

FREE COPY

CELEBRATING HARFORD

250

JULY 4, 2023
IN BEL AIR, MARYLAND



Bel Air, Maryland

Celebrating Harford 250

July 4, 2023

During its 1773 session, the Maryland General Assembly officially approved the formation of Harford County as a separate entity, dividing it off from what had been solely Baltimore County. This was how many of our state counties were formed: as the state became more and more populous during the 18th Century, it was necessary to divide the very large original counties to achieve more efficient government, taxation, law enforcement, court actions and more.

Since the Province of Maryland at this time was still officially not only a part of the British realm but also the personal property of the Lord Proprietor of Maryland, the consent of **Henry Harford**, the last Lord Proprietor and “natural” son of the last Lord Baltimore, was secured for this action, which then was enacted by “his” Governor and the Maryland Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly. In honor of Henry Harford, the Assembly stated that the area described “is hereby erected into a new County by the Name of Harford County.”

The Assembly reassured the citizens that “the Inhabitants of Harford County afore-said shall have hold and enjoy all such Rights and Privileges as are held and enjoyed by the Inhabitants of any County in the Province.” Governance would be in the hands of seven County Commissioners: Richard Dallam, Amos Garret, Aquila Hall, Benedict Edward Hall, John Hall, John Mathews and John Paca.

Of course not long after the creation of Harford County, revolutionary spirit ruled. You will find many of the above names and their family members as signatories of the Bush River Declaration, a resolution adopted on March 22, 1775, pledging Harford County’s support for the Patriot cause in the emerging American Revolution.

Two hundred and fifty years later, under the leadership of the Harford County Historical Society, we celebrate our county’s sestercentennial! There certainly have been a lot of changes in 250 years — Harford County now has vibrant small towns, working farms, thriving arts communities, a world-known research and development army base, top-notch health care services, busy sports facilities and bucolic outdoor recreation areas. You’ll find coverage of the celebrations marking the sestercentennial at www.harford250.org as well as on the Historical Society’s web site www.harfordhistory.org and its Facebook page at facebook.com/harford250celebration.

We especially praise the Historical Society’s celebration of the people and places who have made Harford County what it is, and we urge everyone to participate through the rest of this year in the Society’s celebrations, which include The History of Sports in Harford County, a celebration of sports at Ripken Stadium on August 19, 2023.

So it is with deepest the thanks and most profound sense of gratitude that we join the Harford County Historical Society to **CELEBRATE HARFORD’S SESTERCENTENNIAL!**

We also thank Bel Air, “Our Home Town,” for its efficient and effective non-partisan government, led by Commissioners Kevin Bianca (Chair & Mayor of Bel Air), Mary Chance, Paula Etting, Erin Hughes and Donna Kahoe.

The Town Administration is managed by Eddie Hopkins, whose effective department heads include Angela Robertson, Director of Economic Development; Michael Krantz, Director of HR & Administration; Kevin Small, Director of Planning; Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works; and many others. We on the Committee (see the inside back cover!) run the July 4 activities, but these terrific people and their hard-working staff members (many of whom we’ve known, appreciated and worked with for decades!) run the Town of Bel Air, and we couldn’t pull it off without them.

So, please come and enjoy yourself in Bel Air on Sunday, July 4. While you do, please think of all the people behind the scenes who work that day and the 364 others, to make it happen.

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., the all-volunteer organization which produces and stages the activities held in and around the Town of Bel Air on July 4, has a vision of what this annual celebration should be. The committee works hard to realize that vision, and we are grateful for the contributions we receive from businesses and individuals, the help we receive from scores of volunteers the day of the event, and the support of thousands of spectators and participants.

We hope that the events we present to our community on July 4th also help realize our vision: that, thanks to the sacrifices and hard work of many, on this day we can freely assemble, and without rancor celebrate what is beautiful and harmonious about our country and our Town.

We Thank Our Premier Sponsor, Jones Junction!

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., once again gives its deepest thanks to the **Jones Junction Automotive Group**, the Premier Sponsor of the 4th of July in Bel Air.

According to David Williams, President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, “We are extremely pleased to have Jones Junction back again this year as our Premier Sponsor, and their donation makes them the power behind the fireworks this year! Jones has a history of generous giving to the Bel Air community, and we welcome this commitment from them,” Williams adds.

“We believe in our community, and salute the teachers, school staff and all the educators who have been so important to the health and well-being of our community,” says Bryan Kilby, Co-Owner of Jones Junction. “Our support of the Bel Air July 4 activities is a big part of how we give back to all the people who helped us get back on the way to normal times,” Kilby adds.

Michael Blum, Vice President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, agrees. “We are very pleased and happy to be bringing the events, parade and fireworks back to Bel Air this year. We cannot produce the event without the generous support of local businesses and Jones leads the way as FIREWORKS SPONSOR and Premier Sponsor,” he adds.



Left to right: Danny Jones, Owner of Jones Junction; Giovanna Ward, Miss Bel Air 2023; Bryan Kilby, President of Jones Junction; David B. Williams, President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee.

See “Thank you, Jones Junction,” continuing on page 2.

 "Thank you, Jones Junction," continued from page 1.

Jones Junction last year celebrated its 104th consecutive year as a family-run automotive business serving Harford County and the surrounding area. Since its founding by patriarch C. M. Jones, the Jones family has serving its community with superior customer service, now from its 40-acre location on Belair Road. The business comprises ten new car dealerships, a PreOwned Superstore and a Collision Center. Owners Larry Jones, Danny Jones and Bryan Kilby carry on their parents' philosophies and dedication to hard work and integrity.



In recognition of the Jones Junction commitment, the dealership group is given sole credit for the annual Fireworks display, as well as continuing to be the sponsor of the C. Milton Wright High School Marching Mustang band in the July 4th parade.

According to Mary Chance, Director of Community Outreach for Jones Junction, "We're proud to be the Premier Sponsor for the 4th of July Celebration! We have long participated as a supporter of this wonderful patriotic and community event, and we are happy to be able to increase our commitment." For information on Jones Junction, please visit JonesJunction.com.

Sponsoring Organizations

LIONS CLUB OF BEL AIR

sponsor of
This Independence Day Program

Parade Balloon Sponsors

Jones Junction

University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health

Parade Band Sponsors

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

*sponsor of the Aberdeen High School Marching Band
& the Edgewood High School Marching Band*

Balsamo, Stewart, Lutters & Ruth, CPAs

sponsor of the White Sabers Drum & Bugle Corps

Buontempo Brothers & the Tower Restaurant

sponsor of the Patterson Mill High School Marching Band

Harford Bank

sponsor of the Joppatowne High School Marching Bobcat Band

Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan Association

sponsor of the North Harford High School Marching Band

Jones Junction — Our Premier Sponsor

sponsor of the C. Milton Wright High School Marching Band

Klein's ShopRite of North Main Street, Bel Air

sponsor of The Bel Air High School Marching Band

LYNCH DESIGN | BUILD

sponsor of the Fallston High School Marching Band

Plaza Ford

sponsor of the Harford Highlanders Pipe Band

Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association

sponsor of the Harford Technical High School Marching Band

TAR HEEL CONSTRUCTION Group, LLC

sponsors of the Reading Buccaneers Drum & Bugle Corps

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee also relies upon the following municipal and civic groups, without whose support the 4th of July in Bel Air could not occur:

**Bel Air Auxiliary Police Unit
Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Town of Bel Air
Lions Club of Bel Air**



Left to right: Commissioners Donna Kahoe, Paula Etting & Erin Hughes; Giovanna Ward, Miss Bel Air 2023; Kevin Bianca, Chair of the Board of Commissioners & Mayor of Bel Air; David B. Williams, President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee.



☆☆ 2023 Independence Day ☆☆ Celebration

Tuesday, July 4th, 2023 • Bel Air, Maryland
Celebrating Harford 250!

All events are free to the public except the Pancake Breakfast. For more information, please call (410) 893-4444 or visit our web site at <https://BelAirJuly4.org>.

Please note various locations, below.



SCHEDULE of EVENTS

At Bel Air High School - LOCATION A

6:45 am Flag Raising Ceremony with Our National Anthem
(Robert Hudson, Bugler; Mary Polenz, Soprano)

7 am – 11:30 am Pancake Breakfast*
(Offering blueberry, chocolate chip or plain pancakes
with sausage links and choice of milk, apple juice, coffee, toea or water.
Ages 8+: \$10; Ages 3-7: \$5; 2 & under: free)

At Rockfield Ball Park - LOCATION B

8:00 am (approx.) Flag & National Anthem Ceremony
8:30 am Horseshoe Pitching (Registration 8 am)

At Shamrock Park & Hickory Lot - LOCATION C

8:45 am (approx.) Flag & National Anthem Ceremony
9 am Water Balloon Toss (No Registration Necessary)
(Divisions: Ages 6 & under, 7-9, 10-12, 13-17; Adult)
10 am Community Bocce (No Registration Necessary)
10:30 am Uncle Sam Says (No Registration Necessary)
(Ages 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14+)
11 am Bicycle Registration and Rodeo*
(Boys and Girls Divisions: Ages 5 & under, 6-8, 9-10, 11-13)

LOCATION: Bel Air Elementary School & Lee Street

Flag & National Anthem Ceremony prior to the Rodeo

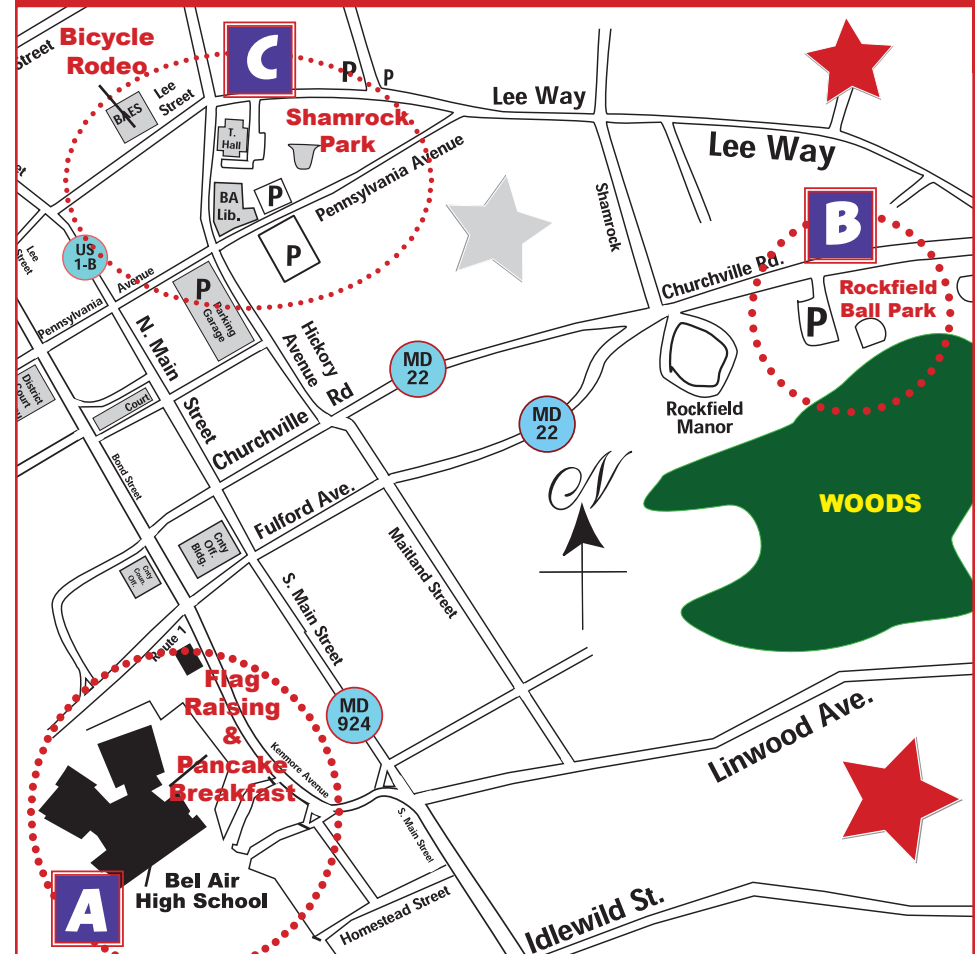
11:00 am ... Watermelon Eating Contest (No Registration Necessary)
(Ages 6 & under, 7-10, 11-16, 17+)

6 pm **Bel Air JULY 4 PARADE**

9:30 pm (approx.) **Bel Air JULY 4 FIREWORKS**



MORNING EVENTS MAP • Bel Air



Souvenirs, Restrooms & Refreshments are available at most event locations.

ALL STREETS & ROADS REMAIN OPEN DURING MORNING JULY 4 EVENTS.

PARADE & FIREWORKS ROAD CLOSURES BEGIN AT 4 PM — SEE PAGES 6-7.



*The Pancake Breakfast is a function of the Bel Air High School Boosters Club. The Bicycle Rodeo is a function of the Town of Bel Air Police Department. The above two organizations are responsible independently for their respective events; we have included them in this schedule in order that all the patriotic events of this day may be listed together.

Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at 6:00 pm

The 2023 Bel Air Parade: Celebrating Harford 250!

Followed by the 2023 Bel Air Fireworks





2023 Founders

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., appreciates the generous contributions of our patrons. Their gifts underwrite the expenses of our activities!

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union (APGFCU)

AnSer of Maryland (formerly A Better Answer)

Balsamo, Stewart, Lutters & Ruth, CPAs

Bel Air Lions

Buontempo Brothers & the Tower Restaurant

Harford Bank

Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan Association

Jones Junction – **Our Premier Sponsor**

Klein's ShopRite of North Main Street Bel Air

LYNCH DESIGN | BUILD

Michael Blum Associates,
Inc.

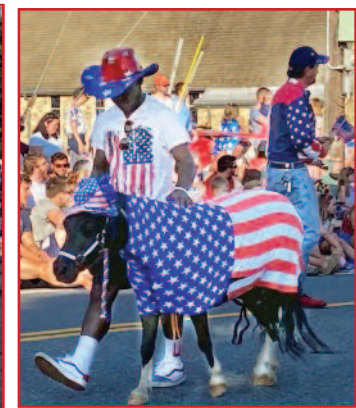
Plaza Ford

Rosedale Federal Savings &
Loan Association

Tar Heel Construction
Group, LLC

Town of Bel Air

University of Maryland
Upper Chesapeake Health



2023 Cover Artist

The cover art of this program was created by **Avery Reinke**. Avery Reinke is a recent 5th grade graduate from Homestead Wakefield Elementary School. She is loving, kind, and smart; she is also an amazing athlete, excelling in competitive cheer and competitive swim, and deriving much enjoyment from playing volleyball.

Avery is also very creative, spending her free time drawing, and is very interested for the future in interior design and architecture. She would like to express her appreciation to her former art teacher at HWES, Mrs. Glackin, who has taught her new techniques and helped to encourage her artistic abilities and growth!

Submissions to the Cover Contest were handled by Mike Blum and David Williams, with the huge assistance of art teachers from around the county, and especially Melinda Glackin of Homestead-Wakefield Elementary Schools in Bel Air. We are grateful for the support we have received from so many art teachers over the years, resulting in the excellent series of cover art submissions and winning entries.

We are pleased to include on the next page the four drawings that earned an Honorable Mention in the 2022 contest.



Meet Miss Bel Air

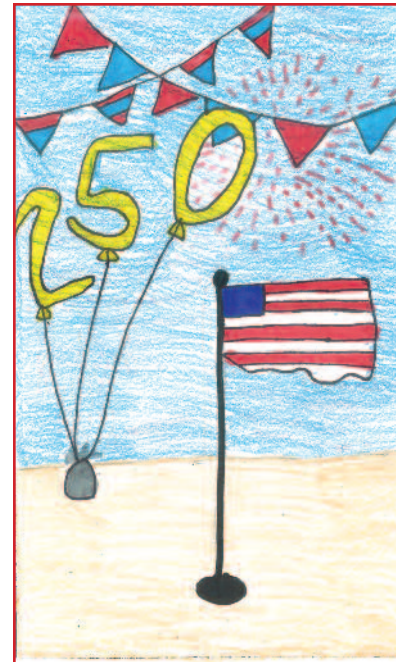
Giovanna Ward, our Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2023, was chosen through an interview process from interested applicants. She succeeds Shyama Bhatt.

"We had an exceptionally-qualified group of contestants for the position of Miss Bel Air," says Michael Blum, chairperson of the Miss Bel Air Selection Committee. "What might be best is that every applicant this year actually came from Bel Air! Giovanna was certainly the best of a very high-achieving pool," Blum concludes.

In addition to Blum, the Selection Committee included its Coordinator, Laura Patnaude, and Maka Ezeonyebuchi, both former Miss Bel Air title holders; David Williams, President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee; and Board members Perry Thompson, Aaron Cahall, Renée Weller, Lisa Williams and Don Stewart.

Giovanna Ward, a 2021 graduate of John Carroll School in Bel Air, is currently a student at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, majoring in Contemporary Dance Performance. At John Carroll School, she graduated with Distinction in Fine Arts and with a 4.0+ average. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was President of the John Carroll Dramatic Association. Giovanna's social impact initiative is "Arts All Across"; she plans to work actively with the Maryland Arts Council, promoting access to arts education to all citizens, regardless of age or financial condition. Giovanna has volunteered in senior centers and with persons with Down syndrome as a dance instructor; she hopes to perform all over the world as a professional dancer, before opening her own dance studio back home, where she can share her passion for dance to youth from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

2023 Honorable Mention Cover Art Submissions



Honorable Mention Artists, clockwise from upper left: Ava White, age 10, 4th grade at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School; Ella McDonough, 6th grade at St. Margaret's School; Preston Brusewitz, age 9, 3rd grade at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School; Charlotte Phillips, age 10, 4th grade at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School.

Town of Bel Air Code Regulation of Itinerant Merchants, Vendors and Solicitors: Alcoholic Beverages Provisions

§ 272-2. License Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of itinerant dealer, peddler or solicitor in the Town of Bel Air without having first secured a license from the Town. The license shall be valid for not more than one year....

§ 272-3. Exemptions.

The following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

...

- B. Persons, businesses, firms or organizations who or which engage in any of the following activities: ...

(5) Persons participating in the Bel Air Independence Day activities that are approved and licensed by the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc.

§ 345-14. Alcoholic Beverages ...

- B. Prohibited Acts

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume any alcoholic beverage while located on any public street, lane or highway.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume or drink any alcoholic beverage while located on any public sidewalk.
- (3) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume or drink any alcoholic beverage while located on any public parking lot
- (4) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume or drink any alcoholic beverages within the confines or any park owned by the Town of Bel Air between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

- C. Possession of open container. The action of drinking or consuming alcoholic beverages in Subsection B(1), (2), (3) and (4) as set forth above shall also include the act of possessing an open container of any alcoholic beverages.

TOWN OF BEL AIR FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

§198-3. Discharge and Sale of Fireworks.

No person shall distribute, sell, cast, throw, discharge or fire any squib, rocket, fire-cracker, torpedo, grenade, or other combustible fireworks of any kind, to include ground-based sparkling devices or explosive preparation, within the Town, provided that the Commissioners shall have the authority to grant, free of all charges, a permit for using fireworks upon application made to them.

**Note: Unattended or suspicious packages may be
confiscated and destroyed.
Please obey all directions from Law Enforcement Personnel.**



Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., 2023



President David B. Williams
Vice President Michael Blum
Secretary Lisa Williams
Treasurer Don Stewart – Bel Air Lions
Board of Directors 2023 Carla Banack, Michael Blum, Aaron Cahall,
 Don Stewart, Perry Thompson, Renée Weller,
 David Williams & Lisa Williams



Bicycle Registration & Rodeo Officer Rick Krause, Bel Air Police Explorers
 & Auxiliary Police Unit

Bocce Demonstration & Competitions Joe Papa, S.I.A.B.

Communications Renée Weller

Corporate Sponsorships Carla Banack, Don Stewart, Lisa Williams & Michael Blum

Field Arrangements Charles Arnold – Town of Bel Air

Fireworks David Williams & Don Stewart

Emergency Services Chief Scott Panowitz, Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Flag Raising American Legion Post #39, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial American
 Legion Post #55, Robert Hudson (Bugler) & Mary Pohlenz (soprano)

Horseshoe Pitching Greg Cooper, Renée Weller, David Williams,
 Lisa Williams & Jake Weller

Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2023 Giovanna Ward

Pancake Breakfast Bel Air High School Boosters

Parade Chairman Michael Blum

Parade Committee David Williams, Aaron Cahall & Don Stewart

Parade Banner Coordination & Deployment David Williams

Parks & Recreation Many thanks to Harford County Parks & Recreation

Police Liaison Sgt. Sergio D'Alto – Bel Air Police Department

Program Distribution Bel Air Police Explorers & Aaron Cahall

Program, Maps, Graphics, Web Site Michael Blum

Publicity Aaron Cahall & Michael Blum

Reviewing Stand Narration Kristy Breslin from Channel 13 & Rich Bennett

Unit Order Texting Perry Thompson

Reviewing Stand Decoration ... MaryAnn Williams, Kim Politz, Andy Politz & Jeanne Bayer

Security Town of Bel Air Police Department, Harford County Department
 of Emergency Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office,
 Maryland State Fire Marshall & Other Participating Agencies

Shuttle During Parade Debby Stewart

Trophies, Ribbons & Certificates Don Stewart & Michael Blum

Uncle Sam Says Michael Blum

Vendors Coordinator John Hayes

Water Balloon Toss Contest Tim Odell & Bel Air Lions

Watermelon Eating Contest Michael New & Bel Air Lions

THE BEL AIR INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE, INC., is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service
 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

JONES JUNCTION

106 YEARS

Premier Sponsor



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
BELAIRLIONS.ORG

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc. • P.O. Box 724, Bel Air, MD 21014

For complete information, visit: www.BelAirJuly4.org