

JULY 4, 2024
IN BEL AIR, MARYLAND

FREE COPY



Bel Air – the Next

150 Years

Bel Air, Maryland

Bel Air – the Next 150 Years!

July 4, 2024

The Town of Bel Air's identity has gone through great changes since 1780, when Aquilla Scott, who had inherited land known as "Scott's Improvement Enlarged," planned the town on a portion that he called "Scott's Old Fields." A town soon existed, after politicians, merchants and innkeepers purchased lots from Scott.

In 1784, the Harford County commissioners decided to change the Town's name to the more appealing "Belle Aire." In his deeds, Scott dropped one letter, renaming the town, "Bell Aire." Around 1798, court records dropped two more letters, and "Bel Air" it became and remains!

Bel Air, however it was spelled, achieved immediate prominence. In 1782 it became Harford's county seat, and Aquilla Scott's son Daniel started building a court house on Main Street. Although the town limits in the late 18th century encompassed nothing more than the two sides of Main Street, and the Town had only about 200 residents as late as 1865 (and fewer than 2,000 residents until World War II), the days following the Civil War began a building and land-development boom that has continued to this day. The introduction of the canning industry, the stop on the Ma & Pa railroad line, and related financial businesses jump-started this growth. The County Fairgrounds (where the Harford Mall is located today) hosted a huge fair and horse racing at Bel Air Race Track until the 1960s. Steadily, the population climbed, passing 8,000 by 1990 and 10,000 in the 2000 census.

The Town's incorporation as an independent entity, with its own government, police, zoning and financial control, finally occurred in 1874, and Bel Air's role as the center of government and commerce continued to expand over the next 150 years. Today, Bel Air is the center for governmental, legal, judicial, educational, cultural, medical, and commercial institutions in Harford County.

Of course, the past 150 years have not been without turmoil. In the early 20th century, several fires swept through the downtown area, notably in 1900 and 1942. During the H. Rap Brown trial in 1970, an explosion at the intersection of Tollgate Road and Baltimore Pike left a crater in the road and partially destroyed the Toll House at the Town border. In 1972, another fire struck, decimating the east side of Main Street and causing millions of dollars in damage.

A Time Capsule was buried in Shamrock Park in 1974 to commemorate Bel Air's centennial. It included commemorative jewelry, copies of the August 1, 1974 issue of The Aegis newspaper with photos of a cow-milking contest, and letters from people living in Bel Air. At a ceremony in Shamrock on July 4, a new Time Capsule will be buried. This led us to think, "We know what the past 150 years has seen — what will the NEXT 150 Years reveal? Flying cars? Total communication integration? Commercial or residential development higher than the current 3-story limit? Whatever happens, we, the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, are confident that the NEXT 150 Years will be just as interesting, community-focused and vibrant as the decades since 1874.

So we thank Bel Air, "Our Home Town," for its efficient and effective non-partisan government, led by Commissioners Paula Etting (Chairperson of the Board & Mayor of Bel Air), Steve Chizmar (Vice-Chair), Mary Chance, Jim Rutledge and Jake Taylor.

The Town Administration is managed by Edward Hopkins, whose effective department heads include Angela Robertson, Director of Economic Development; Michael Krantz, Director of HR & Administration; Charles Moore, Bel Air Police Chief, Kevin Small, Director of Planning; Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works; Lisa Moody, Director of Finance, 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 Thursday, 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 celebration 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 in 2024 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.




Left to right: Jheury Moran, Sales Director, Jones Junction; Danny Jones, Owner, Jones Junction; Mary Chance, Community Liaison, Jones Junction; Bryan Kilby, President, Jones Junction; David Williams, President, Bel Air Independence Day Committee; Debra McCollum, Chief Financial Officer, Jones Junction.

"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.

Jones Junction now celebrates its 107th consecutive year as a family-run automotive business, serving Harford County and the surrounding area. Since its founding by patriarch C. M. Jones, the

See "Thank you, Jones Junction," continuing on page 2.

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

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.



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

Sponsoring Organizations

LIONS CLUB OF BEL AIR

sponsor of The Independence Day Program

Parade Band Sponsors

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

sponsor of the Aberdeen High School Marching Band

Balsamo, Lutters, Renna & Rosensteel, CPAs

sponsor of the Edgewood High School Marching Band



JES Foundation Repair, a Groundworks Company

sponsor of the Uptown String 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 Harford County

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



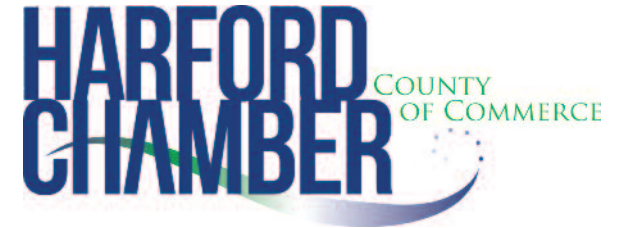
Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association

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: Town of Bel Air Commissioners Steve Chizmar (Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners), Mary Chance and Jake Taylor; Gianna Romero, Miss Bel Air 2024; Town of Bel Air Commissioners Paula Etting (Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners & Mayor of Bel Air) and Jim Rutledge; Town of Bel Air Chief of Police Charles Moore.

☆☆ 2024 Independence Day ☆☆ Celebration

Thursday, July 4th, 2024 • Bel Air, Maryland

Bel Air – the Next 150 Years!

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>.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Lee Way & Hickory Ave.- LOCATION A

6:45 am **Flag Raising Ceremony with Our National Anthem**
(Robert Hudson, Bugler; Autumn Boyle, Soprano)

At Bel Air High School – LOCATION B

7 am – 11:30 am **Pancake Breakfast***
Ages 8+: \$12; Ages 3-7: \$7; 2 & under: free

At Rockfield Ball Park – LOCATION C

8:15 am (approx.) **Flag & National Anthem Ceremony**
8:30 am **Horseshoe Pitching (Registration 8 am)**

At Hays House – LOCATION B

9 am – noon Open House Tours, Colonial Games, Kids Crafts*

At Shamrock Park & BAES – LOCATION A

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

12:30 pm Town of Bel Air TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY

6 pm **Bel Air JULY 4 PARADE**

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

MORNING EVENTS MAP • Bel Air





PARADE REVIEWING STAND with Kristy Breslin, Master of Ceremonies, assisted by Rich Bennett.

Red = Road closed at 8:15 pm;
stays closed until Fireworks are over.

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

Traffic goes this way

**Traffic
stops here
for
Fireworks**

NO PARKING
on Churchville
Road during
Fireworks.

**John
Carroll
School**

PARADE START

**PARADE
STAGING
AREA — NO
ADMITTANCE
WITHOUT
PROPER
PARADE
PASS**



JONES
106 YEARS
JUNCTION





2024 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

Balsamo, Lutters, Renna & Rosensteel, CPAs

Bel Air Lions

Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan Association

JES Foundation Repair, a
Groundworks Company

Jones Junction – **Our Premier
Sponsor**

Klein's ShopRite of Harford
County

LYNCH DESIGN | BUILD

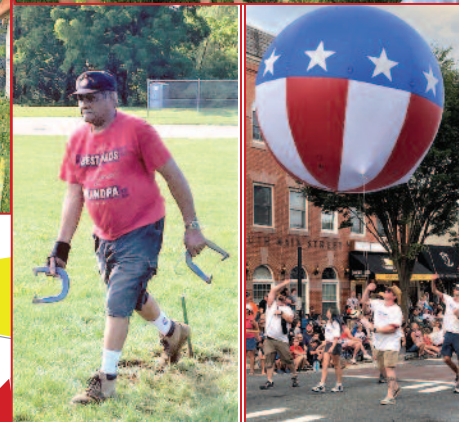
Michael Blum Associates, Inc.

Plaza Ford

Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan
Association

Tar Heel Construction Group,
LLC

Town of Bel Air



2024 Cover Artist

The cover art of this program was created by **Emerson Soriano**. Emerson, a recent 5th-grade graduate from HWES, is a bright and creative spirit. Although initially shy about her art, she eventually finds the courage to express herself fully. Emerson loves creating imaginative pieces and is especially grateful to her art teacher, Mrs. Glackin, for helping her dreams come true and enabling her to blossom.

Emerson also has a passion for drawing sea animals and aspires to become a marine biologist. Her entire family is immensely proud of her!

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 2024 contest.



Meet Miss Bel Air

Gianna Romero, our Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2024, was chosen through an interview process from interested applicants. She succeeds Giovanna Ward.

Gianna Romero graduated from the John Carroll School in Bel Air in 2023 and is currently a student at Stevenson University in Owings Mills, Maryland, pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Communications with a minor in Event Planning. She achieved the Dean's List at Stevenson University for Fall 2023, and is a Stevenson University Leadership Scholar and Resident Assistant for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

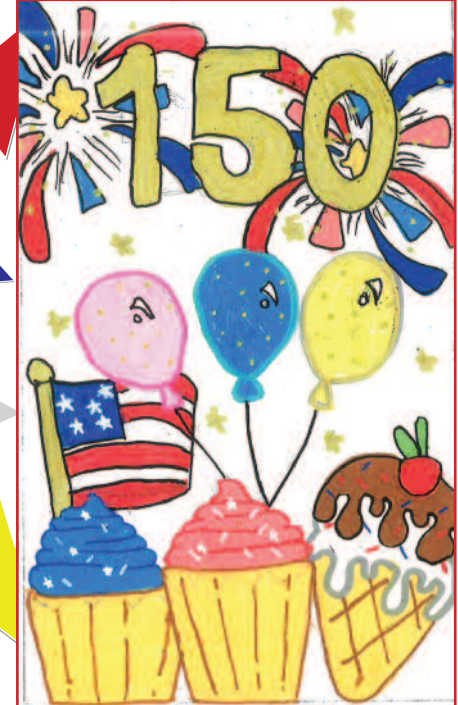
She is also an instructor and Birthday Party lead with Harford Gymnastics of Joppa, Maryland, and a substitute dance & baton-twirling Instructor for TwirlTasTix/Relevé of Bel Air. Her volunteer experience includes being a choreographer for the Upper Falls Dance Academy, Dance Assistant for the John Carroll Ballet Academy Thrive program, and a Summer Reading Assistant for the Harford County Public Library. She is certified by USA Gymnastics in Safety and Response Policy, is SafeSport Trained by the US Center for Safe Sport, and is certified in Concussion Training by the CDC Heads Up Program.

Gianna's social impact initiative is "Mental Health Wellness in Athletics"; she plans to work actively to promote mental health and the ability to positively cope with the stresses and demands of an athletic life, beginning at a young age.

After college, Gianna plans to enter the field of Sports Management, concentrating on helping athletes maintain their mental health and their inner wellness while they achieve fame and athletic excellence.

Miss Bel Air 2024 Gianna Romero thanks her local community sponsors **River Dental**, **Heather O'Steen Photography**, and **Giovanni's Express**, for their wonderful support.

2024 Honorable Mention Cover Art Submissions



Honorable Mention Artists, clockwise from upper left: Stella Ikonou, 5th Grade; Addy Guy, 3rd Grade; Benjamin Kraft, 4th Grade; and Freya Kramer, 4th Grade — all students of Mrs. Melinda Glackin 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., 2024



PresidentDavid B. Williams
Vice PresidentMichael Blum
SecretaryLisa Williams
TreasurerDon Stewart – Bel Air Lions
Board of Directors 2024Amy Biondi, Michael Blum, Aaron Cahall,
Don Stewart, Perry Thompson, David Williams & Lisa Williams



Bicycle Registration & RodeoOfficer Rick Krause, Bel Air Police Explorers & Auxiliary Police Unit
Bocce Demonstration & CompetitionsS.I.A.B.
CommunicationsAmy Biondi
Corporate Sponsorship PrograAmy Biondi, Don Stewart & Michael Blum
Field ArrangementsFreddie Murillo & Blaine Lang – Town of Bel Air
FireworksDavid Williams & Don Stewart
Emergency ServicesChief Scott Panowitz, Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Flag RaisingAmerican Legion Post #39, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial American
Legion Post #55, Robert Hudson (bugler) & Autumn Boyle (soprano)
Hays HouseJulie Brasch, Historical Society of Harford County
Horseshoe PitchingGreg Cooper, Renée Weller, Lisa Williams & Jake Weller
Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2024Gianna Romero
Miss Bel Air Independence Day Selection CommitteeMichael Blum, Chairman;
Laura Patnaude, Coordinator; Amy Biondi, Don Stewart, David Williams, Aaron Cahall,
Lisa Williams, Perry Thompson & Maka Ezeonyebuchi, Committee Members
Pancake BreakfastBel Air High School Boosters
Parade ChairmanMichael Blum
Parade CommitteeMichael Blum, David Williams, Aaron Cahall & Don Stewart
Parade Banner DeploymentChris Van de Verg
Parks & RecreationMany thanks to Harford County Parks & Recreation
Police LiaisonSgt. Dave Madden – Bel Air Police Department
Program DistributionBel Air Police Explorers & Michael Blum
Program, Maps, Graphics, Web SiteMichael Blum
PublicityAaron Cahall, David Anderson & Michael Blum
Reviewing Stand NarrationKristy Breslin of WMAR-TV Channel 2, assisted by Rich Bennett
Unit Order TextingPerry Thompson
Reviewing Stand DecorationMaryAnn Willams, Kim Politz, Andy Politz, Logan Politz & Jeanne Bayer
SecurityTown of Bel Air Police Department, Harford County Department of Emergency
Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Maryland
Fire Marshall & Other Participating Agencies
Shuttle During ParadeBel Air Lions
Trophies, Ribbons & CertificatesDon Stewart & Michael Blum
Uncle Sam SaysMichael Blum, assisted by Gianna Romero
Vendors CoordinatorJohn Hayes
Water Balloon Toss ContestTim Odell & Bel Air Lions
Watermelon Eating ContestAmy Biondi, Michael New & Bel Air Lions
Web Site HostingCourtesy Michael Blum Associates, Inc.

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