



A quarterly newsletter published by the Town of Bel Air, Maryland

www.belairmd.org



Left: Three winners of Bel Air's Annual Historic Preservation Poster Contest inspect their work prior to an awards ceremony at Town Hall.

See the students and their work on **Page 5**



You'll find original paintings, pottery and jewelry by Harford Artists Association members all over town this summer, including on Wednesdays at Marketplace on Main. **Page 5**



Bel Air's Bicycle and Pedestrian plan will take you places. **Page 9**



Sworn to learn, protect and have fun

When Bel Air Police Chief Leo Matrangola looks at the 64 children on the Department's 2013 summer camp roster, he hopes to see at least a few future Bel Air career police officers.

"One of the main reasons that we operate summer police camps is that we want to get kids and their families to see that policing is a necessary and viable career as well as an important service to the community," says Chief Matrangola. As they move into high school, boys and girls can join the Department's Explorer Post, which trains youth between the ages of 14-21 in the art and science of law enforcement.

Currently, one local explorer has applied to be a cadet, the first step in a police career. "One day, we hope to have a success story where a 10-year-old comes to summer camp for three or four years, then becomes an explorer, a cadet and then a career police officer," says Chief Matrangola.

Summer Camp

The camp schedule is the stuff of dreams for most boys and girls. They learn the ins and outs of crime scene processing, radar, felony stops and fingerprinting. It's not all work though. Campers go home with bellyfuls of ice cream and pizza and as the new owners of T-shirts and model police cruisers. (Cont. P. 3)



Sgt. Robert Pfarr oversaw radar patrol demonstrations during Bel Air Police Summer Camp 2013.



Police Explorers lend many extra hours of coverage to town events such as the Bel Air Town Run and the upcoming Festival of the Arts. (l to r) Explorer First Class (EFC) Greg Speckman, Sgt. David Yip and Sgt. Jeff Gary.

Dear neighbors:

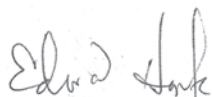
Thousands of students attend the five public and private schools located within the Town of Bel Air's 2.9 square miles.

That is why promoting citizenship, a sense of community and providing them a chance simply to have fun has always been important to Bel Air's staff, police and town commissioners.

Throughout the year, we recognize student achievement at Town meetings, sponsor free family activities, operate a summer police camp, fund recreational sports programs, maintain green spaces and playgrounds and organize youth essay contests.

We don't have to tell any parent how quickly time passes between childhood and adulthood. During that short time, all of the adults in a community have a rare opportunity to help shape the future of our town. I encourage you to volunteer in youth activities, sponsor programming or simply take the time to lend an ear to our young neighbors.

Sincerely,



Eddie Hopkins, Mayor



School-organized community service projects often provide a student's first glimpse into the needs of their neighbors.

Three Bel Air Middle School sixth graders raised money for Harford Family House during their recent community service project.

(L to r) Carolyn Klein, Tyler Martin and Austin Hooper joined forces to make this contribution. They sold snacks and handmade duct tape items at school to raise cash. They also wrote to local and national restaurants and merchants and obtained donations of gift certificates and vouchers for families.

Harford Family House, located in Aberdeen, is the County's only transitional shelter for homeless families with children.



ON THE COVER: Pull up a chair on the sidewalk and enjoy outdoor dining at **Sunny Day Cafe**, **Little NY Deli**, **Shamrock Coffee**, and **Birds Nest BBQ** (left).

Coming soon: Renovations at **Bel Air Town Center** will include sidewalk seating at existing and soon-to-come restaurants.

Bel Air Town Commissioners



Eddie Hopkins



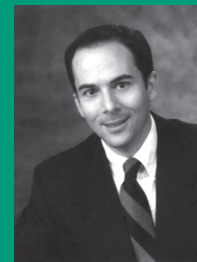
Susan Burdette



David E. Carey



Robert M. Preston



Dr. Robert J. Reier



Bel Air Police Department added a second camp session due to its growing popularity.



Next stop: Explorer Program

The Bel Air Police Department Explorer Post #9010 recruits high school-age students and provides a more intensive sample of police science.

Explorers meet twice a month for classroom instruction. The curriculum is “like a mini-police academy,” says Chief Matrangola. “We teach forensics, radar, traffic, fingerprinting, blood spatters and drug identification.” The program is chartered as a law enforcement Explorer Post with the Boy Scouts of America.

The group also volunteers at high-attendance town events such as the Bel Air Town Run, parades and Festival for the Arts. Their presence, in uniform, provides extra visible security and allows full-time officers to focus on higher-level policing.

At the recent Town Run, explorers handed out water bottles, patrolled Shamrock Park on foot and monitored runners for heat exhaustion. “They rendered aid to a woman who fell. The explorer responded. We didn’t have to pull an ambulance or a police officer to the scene. When I got there, she was all bandaged up and walking on her way,” recalled Chief Matrangola.

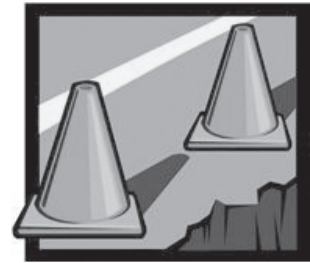
By the time they have completed the Police Explorer program, each student will have donated about 100 hours of service to the town.

These young people add a tremendous value to public safety during town events, adds Chief Matrangola. “You have 20 students on the scene who want to be police officers. They take their duties seriously.”



Members and leaders of the Bel Air Police Department Explorer Post #9010 are front (l to r): Jake Stewart, Dave Yip, Gavin Mazer, Justin Parker, Hope Nesbitt, Jeff Gary and Officer Rick Krause; Back (l to r): Officer Karen Dupre, Greg Speckman, Sean Orem, Garrett Green, Adam Davis, Ralph Green and John Hofmeister.

What’s in the works at the Department of Public Works



Work crews in the **Bel Air Public Parking Garage** continue to sandblast, repaint, re-caulk, and reseal joints. This scheduled rehabilitation lasts into fall. It’s a big job: the supply list includes 72,000 linear feet of caulk.

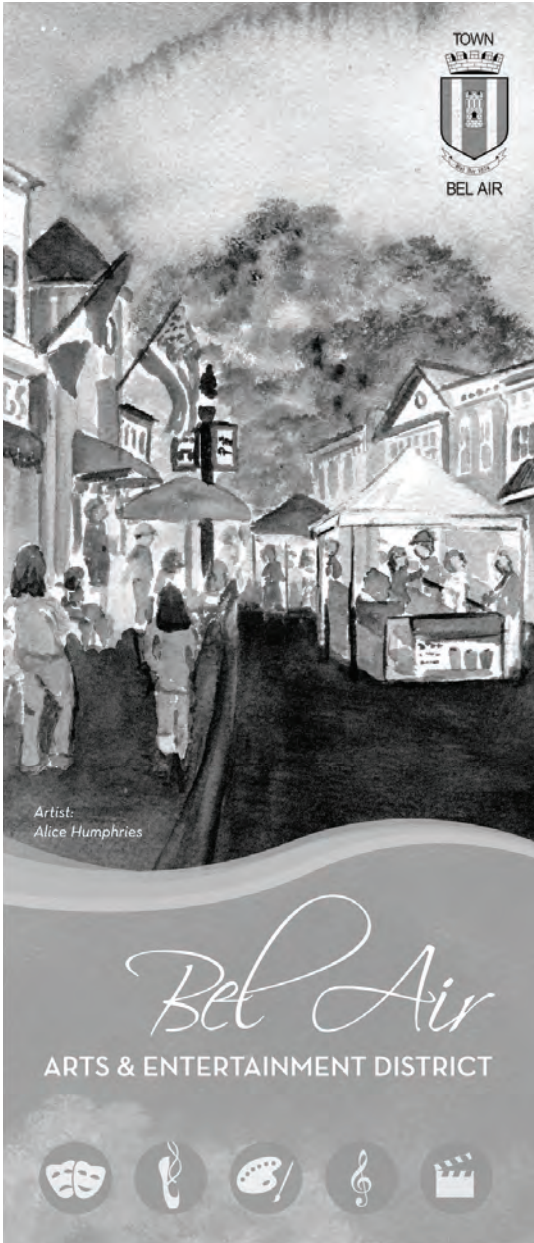
DPW inspected and, when needed, repaired sewer and manholes in the **Homestead neighborhood**.

“**Trenchless technology**” makes it possible to make these repairs without digging. Workers insert a sleeve into damaged pipes and apply a grout-like material that cures in place and seals cracks. This process adds decades to the life of a pipe and reduces groundwater infiltration into the sewer system. The bottom line? Less groundwater lowers water treatment costs by 10 - 20%.

ADA-compliant ramps and corners have been completed at Hayden Court, Hickory Avenue and Lee Way, MapleView and Hall, Jesse Court and Village Court.

DPW reports that the State Highway Administration is near completion of pedestrian-friendly access at the corner of **Broadway and Main Street**, allowing residents from nearby residential neighborhoods to more safely walk into downtown.

MA & PA Heritage Trail fans will see 5 - 6 new parking spaces on Ellendale and Williams Streets, all part of a project that brings new curbs, gutters and sidewalks to the area.



Harford Artist offers no-cost portraits to vets

Diane Quick, a long-time Harford Artists Association member, has her own particular brand of “giving back” to local veterans: she will paint his or her portrait at no charge.

Portraits, Diane believes, provide the subject with a powerful insight into how the world perceives him or her. Diane worries that veterans, especially those who have been wounded physically or mentally, return home with an altered self-image and struggle to understand how they fit into a new life.

“Sometimes our service people come back with PTSD or physical disabilities. They are at a time of life when they don’t see themselves as others see them. Other people see their value and worth, but sometimes they struggle,” says Diane.

She hopes that an original painting will help in some way to restore a veteran’s sense of self and identity. She will also paint from photos in honor of deceased veterans.

When asked what inspired her to make this offer, she shrugs: “The veterans have given to us. Not everything has to be done for money.”

Drawn to portraits

Her artist roots date to the 1960s, when she attended the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art: “At that point, my life’s ambition was to go to Greenwich Village and be a street artist.” Though a need to support herself pushed her to commercial art, she remained intrigued with portraiture.

“Every person has a unique look that is fun,” she says, admitting that she studies others while chatting with them. “I look at your eyes, your nose and think how I would shadow it and mix colors. Sometimes people’s faces are a glimpse of their personality.”

Retirement now has allowed Diane to indulge in one of her earlier life’s goals. She is frequently seen on the streets during Girls Night Out sharing her art as well as playing the mandolin. In Bel Air, she has finally fulfilled her dream of street artistry.



Diane Quick will paint portraits of veterans, either living or deceased, at no charge. The veteran can be in or out of uniform, depending on his or her preference.

The veteran at left is Marine Cpl. Olvera, who performed two tours of duty in Afghanistan.

“A portrait will help you see yourself as others see you,” she says.

You can reach Diane at dianequick1@verizon.net or by calling 443-327-6172.



The **Town of Bel Air's Historic Preservation Commission** sponsors an annual poster contest for 4th grade students to promote National Historic Preservation Month. The students select a historic building to draw to enter into the contest. This year, Harford Day School and Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School participated in the contest.

Maddie Markoff, Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School, Alex Fulford's Bottling Plant; **Sarah Entner**, Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School, The Homestead; **Skiatheni Trintis**, Harford Day School, The Wren Box; **Kemper Robinson**, Harford Day School, William Doxen House; **Kylie White**, Harford Day School, Mrs. Dunnigan's Hotel & Restaurant; **Iroda Rustamova**, Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School, Alex Fulford's Bottling Plant; **Aidan Brehm**, Harford Day School, Alexander McComas House; **Luca Van Hoang**, Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School, Bel Air Armory. Rear: **Karen Chizmar**, Chairperson of the Town of Bel Air Historic Preservation Commission; Not pictured: **Jonah Lever**, Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School.

People's Bank awarded savings bonds to the top three winners, while honorable mention winners received restaurant gift certificates provided by the Town of Bel Air. Visit **Buontempo Brothers**, **Friendly's**, **Greek Village**, and **Main Street Tower Restaurant and Lounge** and see reproductions of winning posters on placements.

September 15, 2013
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Shamrock Park
 Hickory Avenue
 and Lee Streets

Continuous shuttles
 from Motor Vehicle
 Administration on Rt.
 24

350+ artists and
 craftspeople, live music and performances, food
 concessions and children's activities.

www.belairfestival.com

Sponsor: Bel Air Recreation Committee



Harford Artists Association

Lazy Days of Summer

Art Show at Harford Artists Gallery

Caretaker's Cottage at Rockfield Manor
July 11 - Sept 1

Bel Air Festival for the Arts

Shamrock Park

Sept 15, 2013 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Pictures at an Exhibition

Regional juried art show at Harford Artists Gallery

Caretaker's Cottage at Rockfield Manor

Sept 5 - October 27

Wine and Cheese reception: Sept 7, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

JULY

**Wednesday 17 thru September 25
(every Wednesday)
MARKETPLACE ON MAIN**

Downtown parking lot between the Tower Restaurant and the Sheriff's office.
3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Local growers and producers, Harford Artists Gallery artists along with ever-changing weekly specials and promotions, including entertainment.
410-879-9500

**Wednesday 17
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater,
Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.

Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: the Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.
Free. 410-803-9784

**Thursday 18
GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Downtown Bel Air. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Grab the gals and head out to Downtown Bel Air. Our shops are open later and there are deals to be had. Local restaurants and pubs have great Happy Hour specials as well. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Saturday 20
SUMMER HISTORICAL LECTURE AND
TEA**

Harford County Historical Society Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street.
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Preserving War of 1812 Documents with speaker Rebecca Whitman Koford.
Reservations required. \$8. 410-838-7691

**Sunday 21
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.
Upper Chesapeake Chorus will perform.
Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location is Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.
Free. 410-803-9784

**Wednesday 24
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Regents Jazz Ensemble
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater
Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.

Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

**Thursday 25 – Sunday 28
HARFORD COUNTY FARM FAIR**

Equestrian Center, 608 N. Tollgate Road
Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
26th Annual Farm Fair celebrates Harford County's agricultural community with fun-filled activities and events for all ages, including 4H competitions.
Sponsor: Harford County Farm Fair, Inc.
Admission. 410-838-8663
www.farmfair.org

**Friday 26
OUTDOOR MOVIES**

Wreck It Ralph
Shamrock Park, Lee Street & Hickory Avenue. 7 p.m.
Enjoy movies under the stars. Pack the blankets and grab the kids! Seating opens at 6 pm. At 7:15 pm, enjoy pre-movie entertainment by *Jeff Teate, Musician*, followed by the movie at dusk.
Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
Free. www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Sunday 28
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Bottle of Blues
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater,
Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.
Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

**Wednesday 31
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Chuck Baker Orchestra
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater
Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.
Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

AUGUST

**Friday 2
FIRST FRIDAYS**

Alton Street
Office and Main Streets. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Free outdoor celebration of live music downtown; beer & wine garden; refreshments; merchant specials.

Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Friday 2
OUTDOOR MOVIES**

Madagascar 3
Shamrock Park, Lee Street & Hickory Avenue. 7 p.m.
Enjoy movies under the stars. Pack the blankets and grab the kids! Seating opens at 6 p.m. At 7:15 p.m., enjoy pre-movie entertainment by *Candy and Cupcake*, followed by the movie at dusk.
Sponsored by the Bel Air Downtown Alliance. Free.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Sunday 4
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Barbara Martin
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.
Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

**Wednesday 7
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.
Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

**Friday 9 and Saturday 10
MARYLAND STATE BBQ BASH**

Bond and Thomas Streets.
Friday 4 p.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturday Noon – 10 p.m. The BBQ Bash features live music, top quality BBQ, sponsor displays, crafters, merchant vendors, Farmers Market, and children's entertainment, not to mention the County's biggest beer and wine garden!
Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.mdbbq.com. 443-823-1797



**Sunday 11
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Allyson Taylor
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.

Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsors: Town of Bel Air and Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

**Wednesday 14
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Jazz Ambassadors of Army Field Band
Wm. A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 p.m.

Outdoor concert in the park. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsors: Town of Bel Air and Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

**Thursday 15
GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Downtown Bel Air. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Grab the gals and head out to Downtown Bel Air. Our shops are open later and there are deals to be had. Local restaurants and pubs have great Happy Hour specials as well.
Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Thursday 15
PREMIER SHOWING OF ALDO LEOPOLD DOCUMENTARY**

Harford County Historical Society Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street.
Premier showing of the new Aldo Leopold documentary and exhibit highlighting Harford County's connection to the early conservation movement. Time TBD.
410-838-7691 or www.HarfordHistory.org

**Friday 16
OUTDOOR MOVIES**

Escape from Planet Earth
Shamrock Park, Lee Street & Hickory Avenue. 7 p.m.
Enjoy movies under the stars. Pack the blankets and grab the kids! Seating opens at 6 p.m.. At 7:15 p.m., enjoy pre-movie entertainment by *Silver Eagle Cloggers*, followed by the movie at dusk.
Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
Free. www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

SEPTEMBER**Friday 6
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

Office Street near the Courthouse.
Noon – 1 p.m.

Lunchtime concert with food vendors available; tables/chairs provided.
Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Free.
410-638-4550

**Friday 6
FIRST FRIDAYS**

Stolen Identity
Office and Main Streets. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Free outdoor celebration of live music downtown; beer & wine garden; refreshments; merchant specials.
Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Saturday 7 – Sunday 22
CCA DECORATORS SHOW HOUSE**

Rockfield Manor, 501 E. Churchville Road. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays; Tickets: \$20; 410-459-6496 or 410-937-8369. Preview Gala: Friday September 6, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Reservations: 410-459-6496.

**Sunday 8
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND BEEKEEPING DEMONSTRATION**

Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Adults \$5. Students and Seniors \$3.
410-838-7691

**Friday 13
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

Office Street near the Courthouse
Noon – 1 p.m.
Lunchtime concert with food vendors available; tables/chairs provided.
Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Free.
410-638-4550

**Sunday 15
BEL AIR FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS**

39 Hickory Avenue (behind Town Hall).
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
350 fine art, craft and photography booths; continuous live entertainment; great festival food; free shuttle bus from MVA on Route 24. Admission: Free. Rain or shine. Sponsor: Bel Air Parks and Recreation. 443-616-6708

**Thursday 19
GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Downtown Bel Air. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Grab the gals and head out to Downtown Bel Air. Our shops are open later and there are deals to be had. Local restaurants and pubs have great Happy Hour specials as well.
Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

**Friday 20
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

Office Street near the Courthouse.
Noon – 1 p.m.
Lunchtime concert with food vendors available and tables and chairs provided.
Sponsored by the Town of Bel Air.
Free Admission. 410-638-4550

**Sunday 22
DAVID FISHER INTERPRETS BEN FRANKLIN**

Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue; 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Adults \$5. Students and Seniors \$3. 410-838-7691

**Monday 23
THE GREATER BEL AIR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S 12TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**

Maryland Golf & Country Clubs. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Join the Foundation and support improvements to standing structures and playground renovations. All proceeds benefit the community. www.gbacf.org
410-836-6366 or 410-879-9292

**Friday 27
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

Office Street near the Courthouse
Noon – 1 p.m.
Lunchtime concert with food vendors available; tables/chairs provided.
Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Free.
410-638-4550

**Saturday 28
ANNUAL HARFORD COUNTY WINE FESTIVAL**

Rockfield Manor, 501 E. Churchville Road. 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Live music by *Reagan Years*, unlimited wine tastings from around the world, and crafters. www.rockfieldmanor.com or 410-638-4565

**Friday 4
FIRST FRIDAYS**

Remains of Radio
Office and Main Streets. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Free outdoor celebration of live music downtown; beer & wine garden; refreshments; merchant specials. will perform. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

For calendar events and feature suggestions, contact Kathi Santora, The Writing Studio, at 443-695-3345 or ksantora@gmail.com. The Bel Air Bond is distributed in January, April, July and October. Deadline for calendar events is the 20th of the month before publication.

Harford's Department of Community Services helps us all get along

There were once two Harford County neighbors who looked at a decades-old tree that straddled their properties and saw two very different things.

The tree belonged to a 30-something new homeowner who enjoyed its shade and ambience. However, next door, a senior citizen lived in fear that the tree would fall on his house and injure his wife, who had limited mobility. So great was his worry that the man seldom left the house. Despite several discussions, the neighbors failed to see a solution.

Two neighbors. Two generations. One towering disagreement.

Eventually, the pair found their way to the **Harford County Community Mediation Service**. Trained mediators facilitate conversations so that those on each side of the issue create an agreement that suits both. The program is free, voluntary and confidential.

"When we brought them together, the younger man was able to see, for the first time, the genuine fear in his neighbor's face," says Susan Fisher, the Community Mediation Coordinator. "They talked some more and made a decision together." The homeowner agreed to have the tree removed, and the neighbor covered all costs.

Community Mediation

Community Mediation follows a prescribed five-step problem solving process. Neutral mediators facilitate conversations that encourage parties to describe their viewpoint and the reasons for their position. Conversations continue to the point where each identifies possible solutions. Finally, in successful mediations, participants describe how they have decided to resolve the issue.

Last year, the Harford County Community Mediation Program fielded about **400 calls** and facilitated **104 mediation sessions**. Of those, **79 reached an agreement**. The mediation program has brought together neighbors, landlords, home contractors, families, veterans, exiting inmates and businesses for conversations that were sometimes simply impossible in any other way.

"Conflict is a natural part of life," observes Ms. Fisher. "During mediation, people learn that it can be constructive. We teach people to resolve disputes in a neutral atmosphere where everyone can get their needs met."

Volunteers

The program's core asset is its group of about 35 trained mediators. They begin with 45 hours of Basic Mediation Training. Then they move forward to an apprenticeship period that includes two observations and two co-mediations.

One of these volunteers is Roberta Scoville, of Havre de Grace, who specializes in the Jail Re-entry Mediation Service. She facilitates discussions that help soon-to-be

released inmates work on unresolved issues with family and friends. The program aims to help them adjust to their new environment and reduce recidivism.

Ms. Scoville, a retired minister, believes that bringing people together in a neutral setting opens the way for creative problem solving. "Its an incredible gift to sit with people in a non-judgmental way and watch them solve their own disagreements," she says.

Community benefit

"Each time a mediator facilitates a session, they help resolve a specific conflict but also educate the community about constructive ways to solve future conflicts," says Ms. Fisher.

There is also evidence that mediation reduces police calls and helps many avoid the time, stress and expense of going to court.

Mediations are **judgment-free zones**, says Ms. Fisher: "You can come to mediation and be yourself. Since we encourage participants to develop their own solutions, results tend to be more creative and lasting."



Susan Fisher at Harford County's Department of Community Services in downtown Bel Air.

Do you have what it takes?

The Community Mediation Program will hold a new **Basic Mediation Training in September**.

Volunteers in the program come from diverse backgrounds. Previous experience is not needed nor is a degree required. Volunteers must simply have a passion for helping people solve problems in creative and peaceful ways.

Ms. Fisher, who has overseen the program for six years, says that the rewards are surprising when people come together and work to see another person's point of view. "There are so many 'aha' moments in mediation that are simply magical," she says.

For more information about Harford County's Community Mediation Program, or to explore opportunities for volunteering, contact Susan Fisher at 410-638-4807 or visit www.harfordmediation.org.

Dream of a car-free life in Bel Air? So do we.



Can you walk or ride a bike from your home to a summer concert at Shamrock Park? To your favorite downtown Bel Air breakfast haunt? How about to the Saturday morning farmers market and to Marketplace on Main each Wednesday afternoon and evening?

If so, you are in luck. Your gasoline bills are lower, your heart is stronger and your house value may be higher than a comparable one in a less foot-friendly neighborhood.

If not, take heart and keep that bicycle tuned up anyway.

The Town of Bel Air has embarked on a long-term strategic plan that will make walking, biking and taking the bus a natural choice for residents living in and around downtown Bel Air, including the Rt. 1 Business corridor.

With feedback from a Town advisory committee, an online survey and coordination with state and county agencies, town planners have compiled a summary of recommendations. These include improved pedestrian crossings, enforcement of traffic laws, trails that connect green spaces, way-finding signage, new bike racks and better public transit connectivity.

You can download a list of observations and proposals at: www.belairmd.org

The Town of Bel Air will hold an information open house on Monday August 19, 2013 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 39 N. Hickory Avenue. Residents and businesses can see progress so far and weigh in with suggestions.

Long-time owners have new designs on Bel Air Town Center

Chris Kurz (below) sees an interesting demographic shift in Harford County that is important for local retailers and restaurateurs. Chris, President and CEO of **Linden Associates**, along with business partner Pete McGill, built the **Bel Air Town Center** in 1989. Operating as McGill Development L. P. No. 3, the pair manage the center and monitor local retail trends.

For many years, he says, new County residents tended to move in from suburban Baltimore neighborhoods. These days, real estate agents tell him that a majority of their customers are from Harford County.

"They are trading up," says Chris. "When people trade up locally, it says that they are confident in the local market and that they feel economically better off. Bel Air is no longer dependent on migration from Baltimore. We have a self-sustaining economy."



Bolstered by this trend, McGill Development will soon complete major renovations at Bel Air Town Center. The new look includes:

- Wider sidewalks that allow outdoor dining
- Vibrant bicycle racks
- Planting beds with an organic flair
- Stone-covered columns that blend into a new raised facade
- Multicolor awnings that convey a Main Street atmosphere

Chris is currently negotiating with national, regional and local merchants. He's looking for suggestions for new tenants. **What would you like to see at Bel Air Town Center?** Contact Chris Kurz at cwkurz@linden-assoc.com or call him at 410-532-6250.



All together now: Salute those on the move in the Bel Air Police Department



“We will greatly miss Murph’s extensive law enforcement experience, mentoring and dedicated service to the Bel Air Police Department and the community,” said Chief Leo Matrangola (r).

Sergeant Dennis Murphy retired from the Bel Air Police Department (BAPD) in March.

Sgt. Murphy, aka “Murph,” was born in Bethpage, New York and joined the U.S. Army just after his 1971 high school graduation. With an honorable discharge four years later, he followed in the footsteps of his father, Sgt. Patrick Murphy, NYPD. Early in his 32-year career, Sgt. Murphy served in the Havre de Grace (MD) Police Department, the Bel Air Police Department, Maryland Port Administration and the Department of Defense. He rejoined the BAPD in 1982.

In 2001, Murphy volunteered with disaster relief at the World Trade Center and spent three days assisting with security and the recovery of materials and evidence from Ground Zero. He deployed from Midtown North, the same location where his father had been stationed.

During his tenure with the Bel Air Police, Sergeant Murphy received many personal letters of recognition and appreciation for his service to the community. He also received the Chief’s Meritorious Service Award, Life Saving Award, six Chief’s Exceptional Service Awards, a Governor’s Citation, and three Unit Citations.



During his career with the Town of Bel Air, Sgt. Krick’s tenacious investigations have solved a number of sensitive and complex cases. He is pictured with Mayor Eddie Hopkins (l) and Chief Leo Matrangola.

Frank Krick, who began his career with the Bel Air Police Department as a dispatcher in 1985, was recently promoted to Sergeant. He now manages and supervises a patrol squad and reports directly to the Deputy Chief of Police.

“Sgt. Krick has investigated many noteworthy and difficult cases and helped make Bel Air a safer place to live,” says Police Chief Leo Matrangola. He adds that Sgt. Krick’s exceptional skills in stressful situations made him a valued member on the Harford County Crisis Management team as a hostage negotiator.

During his tenure at the BAPD, Frank has received numerous letters of commendation and awards, including the Chief’s Exceptional Services Medal and the Purple Heart.

There are a number of in-service training credits on Sgt. Krick’s resume, including “Top Gun,” a 40-hour hands-on training course for drug investigators, various crime scene technical courses and TASER and MP5 Rifle Operator training.

He has also served for over 25 years as a Harford County Volunteer Firefighter and was Chief of the Whiteford Fire Company for nine years.

BAPD Sergeant Henry Marchesani is a graduate of the 253rd session of the FBI National Academy Program. He is now a member of a select group of less than one percent of the country’s law enforcement officers.

The 10-week course, based in Quantico, Virginia, includes instruction in law, behavioral science, forensics, terrorism, leadership and health/fitness.. The course is worth 17 college credits, which Sgt. Marchesani will apply toward a Bachelor degree from the University of Maryland. While there, he also completed the *Yellow Brick Challenge*, a 6.1 mile grueling trail run and a *Blue Brick Challenge* for a 34-mile swim.

The FBI National Academy is dedicated to improving law enforcement standards and is a well-recognized benchmark for professional continuing education. It prides itself in its tradition of preparing law enforcement officers for complex and dynamic challenges. The BAPD has five present or former graduates from the program.



HARFORD COUNTY'S NEWEST FARMERS' & ARTISANS' MARKET



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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>Planning Commission 1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Board of Appeals 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Economic & Community Development Commission 2nd Thursday, 4:30 p.m., Armory</p> <p>Historic Preservation Commission 4th Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall</p> <p>Appearance & Beautification Commission 2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m., Armory</p> <p>Cultural Arts Commission 3rd Wednesday, 5:00 p.m., Armory</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 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 Town Hall and online. Topics include business assistance, historic preservation, parking guides, a walking tour and 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 Christopher G. Schlehr 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711</p> <p>Human Resources & Technical Support 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 Leo F. Matrangola, Chief 410.638.4517 or 410.638.4500</p> <p>Planning Department Kevin Small, Director 410.638.4540 or 410.879.9500</p> <p>Public Works Department Randolph C. Robertson, 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>

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