



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

www.belairmd.org



Left: Salisbury University alumnus **Marshall Adams** has painted murals in cities all over the country. He arrived in Bel Air in mid-March to paint the 1,260-square-foot mural on the north side of the Harford County Sheriff's Office. **Page 4.**



An extra 2,500 square feet allowed owner Larry Dean to dramatically expand his selection and widen the aisles at **Bel Air Liquors**. **Page 8.**



Bel Air has a heart and you can too. **Page 5.**



Marketplace on Main: Where farmers meet artists for mid-week fun

Sometimes, you just can't wait for the weekend for a healthy dose of locally prepared food, fresh produce, original art and live music.

Marketplace on Main, which opens on Wednesday May 8 from 4 – 7:00 p.m., is just the answer.

The weekly event, developed by the **Town of Bel Air** and the **Bel Air Downtown Alliance**, is a farmers market meets art festival. Residents, local workers and visitors can stop and purchase in-season ingredients for dinner, then linger for music, children's activities and featured artists. About 15 vendors will begin the season.

Marketplace on Main's location will be on the new municipal parking lot between Main Street Tower Restaurant and the Harford County Sheriff's Office.



Henry Holloway, of the Mill of Bel Air, with plant specialist **Jeanne Schick**. In addition to being a Marketplace on Main sponsor, Henry plans to sell peaches, nectarines and apples grown in his orchard.

For regular updates, see Facebook pages for the Bel Air Downtown Alliance and the Town of Bel Air Arts & Entertainment District. Marketplace on Main will operate weekly until September 25.

Dear neighbors:

Quite a few of us would like to leave our cars in the driveway and walk to downtown Bel Air, but it is not always practical – or safe.

The truth is that well-intentioned suburban development has left many of us dependent on cars to go shopping, eat out or to play outdoors. Bel Air’s Commissioners and the Department of Planning would like to fix some of that.

A new **Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan** is in the works that will help you safely walk or ride a bike around town. This will make it easier (and way more fun) to attend many of the events that make Bel Air a great place to live: Marketplace on Main, outdoor concerts at Shamrock Park, movies and events at the Bel Air Armory, the Harford Artists Gallery, the Annual BBQ Fest, Farmers Market and more.

We now have a **new online interactive map** that lets you to comment on issues concerning the Town’s accessibility for bicycling and walking. Go to **www.belairmd.org** and click on the Planning Department. Share your thoughts on safety, traffic, connectivity, facilities, signage and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists in the Town. If preferred, send written comments to the Town of Bel Air Planning Department, 705 Churchville Road, Bel Air, MD 21014.

Over the next few months, we will examine where we can improve safety, install lighting, erect signs and lay out alternate routes that encourage people to walk and use bikes around town. A committee that includes residents, retail merchants, school representatives, health advisors and government officials is providing guidance and advice.

Look for news about a **public workshop in August** when we can share their recommendations with you and hear your suggestions.

Looking forward to seeing you walking and bicycling in Bel Air!

Sincerely,



Eddie Hopkins, Mayor



ON THE COVER:



Hearts of Harford are popping up all over Bel Air. The Katzen Eye Group heart was designed by Jonathan West to celebrate the Bel Air Kite Festival. The heart is now at Rockfield Manor, next to Rockfield Park, site of the annual festival.

Read more about how to participate as an artist or sponsor on **Page 5**.

**Bel Air Town
Commissioners**



Eddie Hopkins



Susan Burdette



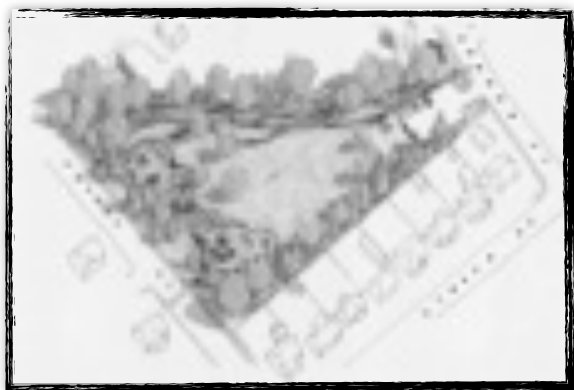
David E. Carey



Robert M. Preston



Dr. Robert J. Reier



Plumtree Park, reinvented

When contractors broke through concrete and **unearthed the natural stream** that runs through Plumtree Park, they also tapped into the park's fountain of youth.

By summer's end, **new play equipment and paved pathways** along the stream will grace the once-aging park located between Thomas and George Streets, a five-minute walk from downtown Bel Air.

Several large, old trees will come down, allowing sunlight to dry out once-muddy parts of the park. The Town will **plant new trees** in other areas to keep the park shady and to provide a buffer.

"All of these changes are inspired by the stream," says Kevin Small, Bel Air's Director of Planning. "We are bringing nature back to Bel Air's oldest neighborhood park."



Bel Air's newest public parking lot is convenient to many downtown destinations. Make a right off of Main Street at the "Public Parking" sign between Main Street Tower Restaurant and the Harford County Sheriff's Office.

Bel Air's Public Works: Smooth operators

About 33 miles of paved roadways wind throughout the Town of Bel Air. Sooner or later, each suffers from the indignities of aging: potholes, alligator cracks, rutting and corrugation.

Keeping people and cars running smoothly requires a deft combination of art and science, say Randy Robertson, Director of the Department of Public Works and his Deputy Director, Stephen Kline.



Who's on first?

"We have a **computer-based road surface management system**," says Steve. The program helps make decisions about road repair priorities.

The process starts, though, with humans. "Each year, an inspector walks every mile of the roadways and grades them," says Steve. They also rate their traffic volume and importance to residents and commerce: "For example, Alice Anne is an important street since it is next to Courtland Hardware and gets a lot of in and out traffic. But Boulton Street (near Harford Mall) and Marketplace Drive (near Home Depot) rate higher.

Then a computer program balances traffic volume, repair history and inspection findings. "We are pointing our limited resources to the most needy places," says Randy.

May – June Projects

Expect to see road crews in these roads and alleys:

- Jessie Court, Hayden Court and Hayden Way (Majors Choice)
- Eastern Alley, Richardson Alley and Wilson St. (Downtown)
- Lee Way (East of Pennsylvania Avenue)
- Village Court (Homewood)
- Mapleview Drive (Stoneleigh)

Before starting projects, DPW upgrades storm drains and installs bicycle-safe grates. They also replace curbs and gutters and update ADA compliance features.

Randy adds that contractors are required to work with residents to minimize inconvenience. Most road repairs are usually completed in less than a week.

Harford's native muralist takes art to the streets

Artist **Marshall Adams** has painted over 350 murals in cities all over the US, but thinks that his current assignment will be one of his most memorable.

"Painting a mural this big in my hometown is pretty monumental," he says. Adams is a **Harford County native** and an alumnus of St. Margaret School on Hickory Avenue and of C. Milton Wright High School '01.

He is currently painting a **1,260-square-foot mural on the north exterior wall of the Harford County Sheriff's Office** at 45 S. Main Street. The completed mural will recall the history of downtown Bel Air with an image of the old sheriff's house and jail that occupied the same address many years ago.

Adams came to this artistic specialty serendipitously. As a Salisbury University art student, he bid on a request for an interior mural from The Children's Book Garden, an Ocean City, Maryland merchant.



Marshall Adams logs hours of historical research and sketching before embarking on a project like the Sheriff's Office mural.



"I had drawn a Jimmy Page mural on someone's basement wall for a case of beer. That was my portfolio," he recalls. "I got the job. I painted this enormous mural for very little money. I have been painting murals ever since."

In downtown Bel Air, you can see his previous murals on the exterior wall of **Two Sisters Gallery** (328 S. Main Street.) and in the **Dark Horse Saloon**. His public portfolio extends into the Baltimore Metro area in Charles Village Pub, Dave & Buster's at Arundel Mills, Hightopps Backstage Grille in Timonium and a number of Federal Hill bars and restaurants. For a tour of murals in various other cities go to www.marshalladams.com.

Murals, he says, require an unusual combination of art and construction skills: "Luckily, my father was a bricklayer. I was often his helper, setting up and breaking down scaffolding and preparing surfaces."

Public art, he adds, is an intriguing medium for almost everyone: "It is such a source for the imagination. Any kid can look at a mural and pretend that it is real life. My three-year-old niece just saw this mural and I explained it was like a huge coloring book. She understood that."



Harford artists are often multi-talented. Diane Quick's treasured antique musical instruments often appear in her paintings. What's more, Diane is an accomplished musician and can play them as well. Her works are on display (and are for sale) at the Harford Artists Gallery.

Harford Artists Association

Upcoming events

Impressions

May 2 - June 30

Harford Artists Gallery
Rockfield Manor, 503 E. Churchville Road

Thursday & Friday 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 12:00 - 6:00; Sunday 12:00 - 4:00

Wine & cheese reception: May 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Art at the Library

April 27 - May 3

Bel Air Public Library during regular library hours

Reception: April 27, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

www.artinharford.org

Businesses and artists come together to bring hearts to Bel Air

Who has a big heart in Bel Air? Apparently, quite a few of us. People from many different walks of life – businesses, artists, libraries, schools, non-profits and government officials – are coming together to create “Hearts of Harford,” a first-ever public art project in the Town of Bel Air.

Scott Walker, Executive Director of the Bel Air Downtown Alliance says “Baltimore had fish and crabs, Elkton had their huge elk and Frederick had keys. The hearts are perfect for us!”

The Bel Air Downtown Alliance and the Town of Bel Air developed the Hearts of Harford project. Adrienne DeRan, local artist and member of the Town of Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission, creates the sculptures as sponsors come forward. Contact Scott Walker at the Bel Air Downtown Alliance to learn how to be a sponsor or a participating artist for upcoming hearts.



Adrienne DeRan (2nd from right) helped celebrate the unveiling of the Gold Medal Physical Therapy heart with Harford Artists Association members (l to r) Alex Kopp, Diane Quick, Loretta DiLoreto and Helen Woodward. Harford Artists Association member Jo Houtz was the designer.



The Bel Air Downtown Alliance is leading the Hearts of Harford project. Students in the Honors Art Program at Bel Air High School designed the first heart for the Peoples Bank branch at 124 N Main St. It is located at the Bel Air Armory. Executive Director Scott Walker (l) unveiled it along with art teacher Karen Ballard.

APRIL**Thursday 18
GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

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

**Saturday 20
THE GREATER BEL AIR COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION'S 9TH ANNUAL A NIGHT
IN PARADISE**

Bel Air Armory, 37 N. Main St.
7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Enjoy live music, shrimp
feast and bull roast. All proceeds benefit
community capital improvements. For
tickets and information on how to support
the Foundation, visit www.gbacf.org or
410-879-9292 or 410-836-6366

**Wednesday 24
FINE AND PRACTICAL ARTS NIGHT**

Bel Air Middle School. 6:30 p.m.
Free. 410-638-4140

**Friday 26 and Saturday 27
SPRING EXPO 2013**

Harford Mall. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Business members of the Harford County
Chamber of Commerce exhibit services
and products. \$225/booth for Chamber
members. Sponsor: Harford County
Chamber of Commerce. 410-838-2020,
ext. 105

**Friday 26 and Saturday 27
BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL**

99 Idlewild Street
7 p.m. 410-638-4140

**Sunday 28
BEL AIR COMMUNITY CHORUS
SPRING CONCERT**

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street,
7 p.m. Free. 443-752-6555

MAY**Friday 3
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

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

**Friday 3
FIRST FRIDAYS**

Office and Main Streets. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Free outdoor live music celebration. Beer

& wine garden; refreshments; merchant
specials. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown
Alliance. www.downtownbelair.com.
443-823-1797

**Saturday 4
CELEBRATION OF CULTURES**

Bel Air Armory, 37 N. Main Street.
11 a.m. – 3 pm. The Human Relations
Commission, in partnership with LASOS,
presents the 2013 Celebration of
Cultures, a family event to celebrate the
cultures/ethnicities that call Harford
County home. Music, dance, youth/family
activities and crafts. 410-836-0333

**Saturday 4
SYMPHONY CONCERT performed by
the Susquehanna Symphony
Orchestra**

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street.
Pre-concert lecture at 6:30 p.m. Concert
at 7:30 p.m. Reflections on the Civil War
honors the 150th anniversary of the Civil
War end. Includes Bilik's *An American
Civil War Fantasy*, Poling's *No Sound of
Trumpet nor Roll of Drum*, as well as
Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Other
surprises in store. Adults \$20. Seniors
\$15. Students \$10. 410-569-2602

**Sunday 5
BEL AIR COMMUNITY BAND
CONCERT**

Bel Air High School Auditorium,
100 Heighe St. 3 p.m. Popular music
and Big Band music for all ages.
Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. Free.
410-638-4550

**Friday 10
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

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

**Saturday 11
MUSIC IS MAGIC 2013**

Bel Air Armory, 37 N. Main St.
2 p.m. Maryland Conservatory of
Music presents its annual student
showcase with some of the
most talented students in Harford
County. Free. 410-939-8080 or
443-243-7265

**Saturday 11
BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ
BAND SWING DANCE**

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe
Street. 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Call for ticket price. 410-638-4600

**Tuesday 14
BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPRING
MUSIC CONCERT**

100 Heighe St. 7 – 8:30 p.m.
An evening of great performances by
students of the Bel Air High School Men's
Choir, Women's Choir and Freshman
Band. Free. Donations accepted.
410-638-4600

**Wednesday 15
BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPRING
MUSIC CONCERT**

100 Heighe St. 7 p.m. – 8:30 pm.
An evening of great performances by
students of the Bel Air High School
Concert Band, Orchestra and Guitar
Ensemble. Free. Donations accepted.
410-638-4600

**Thursday 16
GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Downtown Bel Air. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Grab the gals! Shops are open
later and there are deals. Local
restaurants and pubs have great Happy
Hour specials. Sponsor: Bel Air
Downtown Alliance, 443-823-1797
www.downtownbelair.com

**Thursday 16
BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPRING
MUSIC CONCERT**

100 Heighe St. 7 – 8:30 p.m.
An evening of great performances by the
students of Bel Air High School's Counter
Points and Symphonic Band. Free.
Donations accepted. 410-638-4600

**Friday 17
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

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

**Friday 17
BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPRING
MUSIC CONCERT**

100 Heigh St. 7 – 8:30 p.m. An evening of
great performances by students of Bel Air
High School's Pop Choir and Jazz Band.
Free. Donations accepted. 410-638-4600

**Tuesday 21
6TH GRADE SPRING CONCERT**

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe
St. 7 p.m. Sponsor: Bel Air
Middle School. Free. 410-638-4140

**Wednesday 22
7TH GRADE SPRING CONCERT**

Bel Air High School, 7 p.m. Sponsor: Bel
Air Middle School. Free. 410-638-4140

Thursday 23**8TH GRADE SPRING CONCERT**

Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe St. 7 p.m. Sponsor: Bel Air Middle School. Free. 410-638-4140

Friday 24**LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

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

Monday 27**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

Lee Way and Hickory Ave. 10:30 a.m. Ceremony honoring American Vets. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and American Legion Harford Post #39. Free. 410-303-8138

JUNE**Saturday 1****FLAG DAY**

Shamrock Park (behind Town Hall). 8 a.m. Remember the meaning and sacrifice represented in our American Flag. Keynote speaker and Color Guard presentation; patriotic songs and music. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air. 410-638-4550

Sunday 2**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

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

Friday 7**FIRST FRIDAYS**

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

Saturday 8**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BEACH BUM BOOK SALE**

Bel Air Public Library, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Paperback books, children's books. 410-638-3151

Sunday 9**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

William A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 p.m. Outdoor concert. Bring a picnic and blanket or chair. Rain location: Bel Air High School.

Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 14**OUTDOOR MOVIES**

Shamrock Park, Lee Street & Hickory Ave. Enjoy movies under the stars. Pack the blankets and grab the kids! Seating opens at 6 p.m.; movie at dusk. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance. Free. www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

Sunday 16**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

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

Thursday 20**GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Downtown Bel Air. 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Grab the gals! Our shops are open later and there are deals. Local restaurants and pubs have great Happy Hour specials. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance. www.downtownbelair.com.

Sunday 23**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

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

Friday 28**OUTDOOR MOVIES**

Shamrock Park, Lee Street & Hickory Ave. Enjoy movies under the stars. Pack blankets and grab the kids! Seating opens at 6 p.m.; movie at dusk. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance. Free www.downtownbelair.com. 443-823-1797

Sunday 30**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

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

**JULY****Thursday 4****BEL AIR INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Celebration in various locations around Bel Air. 6:45 am – 10 pm. Morning events include Pancake Breakfast, Turtle Derby, Frog Jumping, Hamster Races, Horseshoe Pitching, Bicycle Rodeo, Uncle Sam Says and Watermelon Eating. Evening parade and fireworks. Sponsor: Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc. www.belairjuly4.org. 410-893-4444

Thursday 4**FOURTH OF JULY OPEN HOUSE**

Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue. 9 am – 12 pm. Music by the Catherine Street Consort. Tour the 1788 house with costumed docents. Sponsor: Historical Society of Harford County. Free. 410-838-7691

Friday 5**FIRST FRIDAYS**

Office and Main Streets. 5 pm – 8 pm Free outdoor celebration of live music downtown; beer & wine garden; refreshments; merchants participating with specials. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance. www.downtownbelair.com.

Wednesday 10**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

William A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 pm. Outdoor concert. Bring a picnic and blanket or chair. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

Friday 12**OUTDOOR MOVIES**

Shamrock Park, Lee Street & Hickory Ave. Enjoy movies under the stars. Pack the blankets and grab the kids! Seating opens at 6 pm; movie starts at dusk. Sponsor: Bel Air Downtown Alliance

Sunday 14**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

William A. Humbert Amphitheater, Shamrock Park. 7 pm. Outdoor concert. Bring a picnic and blanket or chair. Rain location: Bel Air High School. Sponsor: Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Free. 410-803-9784

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.

Downtown Bel Air's merchants: Give your neighbors the business

Barely Used Consignments Main St.



Barely Used Consignments on Main has bargains, but you might also meet new friends. Susan Fisher (r) was recently in the shop and swapped stories with other customers about growing up and living in Harford County. Owner Tianna VanSpriell is at left.

You might say that **Barely Used Consignments Main St.** is like the *Cheers* of the secondhand store world.

Owner Tianna VanSpriell greets a number of customers by name. With that mood set, shoppers find themselves chatting with Tianna and with complete strangers. Topics veer wildly from children, to costume jewelry, to decorating to youthful indiscretions while growing up in Bel Air.

"You don't need social media, you just need a consignment shop to find out what is going on," says Tianna.

Tianna has the credentials to succeed in the consignment business. She has gathered a loyal following for her other business, **East Coast Estate Sale Services** and as the former owner of Everything Goes consignment shop.

She barely hesitated when long-time merchant Joanne McCord offered to sell the well-established Bear-ly Used Consignment Shop to her.

Adding a storefront to her estate sale business model allows her another way to merchandise. She slightly modified the former name to **Barely Used Consignments Main St.** Moving forward, she'll keep the tradition of the store while adding her own specialties: **junior sizes, maternity, vintage and small furniture.**

Tianna features an **Artist of the Month** and partners with visual artists to sell their works in her store. There is a new artist in the store each month during Girls Night Out (the third Thursday of the month).

Tianna is experimenting with **Sunday hours**, noting that many of her neighbors - including **The Orient Restaurant, StaleFish Board Company, Town Nails & Spa** and the **Bel Air Bakery** draw big Sunday crowds. **Barely Used Consignments Main St.** is located at 12 N. Main St.

Bel Air Liquors



An extra 2,500 square feet allows Larry Dean to carry more unique labels of beers, wines and liquors. He hosts tasting events on Fridays from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Employee Kim Falter (l) is frequently on hand.

When Larry Dean, owner of **Bel Air Liquors**, heard that the property at his former Hickory Avenue location was for sale, the news jump-started a dream to build his own retail location. He wanted something larger, greener and more centrally located, still within the Town of Bel Air. He got it all.

Larry applauds the work of several other local businesses that helped his vision turn into a reality: **Thompson & Associates, PNC Bank** and **Innovative Building Solutions**. He also worked closely with the **Town of Bel Air**.

"When Larry decided to build Bel Air Liquors at the site of the former drive-thru facility for BB&T Bank, I understand that he came to the Town and really listened to design ideas that would help his store **look contemporary, but still fit into the architectural footprint of the town,**" says Kevin Small, current Director of Planning for the Town of Bel Air.

The result is a turn-of-the-century-style, 8,700-square-foot building that fits well into the landscape and, at the same time, is one of the **greenest and most energy-efficient structures** in the downtown area.

"We used hardy plank siding, stained concrete floors and 40-50 year old architectural shingles," says Larry, who owns the store with his wife, Julie. "We have five high efficiency heat pumps and LED lighting in the store and in the beer coolers. Our utility bills are half of what they were in the old store, which was 2,800 square feet."

A side entrance and parking area preserves the sight line along Main Street. A **back entrance** to the store's parking lot off Barnes Street provides an easy in and out in addition to the Main Street access next to Preston's Stationery.

"We had roots in Bel Air before," says Larry. "But now, two things have happened. We created a location for us to stay and we have improved the appearance of Main Street."

Officer Sergio D'Alto, Crisis Intervention Team member, earns promotion to Corporal



Mayor Eddie Hopkins, Cpl. Sergio D'Alto and Leo Matrangola, Chief of Police

Sergio D'Alto, a Bel Air Police Department officer since 2007, has been promoted to Corporal. Prior to becoming a Bel Air police officer, Sergio worked as a Baltimore City police officer and an emergency communications dispatcher at several municipal police agencies near his hometown in New Jersey.

Corporal D'Alto has distinguished himself as a professional police officer. He is a member of the Harford County Sheriff's Office Hostage Negotiation Team and completed their seven-day training program in 2012. He is also part of the 49-member Harford County Crisis Intervention (CIT) Team. The CIT's sworn officers and mental health professionals answer emergency calls dealing with mental health issues.

Corporal D'Alto is certified in the use of the Preliminary Breath Test device that estimates the blood alcohol content and Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus which measures the eye movement of impaired drivers prior to their arrest. D'Alto's

commitment to arresting drunk drivers in Bel Air was recognized by Harford County State's Attorney Joseph Cassilly in each of the past four years. Since becoming a member of the Bel Air Police Department, D'Alto has made 78 adult arrests, 24 juvenile arrests and 36 drunk driver arrests.

Officer Christian Rider, patrol and K-9 handler, earns promotion to Corporal



Commissioner Robert J. Reier, Cpl. Christian Rider and Leo Matrangola, Chief of Police

Christian Rider has been promoted to the rank of Corporal. A 2001 graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, Corporal Rider earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He has served the town since 2002 after his successful completion of the Maryland Police Corps Academy. He finished second in his class with an overall average of 97.4%.

Corporal Rider and his K-9 partner, Brutus, have made several apprehensions and over 50 drug finds that resulted in arrests. The pair is certified by the National Police Canine Association and participate in numerous community events.

He is a member of the Town's Personnel Policy Review Committee and member of the Sworn Officer's Pension Trustees Board.

In addition, Corporal Rider has completed numerous training courses in topics such as Traffic Stops and Court Preparation, specialized firearms, field sobriety testing, identity theft and cybercrime, youth gangs, Segway training, and interview and interrogation methods. Since becoming a member of the Bel Air Police Department, he has made 67 adult arrests, 33 juvenile arrests and 17 drunk driver arrests.

Retirement wishes to Cheryl Coulter, the voice of Public Works for 28 years



Cheryl Coulter

Cheryl Coulter, who spent nearly three decades at her desk, front and center in Bel Air's Department of Public Works, recently retired. Cheryl has helped countless builders, contractors and homeowners to navigate the sometimes-perplexing world of state, county and Town rules and regulations.

On her own and in evening classes, Cheryl began taking computer coursework and quickly saw the future. She began applying what she learned at work. She developed spreadsheets, first for her own use, and then for other departments.

Spreadsheets gave way to Access software, a database management system that yields more complex queries or analysis. Cheryl developed database systems that simplified time sheets, budgets, phone calls and police department data.

Despite her love of all things electronic, Cheryl said she preferred to answer the phone rather than use voice mail. "A lot of people who call have more than one question. Sometimes, people just liked to talk to us."

Volunteers descend on Giles Street to construct both house and home

What happens when government, non-profits and the business community come together in Bel Air for a cause? Just take a look at **404 Giles Street**, the address of the first **Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna** house in the Town of Bel Air.

The House that Bel Air Built moves toward completion every day. Funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Harford County Government, the Town of Bel Air and Harford Mutual Insurance Company started the momentum. Volunteers and business groups from all corners of the county, along with the soon-to-be homeowners, are building the house from the ground up.



The newest neighbors on Giles Street will be **Holly and Dale Crouse and their six children**. Though the couple has been employed for many years, affordable housing was always out of reach. Now, instead of living in a two-bedroom apartment, they will raise their children in a single family, five-bedroom house that will include a yard and shade trees.

Top left and middle photo: ShopRite and Pepsi (Havre de Grace) were two of about 20 business, church and community groups who have organized work days to help with construction. Another 200 volunteers will also pitch in by the time the project is completed. Town of Bel Air employees participated in an April “Build Day” and also provided in-kind services from the Department of Public Works.

Top right photo: Bel Air community leaders came together to break ground. L to R: Steven Linkous, President & CEO of **Harford Mutual Insurance**; **Harford County District B. Councilman** Jim McMahan; Beth Hendrix, Director of **Harford County Department of Community Services**; Eddie Hopkins, **Town of Bel Air** Mayor and Scott Walker, Executive Director, **Bel Air Downtown Alliance**.

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>

THE HOUSE THAT BEL AIR BUILT



Photos by John Santora

Town of Bel Air's new Human Resource Director is now home for good

Michael Krantz is Bel Air's new Director of Human Resources and Town Clerk, but is no stranger to town.

In fact, Michael and his wife Chandra have lived in the Town of Bel Air for 20 years. Until now, though, he spent most of his professional time as an out-of-county commuter to several manufacturing, IT and retail companies in Baltimore and Philadelphia.

It was only on weekends that the Krantz family (which includes a 10-year-old daughter) were able to get to the Bel Air activities that they love: the MA & PA Trail, concerts in Shamrock Park, holiday parades and outdoor movies.

It was this affection for Bel Air and the chance to spend more time with his family that drew him to the job, says Michael.

Bel Air's Human Resources Director also oversees the Informational Technology (IT) Department, serves as Town Clerk and coordinates all major town events.

He is impressed that many town employees have been on the job for decades. As the new HR Director,

he says "My customers are certainly Bel Air's citizens, but the employees are as well."

He thoroughly enjoys the new commute time: "Now I can live in, work for, and serve the community simultaneously."



Stop by Town Hall and chances are that you will be greeted by Laura Stafford (l), Administrative Secretary and Michael Krantz, recently appointed as Director of Human Resources. He replaces Joyce Oliver, who retired this winter.