiers | Window AC's |
| Toys | Home Goods | Shoes |

ALSO DOCUMENT SHREDDING!!!

Sponsored By

From Bel Air Police Chief Charles Moore:

The men and women of the Bel Air Police Department face enormous demands in our ever-changing world. However, I am proud to say that they remain positive and committed to the mission of protecting life and property and adopt a philosophy that is focused on modern techniques of community policing.



I'd like to give you a snapshot of our outcomes from 2018, our most recent annual report year.

- There has been a reduction in Part 1 Crimes, which the State Police, FBI and other agencies use to assess and measure the level of crimes (and safety) in a jurisdiction. These are the most serious crimes and include robbery, rape, serious assaults, larceny and auto theft. The Town of Bel Air continues to be rated one of the safest cities in Maryland.
- Statistics also show a slight decrease in numbers of arrests and motor vehicle crashes. Traffic enforcement remains focused on high-crash areas and it is believed that this effort has contributed to this decrease.
- Major criminal investigations have involved several complex investigations to include: bank robberies, burglaries resulting in a seizure of fraudulently purchased firearms, and thefts and frauds.
- Our new Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) program was instituted to create another resource for those dealing with opioid addictions. Numbers show a 60% decrease in overdoses, though an increase in opioid-related fatalities.
- The BAPD welcomed citizens to our successful open house that was held on Saturday, August 11, 2018.
- The BAPD has added one additional school resource officer (Officer First Class Nicholas Rhodes) to enhance our school security and interaction ability with the school population.

Our workforce diligently strives to maximize safety in our Town. This involves aggressive crime reduction efforts, which involves quickly finding and arresting those responsible for crime in our Town; educating citizens in exhibiting safer driving behavior in areas that we have found to be high traffic-disturbance areas; helping to introduce a good blend of discipline and fun into the lives of youth with a healthy and enriching Police Explorer program and summer youth camps; introducing a regionally unique opioid overdose reduction program that is making a difference in our Town and county; giving the opportunity to our citizens to have a direct impact on what is happening in the Bel Air Police Department by creating a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB).

We look forward to continuing to be of service to you in the coming years.

Call us when you need us.

Head to REB Records in Armory Marketplace for your blast to the past

From rock to R&B to country, find just about anything you are looking for (and maybe some albums you didn't even know you needed) at REB Records, the newest incubator business in Armory Marketplace.

REB Records has been a thriving online marketplace ever since it launched with a single-purchase inventory of 20,000 records. When the business looked to add a brick and mortar location, the Town of Bel Air's Department of Economic Development selected REB Records as the newest tenant in the Armory Marketplace.

The vision for REB Records is to create a destination music store and grow a place of community where people of all ages can share their appreciation for music and discover old favorites or newly available vinyl.



While you may think of vinyl and record players as a youthful pastime, there has been a significant resurgence in vinyl production and sales. Small indie record stores with knowledgeable staff have replaced the days of big box music stores. According to the owners, vinyl record sales have grown 32% from 2016 – 2018.



Vinyl records bring back many memories for some. For others, it's a new glimpse into our musical past.

In addition, the store offers cassettes, DVDs and equipment. REB Records caters to analog enthusiasts who have been collecting vinyl for years as well as to teens who are discovering vinyl and analog for the first time. With the owners' breadth of knowledge, both casual listeners and serious collectors will be at home.

With the growth in the vinyl industry and knowing the closest independent record stores are in Newark, Delaware and Baltimore City, the two friends who started the store knew there was a great opportunity for them to combine their years of retail experience and their passion for music to launch a business in the Town of Bel Air. As the only independent record store in Harford County, watch for REB Records to host open mic nights and future music events.

Award-winning Armory Marketplace, a business incubator aimed at helping new and emerging businesses get off to a solid start, is a program of the Town of Bel Air Economic Development Department. It launched in November 2016.

**November 30 – December 1
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Liriodendron Gallery
Fresh greenery arrangements for sale, art and craft vendors, live Christmas music and refreshments. 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.
www.liriodendron.com

**December 1
CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING**

Concert on Main Street in front of the Harford County Courthouse at 2:30 p.m. Parade at 3:30 p.m. Community bonfire and singalong in Shamrock Park with free cookies and hot chocolate at 4 p.m. Tree Lighting at Town Hall at 4:45 p.m. Event ends with a Living Christmas Tree and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus! If bad weather, event will be cancelled and not rescheduled. 410-838-0584 or visit www.belairmd.org/226/Christmas-Parade

**December 5
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS CLASS**

Historical Society of Harford County
Make unique holiday arrangements with a local floral designer and learn the history and myths surrounding holiday plants and the history of Christmas cookies. 7 p.m. \$10. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

**December 7 – 8
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Hays House Museum
Tour the house decorated with fresh greens and holiday arrangements by the Country Garden Club of Harford County. Period music on Sunday by the Catherine Street Consort. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Free. 410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

**December 7 – 8
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & SALE**

Harford Artists Gallery
Unique gift items and artwork created by local artists. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. 410-420-9499 or www.artinharford.org



**December 8
BEL AIR COMMUNITY BAND WINTER CONCERT**

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street
Seasonal and holiday music for all ages. Many styles and popular music will be featured. 3 p.m. Free. www.belaircommunityband.org

**December 14
HARFORD CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1200 East Churchville Road. 4:00 – 5:30 pm. For ticket prices, visit www.harfordchoralsociety.org

**December 15
13th ANNUAL MERRY TUBA CHRISTMAS**

Come and bring your tubas, euphoniums and baritone horns. Registration fee: \$5; Music cost: \$15 (unless you have music from a previous Tuba Christmas event). Bring a music stand, dress festively and decorate your instrument. Audience admission is free. Location and time to be determined. 410-391-7832 or www.belairmd.org

Election Date: November 5, 2019

Voting Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voting Location: Bel Air Town Hall, 39 N. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Md.

There are **three seats** on the Town of Bel Air Board of Commissioners that are up for election this year. Learn more about role of Town Commissioners <https://www.belairmd.org/212/Board-of-Town-Commissioners>

Questions? Call Town Hall at 410.638.4550.



Contact Us
www.belairmd.org

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

Tickets include a soda and popcorn.



Comfortable table seating is provided.

JOIN US AT THE 11TH ANNUAL

TICKETS

\$5 per film

children 10 and under free

FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 14-16, 2019

Bel Air Armory - 37 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD
Doors Open: 7:00pm | Screening: 7:30pm

TownofBelAirFilmFestival.com

Stop by the Town of Bel Air Visitors Center at Harford Artists Gallery for a FREE GIFT Friday night 5-7pm (while supplies last)



Recent ribbon cuttings welcome more businesses into a thriving Bel Air



Welcome, **The Goodie Shoppe!** Pictured are Town, County and Bel Air Downtown Alliance officials with owner Pam Rohde along with family and staff.



Welcome **Crabby Axe Throwing!** Pictured are Town, County and Bel Air Downtown Alliance officials with owner Tricia Miller, along with family and staff.



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

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR

BEL AIR BOND










Meet Local Authors & Artists | Book Signings & Sales | Local Artwork Sales
Holiday Gift Sale
 Saturday, November 2, 2019 | 10am to 3pm
 Bel Air Armory - 37 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD
 A free and fun event supporting arts and entertainment.
 For info visit: facebook.com/AuthorsandArtists2019



