



What's Inside: News, Features & Events



WHEN IT SNOWS . . .
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MR. THOMPSON AS MR. LINCOLN
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
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Longtime residents take the helm at the Bel Air Downtown Alliance

Anyone who has inhaled the sweet smell of the BBQ Bash, who has melted at the sight of the treats inside the Annual Chocolate Festival and rocked the night away at First Fridays knows that the Bel Air Downtown Alliance (BADA) has made a mark during its first decade.

The Alliance's two new staff members – Executive Director Christine McPherson and Events and Promotions Coordinator Roman Davidyuk – plan to mix the Alliance's tried and true successes with a focus on new goals.

Christine is a lifelong Harford County resident who is now raising a family in the Town of Bel Air. She was previously the Community Development Manager at Lasos, a Bel Air-based nonprofit that provides services for non-English-speaking county residents.

Born in Ukraine, Roman came to Maryland in 2002 as a child with his family. He was in Patterson Mill High School's first graduating class and is a recent Milligan College (Tennessee) graduate. He holds a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and Accounting.



Events and Promotions Coordinator Roman Davidyuk (l) and Executive Director Christine McPherson lead the Bel Air Downtown Alliance from their office just inside the door of the Bel Air Armory.

Turn to page 3 to learn more about the Bel Air Downtown Alliance's vision for the future.

Dear neighbors,

If forecasters' predictions are correct, it looks like we're in store for another harsh winter. As always, the Town and the DPW staff will be at the ready to do whatever it takes to defeat any winter storm that might head our way. You can rest assured that there's a strategic plan in place to get to every Town street, roadway and sidewalk in a timely manner.



Knowing that the Town will do its part, I'm respectfully asking my fellow citizens and surrounding businesses to chip in and do theirs.

In order for us to collectively claim victory when battling these events, we must take individual responsibility, when at all possible, to make sure that our sidewalks are plowed, shoveled and cleaned. Bel Air is a town that prides itself on the ability of our citizens to walk about safely and unfettered. We must also make sure that our children can get back and forth to school, once they re-open. This can be a challenge if sidewalks aren't cleaned and then become icy and treacherous.



I'm also asking that we keep an eye on our neighbors who are elderly or disabled. These folks need our assistance during these weather events. Knocking on a door and asking if you can help, whether it's shoveling a walk, or picking up a grocery item is always appreciated.

As a youngster, I fondly remember snowy days: sledding, snowball fights and good times with friends and family.

However, what always left me with the best feeling was helping out neighbors by shoveling a walk. Sometimes I'd earn some spending money, sometimes I didn't. It didn't matter because, whether I was given some money or not, it was simply the right thing to do.

Wishing everyone a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year,

Dr. Robert J. Reier, Mayor

Photos above courtesy of Town of Bel Air Department of Public Works



ON THE COVER: Bel Air's Department of Public Works says "Bring it on, Winter!" They are: (l to r) Ed Zaras, James Oakes, Steve Greene, Roy King, Freddy Murillo, Matt Ross, Chuck Arnold, Steve Kline, Bryan Mullaney.

Left: Public Works Director Steve Kline

Read more about snow in Bel Air on page 4.

Bel Air Town Commissioners



Dr. Robert J. Reier
Mayor



Susan Burdette



Eddie Hopkins



Robert M. Preston



Patrick T. Richards



Bel Air Downtown Alliance (continued from page 1)

What do you want Bel Air’s merchants and residents to know about the Bel Air Downtown Alliance?

Christine: We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. We work on charitable giving and we are accountable to the community for the way we spend our money. We have to be purposeful. That goes from everything from the BBQ Bash to the Chocolate Festival to the Hearts of Bel Air sculptures. It is not the Alliance’s money but those who have contributed to the Alliance.

Roman: The Alliance builds community with events and promotions. We unite the businesses and the consumers of Bel Air so that they live and work together. Residents and visitors get creative gift ideas, shopping and great food. The restaurants, retailers and service businesses benefit by having people who support them.

What is your first order of business?

Christine: The executive board has charged Roman and me with returning the Alliance to the Main Street program concepts upon which the Alliance was founded. Bel Air is one of 23 Main Street Maryland communities supported by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, which is a partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Main Street Center.

We are turning back to those roots and will use the four pillars of the Main Street program as our framework: Design, Organization, Promotions and Economic Development. We have a committee for each concept.

We pride ourselves in the hard work of the last four years, especially in the promotions pillar. We have really taken our events and social media marketing to a great level. Now we need to step back and look at the other three pillars, so we can be really solid on all four pillars.

What will this mean to the town’s merchants and residents?

Our **Design** Committee will take another look at the Town’s appearance. When the Alliance was founded, it conducted a survey of outside architecture in town. Then we were able to secure government funds to support the ¼-mile-

Streetscape Project that brought us new crosswalks, welcoming signs, traffic flow changes and improved walkability. We are going to take another look and possibly do a second survey.

We will call upon our **Organization** committee to help us streamline and document our processes and procedures so that we remain accountable in everything we do. The **Promotions** Committee will look at our events and make sure they are mission-driven and operate in the best way. Girls Night Out is a good example. It is very popular, but we’d like to see what to change to bring more Thursday night visitors to town. We have brought a lot of new businesses and people to town. The **Economic Development** Committee will look at things like bringing art galleries and new businesses here and how to get new people, especially young people, to visit Bel Air.

Can you share some other ideas?

We’d like to combine artists’ concepts with practical improvements. We want to encourage bicycling. Bike racks could be artistic creations in themselves. We need a crosswalk at the Library entrance. We are talking about creating something innovative such as a crosswalk that looks like a bookshelf.

You rely on volunteers. What do you need?

Numerous volunteers help us on the day of events. These are the most visible roles. But to make those events happen, we need behind-the-scenes support such as phone calls, sponsor contacts, promotion bag stuffing and other clerical tasks.

Our work doesn’t stop when the event is over. Volunteers write thank-you letters and document how the event went so we can plan for the following year. Volunteers are essential in helping us use our time and resources well.

Any other thoughts to share with Bel Air’s businesses and residents?

Christine: Each director and, for that matter, each staff person who has come through the Alliance has served it well and for a certain purpose. It will be fun, interesting and exciting to see what Roman and I can now bring. We are left with the charge of ‘What is your contribution going to be to the Alliance?’”

If it's Fall, it must be time to prep for snow storms



It wasn't snowing in Bel Air in October, but that's when the Town's Department of Public Works (DPW) was stockpiling street salt supplies, outfitting snow plows and plotting out the Winter 2014 – 15 snow response plan.

"Most of the DPW staff have been here for 10+ years," says Department of Public Works Director Steve Kline. "They prepare so they can do a good job. They are proud when they get snow off the streets and sidewalks quickly."

DPW office support staff is also part of the snow removal team, as they answer phones and prepare food for outdoor crews during weather events.

Once snow starts to fall, DPW's salt trucks and plows head out. After roads are clear, there's still more work to do even if it is the middle of the night. Town properties, parking lots and sidewalks must be cleared and salted. It's work that can take more than a day and night to complete – sometimes two, says Steve.

Snow events can test even the most patient of us. Steve offers some advice on how Town employees, residents and business owners can understand each other's challenges and face foul weather together.

- Resist the habit of using a snow blower to shoot snow back out onto public roads.
- Some residents get angry when plows push the snow onto their driveway entrances. It is Town's policy to clear snow from curb to curb. Plows first open roads and then return to push back to the curb.
- Residents and business owners must remove snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of when snowfall stops. This is especially important in business areas and in neighborhoods in which schools and public facilities are located.
- Encourage younger families and your children to help elderly and disabled neighbors remove snow from their sidewalks and cars.



Bottom: Chrissy Mullaney (l) and Joli Long are the voices behind the Department of Public Works.

Snow removal is just a fraction of DPW's responsibilities. The 31-member staff picks up trash, yard waste and recycling; sets up and cleans up after events; takes part in construction and maintenance of streets, storm drains, street lighting and traffic signals; maintains Town buildings and facilities; landscapes Town parks and medians as well as trees located in the public rights-of-way; oversees engineering and contract administration of public improvements; reviews design and construction of development projects; monitors environmental compliance; oversees site plan, sediment and erosion control and stormwater management.

DPW also issues building permits and maintains their own vehicles and equipment and those of the Police Department.

Music, pictures and storytelling reveals Abraham Lincoln’s love of performing arts

What with more than 15,000 books written about Abraham Lincoln, it’s no easy feat to discover a new side to the man. Duke Thompson, creator and sole performer of *Lincoln’s Life & Legacy*, promises audiences new insights into one of the most studied presidents of all times. The performance is a musical, historical and multimedia presentation that will take place at the Bel Air Armory on Saturday April 18, 2015. The date coincides closely with the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

Duke, Director of the Bel Air–based Maryland Conservatory of Music and life-long Lincoln admirer, believes that President Lincoln’s love of the arts often goes unnoticed. He began to ponder about President Lincoln’s love of music while he attended the President’s 200th birthday celebration in Gettysburg in 2009. He recalls listening to choirs and instrumentalists interpreting the Gettysburg Address and wondering what Lincoln would think.

“I started researching. I really had to dig because there is not a lot of attention given to Lincoln’s love of the arts. His interest was very, very substantial. He loved poetry and Shakespeare. He went to more than 30 operas in Washington, D.C. during his four years as President,” says Duke. “Music often brought him to tears.”

His findings moved Duke to create the two-part *Lincoln’s Life and Legacy in Stories and Music*, a live medley of original and existing music and storytelling with a backdrop of historical photographs. Duke is the sole performer. He explores Lincoln’s life and impact on our country with a particular nod to Lincoln’s affinity for the arts. “My show is about Lincoln returning as a musician and being able to share what he loved so much in his life.”

Live music, says Duke, was a particular rarity in the 1800s. “Back then,” he observes, “There were no recordings. Weeks would go by without anyone hearing any music. When Lincoln did hear music, it was an incredible gift for him. Literally, when he went to live shows, tears would come down his face.”

Over 200 people attended part one of the performance at the armory in October 2014. Duke says that the Fall show told Lincoln’s life story up to the time of the Gettysburg Address. The performance on April 18 will focus on his legacy from that point until the present day: “Part two is about what Lincoln saw from the heavens. We continue to explore his life, legacy and emotions with stories, pictures and music.”

Though Duke admits that Lincoln was not a piano player, the instrument is a symbol of his passion for the performing arts: “A piano is black and white. He always dressed in black and white. He looks good at a piano.”



After Duke Thompson’s first appearance as Lincoln last October, people told him that he “humanized Lincoln.”

Klein's ShopRite of Maryland
Proudly Presents
LINCOLN'S LIFE & LEGACY
- In Stories and Music -
Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War
and a Fascinating Part of Harford County History.
DR. DUKE THOMPSON is LINCOLN
Part 2
"Beyond Gettysburg"
Sat., April 18, 2015

Also Presented by:
HARFORD MUTUAL
Maryland Conservatory of Music

Tickets: \$25 per person
Available at -
harfordhistory.org

THE BEL AIR ARMORY
37 N. Main St. 410.638.5323 Doors open at 6:00 PM
Civil War Lore - Re-enactors - Exhibits



January

Through February 22

Starving Artist Sale

All works created by local artists: paintings, photography, pottery and jewelry

Harford Artists Gallery

Fridays - Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

503 E. Churchville Road

Located in the cottage next to

Rockfield Manor

410-420-9499

www.artinharford.org

Tuesday, January 13

Harford County Dept. of Community Services' Human Relations Commission

McFaul Activity Center,

525 W. MacPhail Rd., Bel Air

Open meeting to discuss events, public education of matters relating to the equality, equity and harmony of citizens of Harford County. The February meeting will be held at the Kaufman Cancer Center.

410-638-4739

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Town of Bel Air Government offices closed

Tuesday, January 20

Town Hall Meeting

7:30 p.m.

39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air

410-638-4550

February

Monday, February 2

Town Hall Meeting

7:30 p.m.

39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air

410-638-4550

Friday, February 6

Halfway to First Fridays

Location, time TBD

A great way to beat the winter blahs as you get ready for Harford County's best block party. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance; 443-823-1797
www.downtownbelair.com

Friday, February 6 – February 8

55th Annual Bel Air Gun Show

Bel Air Armory

Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.;

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Displays, sales and trades of antique and modern firearms, decoys, knives, coins, books. \$5 for adults and \$2 for students under 16. Sponsor: Harford County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League 410-877-1785

Saturday, February 14

Candlelight Valentine's Day Dinner

Rockfield Manor

Rockfield Manor hosts its 14th annual Valentine's Day Dinner catered by Pairings Bistro. Enjoy a perfectly paired menu with great wine in an intimate setting. Live music sets the tone for a romantic evening. For tickets, contact Pairings at 410-569-5006. Space is limited.



Saturday, February 14

Valentine's Day Dinner

Bel Air Armory

6:30 p.m.

Join professional impersonators Eric Richardson and James Young as Dean Martin & Frank Sinatra

Sponsor: Harford Historical Society

Tickets: \$60; 410-838-7691

Tuesday, February 17

Town Hall Meeting

7:30 p.m.

39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air

410-638-4550

Thursday, February 19

Girls Night Out

Downtown Bel Air

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Grab your girlfriends for a night of discounts, specials and shopping in downtown stores; food and drink specials in downtown restaurants.

Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance. 443-823-1797

www.downtownbelair.com

Saturday, February 21

History on Parade

Historical Society of Harford County
143 N. Main St., Bel Air, Md.
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meet the authors of Society Bulletins for signings and discussion. Visit unique exhibits and displays of vintage materials from the Society's collection. Free. 410-838-7691

Saturday, February 21

Rockfield Manor's Celebration Open House

501 E. Churchville Rd., Bel Air, Md.
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Planning a wedding or a celebration? Join us as we open our doors and invite you to learn about the beautiful Rockfield Manor. Open to the public; free admission. 410-638-4565
www.rockfieldmanor.com

Friday, February 27, 2015 - Sunday, April 26, 2015

Awakening Art Exhibit

All works created by local artists: paintings, photography, pottery and jewelry

Harford Artists Gallery

Fridays - Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Reception March 14th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

503 E. Churchville Road

Located in the cottage next to Rockfield Manor

410-420-9499



Friday, February 27

Chocolate & Candy Movie Night

Bel Air Armory

7:00 p.m.

Bring your blankets for a family movie night in anticipation of the Chocolate & Candy Festival! Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance. Free. 443-823-1797
www.downtownbelair.com

Saturday, February 28
4th Saturday Open House

Historical Society Headquarters
 143 N. Main St. Bel Air, Md.
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Archives, Library, Genealogy section
 open to the general public. Free
 admission. 410-838-7691

March

Monday, March 2
Town Hall Meeting

7:30 p.m.
 39 N. Hickory Ave., Bel Air
 410-638-4550

Saturday, March 7
**Friends of the Bel Air
 Library Book Sale**

Bel Air Library
 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Paperback, hardback and children's
 books



Monday, February 16
Presidents' Day
 Town of Bel Air Government offices
 closed



Saturday, March 7th
**Chocolate and Candy
 Festival**

Bel Air Armory
 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 The sweetest place to be in Harford
 County is the Bel Air Armory for the

Chocolate and Candy Festival.
 Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance
 443-823-1797
 www.downtownbelair.com

Saturday, March 7
Irishman's Chorale

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 1200 E. Churchville Rd Bel Air, Md.
 Doors open at 6:45 p.m.
 Performance starts at 7:30 p.m.
 Amhranai Na Gaeilge is the only all-
 male Irish Chorale in the Mid-Atlantic
 region. The Chorale is dedicated to
 the preservation of Irish culture and
 history through music. They perform
 both traditional and contemporary
 music by Irish composers and
 lyricists, as well as a variety of
 patriotic, spiritual, ballad, sea chanty,
 and fun songs. Free. Sponsor: Bel Air
 Cultural Arts Commission.
 410-879-2012

Sunday, March 8
Meet Martha Jefferson

Hays House Museum
 324 Kenmore Ave., Bel Air
 Learn about founding Father Thomas
 Jefferson from his wife's point of view
 as portrayed by first person
 interpreter Gina Ale. Adults: \$5;
 Students & Seniors \$3; Children
 under 4, free
 Sponsor: Historical Society of
 Harford County

Saturday, March 14
**The Colorful Orchestra - A
 Sibelius Anniversary
 Concert**



Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra
 Bel Air High School
 The first work on this concert is by
 the great orchestrator Rimsky-
 Korsakov. His Wedding March from
 his *The Golden Cockerel* is quite
 popular and makes for a great
 opening.

SSO violinist Katie Bohdel will sing
 three selections from *Les Nuits d'Ete*
 or *Summer Nights*. The 2nd part of
 the concert will feature Finnish
 composer Jean Sibelius' *First
 Symphony in E Minor*. This

symphony is full of great tunes that
 are beautifully orchestrated. 2015
 marks the 150th Anniversary of
 Sibelius' birth.

Sunday, March 15
8th Annual Survivor Run

MA & PA Trail, Ellendale St.
 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
 A special Survivor Run sponsored by
 Bel Air resident Phil Anderson on his
 70th birthday. Two races (7 K and 7
 miles) to raise funds for the Stroke
 Network of Harford County and the
 RASAC scholarship fund. Sponsor:
 RASAC - The Harford County
 Running Club. Fee: \$10 for each
 race; 410-879-7679

Monday, March 16
Town Hall Meeting

7:30 p.m.
 39 N. Hickory Ave.
 410-638-4550

Thursday, March 19
Girls Night Out

Downtown Bel Air
 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Grab your girlfriends for a night of
 discounts, specials and shopping in
 downtown stores; food and drink
 specials in downtown restaurants.
 Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance.
 443-823-1797
 www.downtownbelair.com

Coming . . .

Spring 2015 Luchtime Concerts
12 Noon on Office St.
May 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd
**Performers to
 be announced.**

Town of Bel Air Summer Concert Series 2015
 Begins Sunday, June 7th at 7 PM
 With the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra
 Humbert Amphitheater @ Shamrock Park
FREE!
 belairmd.org 410.638.5323 facebook.com/belairmd





Bel Air's business community filled the Liriodendron Mansion on Thursday, November 13 as the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners named The Kelly Group as the 2014 Business of the Year. The Bel Air Economic and Community Development Commission also honored the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center's Kaufman Cancer Center as this year's Archer-Bull Design Award winner.

"Twenty years ago, downtown Bel Air was struggling as businesses moved away from Main Street and into malls," said ECDC Chair Paul Thompson. "Today, downtown Bel Air is thriving, thanks to those who have worked to bring opportunities back to us."

Photo: Bill Kelly and Bryan Kelly (The Kelly Group), Paul Thompson, Mayor Rob Reier, Robin Luxon and Lyle Sheldon (Upper Chesapeake Medical Center)

Bel Air's Economic and Community Development Commission honors The Kelly Group

Nearly two decades ago, Bill and Bryan Kelly sat at a kitchen table and outlined plans for a business that did not exist in Harford County at that time: independent and personalized wealth management services that focused on building a future for their customers as well as the local community.

"We started with not one customer," recalled Bill as he accepted the award with his partner and nephew Bryan Kelly. He also recalled one early financial planning workshop with no attendees.

"That's the bumpy ride of having a business. But the years went by and we just kept working while our hair got grayer. We kept at it some more, getting out into the community and building trust. Finally, our vision started coming together."

Today, The Kelly Group and its 18 employees provide wealth and capital management, along with CPA and consulting services, and have earned a loyal following.

Bill, Bryan and their employees carry out the dedication to community mentioned in their original vision statement with personal involvement in many community groups. Their devotion to community is probably most evident in their meticulous restoration of the once-abandoned Proctor House on Gordon Street, which now houses offices for Kelly Group staff. Now, the building will live on for generations.

Bill has been active in multiple organizations including the Economic and Community Development Commission, the Downtown Alliance, the Greater Bel Air Community Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. Bill has also served with the Boys and Girls Club and Habitat for Humanity and has volunteered for the Town's annual Christmas Parade, BBQ Bash and Film Festival.

Bryan serves on the Harford Community College Board of Trustees, the UMBC Department of Economics Visitors Council, the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Board of Directors and the Harford Bank Board of Directors.

"We love Harford County. **This is our home and we are so proud of this award,**" said Bill Kelly.



(L to r) Melissa Alba (Healthcare's Information Edge), Lois Kelly and Beth Guthrie (Guthrie's Gifts) look on as Bel Air Mayor Rob Reier presents the 2014 Business of the Year Award to The Kelly Group.

Healing begins at the door of Kaufman Cancer Center:

Archer Bull award recognizes the restorative power of architecture

The Bel Air Economic and Community Development Commission honored the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center's Kaufman Cancer Center as this year's Archer-Bull Design Award winner.

Generations of Harford County residents remember the need to travel outside of the county for medical treatment after a cancer diagnosis.

Now, the Kaufman Cancer Center has brought "hope and healing close to home" in a new 75,000 square-foot facility. The building surrounds patients with state-of-the-art medical care as well as natural light and healing gardens. The design embraces earth tones that reflect nature's shapes, sounds, touches and colors.

Lyle Sheldon, President and CEO of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, reflected on the connection between architecture and healing: "Hopefully no one here will have a cancer diagnosis. If you do, I want you to have the comfort of knowing that we designed a building that promotes positive and healing energy." He also applauded Robin Luxon, VP of Clinical Services, who played a major role in coordinating the project.

The ECDC also recognized the Center's architects, HKS Architects of Richmond. "HKS Architects focused on sustainability and recognition of the building's impact on its immediate surroundings and the environment," said Paul Thompson, ECDC chair and owner of Architectural Design Works, which has a Bel Air location. He added, "The Kaufman Cancer Center is an addition to an existing building complex. HKS architects successfully distinguished it as a part of the whole with new and complementary materials within the existing color pallet. The entrance and streetscape create a welcoming façade to patients and visitors."



Lyle Sheldon, President and CEO of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (l) chats with Jim Fielder, Bel Air Town Administrator at the recent Bel Air business award event.

We are a small town with a bustling economy. Here is 2014's good news from The Bel Air Economic Development Department and the Economic and Community Development Commission (ECDC):

We got noticed!

- The U.S. Small Business Administration's Baltimore District Office named **Stephanie Novak Hau, Chesapeake Environmental Management**, as the Maryland Small Business Person of the Year.
- Thomson Reuters presented **George Heidelmaier**, President of **It's PayDay**, with a national Customer Superstar Award.
- For the third consecutive year, the Maryland, Delaware, and D.C. Press Association honored **The Aegis** as Newspaper of the Year among the region's largest circulation non-dailies.
- **Todd Weese** of **Safe Harbors Travel Group** was named among the nation's best at the 2014 Travel Leaders' National Meeting.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognized **NVS Salon** with a Blue Ribbon Small Business of the Year Award. NVS was one of only 100 companies from around the country to receive this recognition in 2014.
- NerdWallet, a consumer-friendly financial literacy website, ranks Bel Air second best place for homeownership in Maryland.

We welcomed 28 new or relocated businesses:

Collectors Corner, 17 N. Main St.; **IHOP**, 593 Baltimore Pike; **Town Hair Salon**, 10-12 N. Main St.; **AAG Insurance**, 438 S. Main St.; **Live Well Family Chiropractic**, 336 S. Main St.; **Yogo Crazy Frozen Yogurt**, 615 Bel Air Rd.; **Sterling Wealth Services**, 108 N. Bond St.; **Bel Air Organic Cleaners**, 214-222 Baltimore Pike; **Tommy D's Barber Shop & Salon**, 54 N. Main St.; **Exploration Art School**, 100-104 N. Main St.; **James G. Gault, Esquire**, 31 W. Courtland St.; **Guthrie's Gifts**, 116 N. Bond St.; **The Auto Salon**, 139 Baltimore Pike; **Accurate Business Services**, 539 Rock Spring Rd.; **LP Homes, Inc.**, 725 N. Hickory Ave.; **Hawk Mortgage Group**, 725 N. Hickory Ave.; **Spirit Halloween**, 502-592 Baltimore Pike; **Interim Health Care**, 4 W. Broadway; **Steelefish Grille**, 660 Boulton St.; **JM Jewelers**, 706 Bel Air Rd.; **Starbucks**, 563 Baltimore Pike; **GIO Technologies**, 206 E. Churchville Rd.; **Janney Montgomery Scott LLC**, 116 Hays St.; **Full Heart SouLutions**, 107 S. Main St.; **Sweet Eat Cakes**, 116 S. Main St.; **Benvenutos Jewelers**, 583 Baltimore Pike; **Karen Albright, Clinical Social Worker/Therapist**, 539 Rock Spring Avenue.

We celebrated events and milestones:

- The Town Hall is 50 years old this year.
- The ECDC awarded the 20th Annual Business of the Year Award to the Kelly Group.
- Plumtree Park was re-dedicated following completion of renovations.
- With the help of local artists, Bel Air gained three new public art sculptures and one new mural.
- Bel Air unveiled a new look and features at www.belairmd.org.
- A House of Cards casting call attracted over 2,000 people.
- Over 3,000 watched the 25th annual Christmas Parade on Main Street.



Commissioner Eddie Hopkins congratulates Officer First Class Sam Vivino.

Sam Vivino promoted to Officer First Class

The Bel Air Police Department promoted Officer Sam Vivino to the rank of Officer First Class.

Sam began work with the BAPD in November, 2012 as a lateral entry Police Officer. He was previously employed as a Baltimore City Police Officer and a Police Communications Officer with the Riverdale Police Department in Riverdale, New Jersey. He also served as a Special Police Officer with Pompton Lakes Police Department from June 2006 to October 2009.

In addition, Officer Vivino graduated from the Passaic County Community College in 2010 with an Associate of Arts Degree, majoring in Liberal Arts and Criminal Justice. Sam currently lives in the Bel Air area with his wife Amanda.

Over the past two years as a sworn officer, Sam has distinguished himself as a professional law enforcement officer. He currently holds the following certifications: PBT (Preliminary Breath Testing) Certified Operator; ECD (Electronic Control Device) Certified Operator; SFR (Select-Fire Assault Rifle) Certified Operator; Doppler Radar Operator and SWAT (Municipal Special Weapons and Tactical Team) Certified Member.

Additionally, Officer Vivino is making the Town of Bel Air safer one arrest at a time. For the past two years, Officer Vivino has made 43 arrests including two drunken driving arrests. He will continue to serve on Squad One as a Patrol Officer at his new rank.

Appearance counts

Bel Air’s Appearance & Beautification Committee honored John Brice and wife Judith Morgan for the “simple and elegant” renovations to their Broadway home.

The Committee also recognized Bill and Lois Kelly for their restoration of the Proctor House on Gordon St., which now houses The Kelly Group. The former home remains true to period architecture, including authentic paint colors.



(l to r) John Brice and Judith Morgan, Commissioner Rob Preston and Susan Niewenhaus, Chair of the Appearance and Beautification Committee.



(l to r) Bill and Lois Kelly, Commissioner Rob Preston and Susan Niewenhaus.



Have a request, comment or suggestion?

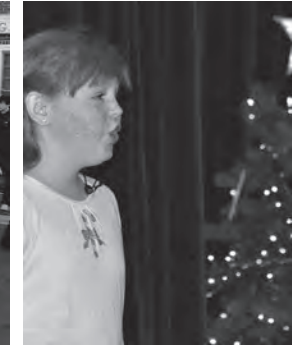
Go to www.belairmd.org and click on “Submit a Request.” You can then send your message directly to the Town department that can take action.

Choose from various categories including refuse and bulk pickup, street and sidewalk maintenance, signage and more. You must create a site user account. The feature allows you to track your requests.



Cheryl Coulter, who previously worked in the Department of Public Works, has been rehired in the Department of Human Resources and Administration in the position of Administrative Secretary.

Stop in at Town Hall and welcome her back!



Whether you lit a Menorah or a Christmas tree, attended the 3rd Annual Authors & Artists Sale, chilled at the 25th Annual Christmas Parade or lifted your voice in music:

Thank you for coming to the Town of Bel Air during the 2014 holiday season!

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, 5:00 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 E. Churchville Rd. The Department of Economic Development and Visitors Center are in the Bel Air Armory at 37 N. Main St. The Police Department is open 24/7. Other office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays.</p> <p>There are many free publications at the Visitors Center, Town Hall and online. Topics include business assistance, historic preservation, parking guides, a walking tour and an event calendar.</p> <p>In addition to the Board of Town Commissioners meetings at 7:30 p.m. on first and third Mondays, the public may attend Commissioners' work sessions, held at 5:15 p.m. on the preceding Tuesdays. Direct questions/concerns to the Commissioners c/o Town Hall in writing or by phone: 410.638.4550 or 410.879.2711.</p> <p>For sewer system, refuse collection, recycling, street light outages, call 410.638.4545. For sewer emergencies, call 410.638.4545 during business hours or 410.638.4500 at other times.</p>	<p>Town Administrator James D. Fielder, Jr. 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 Jack Meckley (Acting) 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 Stephen D. Kline 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>

We've got music. . . and dancing. . . and art . . . and chocolate.
See town calendar inside or www.belairmd.org for more details.

Presented By The Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission

An Irish Journey

Performed by the Irishman's Chorale
Amhranai Na Gaeilge

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

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

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

For more information call:
410.838.0584

FREE ADMISSION

Third Annual
Spring Fling

A Night of Big Band Dancing at the Bel Air Armory

Saturday, April 25th, 2015
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**FREE!!!
Admission**

Live Music by the
Bel Air Community
Band Jazz Ensemble

Food, beer & wine
will be available from
Sterling Caterers

Sponsored by the
Town of Bel Air, the
Maryland State Arts Council, & the
Harford County Cultural Arts Board



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