

May 2023

# Harford Heritage News

250th Anniversary of Founding of Harford County—2023 to March 2024

200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Tour of America— 2024



## YOU ARE INVITED!! Spring Into History

Come *Spring Into History!* on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 2 to 6 pm at the Historical Society Headquarters, 143 North Main Street in Bel Air. What better way to celebrate Harford 250 than by joining us for the Historical Society's Grand Reopening and a Behind the Scenes peek at the newly emerging Harford County History Museum.

Outside there will be music by *Six Feet Apart*; Double Groove Brewery will be on hand to host a one-of-a-kind Harford 250 Beer Garden; and you can dig in at Del-ish and Kona Ice food trucks, while inside an array of interactive displays will let you vote for your favorite photos, preview selected artifacts, marvel at bygone fashions, and test your knowledge of famous places around the County.

The day holds something for all ages. Young children can experience a sand table archeological dig; families can take a scavenger hunt with prizes for the kids; and everyone can enjoy a professionally curated display of Old Baltimore artifacts. Old Baltimore was Harford's first county seat in the late 1600 and early 1700's. For more than twenty years after their excavation, these incredible artifacts were stored in Jefferson Patterson Park's archives. In celebration of the Historical Society's reopening and Harford's 250 anniversary project, the Historical Society and Aberdeen Proving Ground have partnered to bring some of these finds back to the county for a limited time. This first time exhibit is not to be missed!

And since May is Preservation Month, we will also be including this year's County Preservations Awards from 2-3 PM as part of the day's celebration. So come check out the winners and learn about the Historical Society's own preservation story. Have fun chatting with members of our restoration team, who will be on hand to share pictures, show blueprints, and explain the years of work that have gone into preserving our building and restoring our lobby space for the museum to come.

*Spring Into History!* is a free event, rain or shine. So invite your friends and see you there!



- ◆ [Sports Event](#)
- ◆ [Public Art](#)
- ◆ [Liriodendron](#)
- ◆ [Lockhouse Lecture](#)
- ◆ [Bicentennial Ballad](#)
- ◆ [May Events](#)
- ◆ [June Events](#)
- ◆ [Events Calendar](#)
- ◆ [Committee](#)

# The History of Sports in Harford

Plans are moving forward for Harford 250's History of Sports program slated for August 19, 2023 at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen. The day will feature an Ironbirds game, fireworks and surprise events throughout the day. The planning committee is organizing an effort to honor county athletes from the last nine decades and maybe the 160 years before that.

Watch the newsletter for more details as they become available. And just to make sure you don't miss this celebration, visit our website [www.harford250.org](http://www.harford250.org) to order your tickets now.

It will be a blast!



## Be a pART of hiSTORY - Share a piece of YOUR Harford County story!

The people have spoken. In our recent poll, County residents overwhelmingly chose artist Lisa Scarbath's artistic entry as the public art piece that will commemorate Harford's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Scarbath's mosaic proposal will capture Harford's history through the pieces of Harford and the stories of Harford that area residents provide. This is a unique way of capturing time and place. The final piece will be displayed at Bynum Pond Park for everyone to enjoy.



Mosaic artist, Lisa Scarbath, will be creating this community-sourced mosaic with your help. This summer, she will be asking the public to contribute small items or material to be included in the artwork. The sender should write a few lines about why Harford County is special to them and what the material symbolizes. The stories behind these items will become part of the overall record. More details about what to send and where to drop off your items will be coming in June. The final artwork will be unveiled in March, 2024 and on display at Bynum Run Park in Bel Air.

Thank you to everyone who voted on the art proposal. We hope you will continue to stay involved with this truly unique adventure.

## Meet Us at the Liriodendron

The Liriodendron is thrilled to continue the celebration of 250 years of Harford County in the same year that it is celebrating its own 125<sup>th</sup> birthday! This Spring and Summer we have a variety of events highlighting the history and culture of the Liriodendron and our community. Our annual free Mothers Day Open House (Sunday, May 14 from 11 am to 3 pm) will feature live jazz, treats from Newberry Bakery, and the opening of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition of the Baltimore Sculpture Society. Twenty works of art will be on view both inside the mansion and around the grounds. On July 9, local artist Scott McClelland will be featured in a solo exhibit in our gallery. Our summer Music at the Mansion concert series features Charm City Junction on June 18 (Fathers Day), Josh Christina on July 9, and Gaelic Mishap on August 13. All concerts are outdoors on Sundays from 5 to 7 pm. For information on these and other events, please visit [liriodendron.com](http://liriodendron.com)



As part of its year-long 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, The Liriodendron is seeking photos of past weddings and special events held at the mansion, as well as historical photos and works of art depicting the mansion and grounds. Anyone who would like to share their images, can send a link to [events@liriodendron.com](mailto:events@liriodendron.com).

## Journey Down the Old Post Road

The Greater Havre de Grace Museum Association and the Lock House Museum present local historian, retired Harford County educator, and longtime Lock House supporter, Bob Magee, in its ongoing Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series. Journey down the Old Post Road during the 18th and 19th centuries visiting inns and famous stops as it traverses through Harford County and beyond. This free talk is being held at the American Legion Post 47 in Havre de Grace on Thursday, June 15 at 7 pm.

Registration is through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/591534053277>

Please contact the Lock House Museum. 410-939-5780 or [info@thelockhousemuseum.org](mailto:info@thelockhousemuseum.org), for additional information.



# Harford Bicentennial Ball Ballad

*In 1973 Harford County celebrated its bicentennial with a fancy dance at the Harford Mall. The Historical Society displayed an original copy of the program from the Bicentennial Ball during the Harford 250 Showcase. Two local women wrote a ballad in honor of that occasion. Here is their composition.*

In March seventeen hundred and seventy three  
The first County Seat came to be.  
It was called Bush or Harford Town  
And here the local names are found,  
Paca, Matthews, Garrett, Dallam and the Halls,  
Were the first commissioners to make the laws.  
And the Revolution made history every day,  
The signs are marked along the way.

Population grew and the lawmakers did meet  
To arrange the location of a new county seat.  
The voters did gather and then declare  
The new county seat was to be Belle Aire.  
About 110 dollars bought Scott's Old Field land  
A brick courthouse was built and it was just grand.  
So stately it stood—many laws it inspired  
'Til 1858 when it was destroyed by fire.

A new courthouse was built on the same spot  
And if it could speak it would tell us a lot.  
It would tell us of men so dedicated and true  
Who carried Harford's flag of gold, white and blue.  
It would tell us of places too numerous to mention  
That put our history in a personal dimension.  
And it would say now to get the job done  
Expansion is needed—the time has come.

So build me a new one but build me strong  
And with God's help there will be no wrong.  
You voted charter and you must see  
That the laws are just for you and me.  
Your heritage gives you the right to believe  
And courage and honesty will make you achieve.  
So everything good for the country and nation  
And cheers for the bicentennial celebration.

Mrs. Thomas H. Adams

Mrs. Frank Karney (*Maybe Kearney,  
editor's note*)



Harford County Bicentennial Commission 1973. Identified are Dr. John Brown, Hazel Baldwin, William Jones, Principal of Bel Air High School, Betty Adams, Fred Baldwin, Wilmer Barnes, Lucille Daneker. (From Historical Society of Harford County collection)

# This Summer is Full of Harford 250 Events

The May 6 “Mill That Built a Village Event” at Jerusalem Mill had sold out! Saturday’s weather is forecast to be good so the “Road Meet: The History of US 1 and US 40 in Harford County” should be an equal success. If you missed the YouTube presentation, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKnD7jx0Osc&t=4030s>.

May 13 Steppingstone Museum is hosting “Through the Ages Teas. Reservations close on Tuesday, May 9, register soon.

May 20 has something for everyone - from *Spring Into History – Reopening of the Historical Society*, to the *Storyteller Series* at Hosanna School and the *APG Demonstration Day*, there are plenty of activities to choose from.

Don’t forget to honor those who have given their lives in defense of our country on Memorial Day, May 29.

Next month is Joyful June—with special events on every weekend! Keep reading for information on all that is planned.

July brings Independence Day Celebrations with parades and fireworks and concerts all around the county.

Finally August arrives with the Chesapeake Hot Air Balloon Festival and the Harford 250 Night at the Ball Park.

Join together with family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy a full calendar of fun activities!

HOSTED BY  
STEPPINGSTONE FARM MUSEUM & HARFORD 250



## Through the Ages Tea

\$30 per person  
Saturday, May 13, 2023  
1pm - 3pm

Honor Harford County's 250th year with an afternoon at Steppingstone. Experience a tea service in the Carriage Barn, while celebrating Harford County's history.



To register email [information@steppingstonemuseum.org](mailto:information@steppingstonemuseum.org)  
or scan the QR code:  
[steppingstonemuseum.org](http://steppingstonemuseum.org) | 461 Quaker Bottom Rd Havre de Grace MD 21078



## Spring into History

GRAND RE-OPENING  
OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

**FROM: 2PM - 6PM**  
Historical Society Headquarters  
143 N. MAIN STREET  
BEL AIR, MD 21014  
BACK PARKING LOT & INSIDE BUILDING



admission is free and all ages are welcome

**FEATURING:** LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS,  
BEER GARDEN, MUSEUM PREVIEW,  
ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG FOR KIDS, AND MORE!

Join The Historical Society of Harford County for a fun filled afternoon celebrating the long-awaited grand reopening of the Historical Society Headquarters!!

Launch will include a sneak peek at the new museum's work in progress displays, multiple exhibits, and highlighting "Old Baltimore" artifacts from the 1999-2000 archeological dig that was conducted at APG the site of the County's first seat!

*Come Spring into History with Us*

The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Join the Celebration! | Harford 250

## Sestercentennial Storyteller Series | Feb-Jun 2023

Between February and June, Hosanna will feature leading storytellers from the region to share relevant stories inspired by the African American experience in a Sestercentennial Storytelling Series that will be presented monthly. The Series will feature one storyteller per month and culminate in the final performances at our Upper Bay Juneteenth Festival 2023.



**May 20, 2023 | 1:00 pm | \$5.00**  
**Dr. David Olawuyi Fakunle**  
 Dr. David Fakunle, Executive Director of WombWork Productions, uses Black storytelling, African drumming, and singing to engage his audiences in the proclamation of truth.

This series is supported in part by



For details on and **TICKETS** for all the performances, go to the **EVENTS** section of our website. Space is limited.

2424 Castleton Road  
 Darlington, MD 21034  
 admin@hosannaschoolmuseum.org

[www.hosannaschoolmuseum.org](http://www.hosannaschoolmuseum.org)

U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground

# DEMO DAYS

**SAVE THE DATES! MAY 19-20, 2023**

Join team APG as we demonstrate our most extraordinary capabilities. Come see, feel, and learn about the Army's most unique missions behind our gates.

## APG's Future Force EXPLORATION DAY

**MAY 19, 2023**

OPEN TO PRE-REGISTERED HCPS STUDENTS!



Students will complete a tour of duty as they explore the Army's most unique careers and observe a Live Fire exercise.

## APG's Proving It DEMONSTRATION DAY

**MAY 20, 2023**

OPEN TO THE TICKETED PUBLIC!



Experience the Army and APG's most extraordinary capabilities through interactive demonstrations and displays including a Live Fire demo, aerial performance, and much more.



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:  
<https://tinyurl.com/APGDemoDays>

# HISTORIC swansbury LIMITED

## PREMIERE OPEN HOUSE

Our main goal for this event is to promote the Swansbury Farm as a newly founded non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Farm was put into a non-profit to preserve and protect the historic significance that the farm has garnered throughout its lifetime beginning in 1750.

## PROJECTS for the FUTURE

For this event we will be inviting 250 people to coincide with Harford County's 250th anniversary. Our guests' will tour the farm and the almost 275 year old home with refreshments to follow.

- Raise Funds for Research
- Restore & Maintain Original Garden
- Catalog Artifacts
- Preserve Outbuildings
- Hire a Grant Writer
- Replace Main House Roof
- Raise Funds for Public Interactions
- Repoint Chimneys
- Establish Long-term Maintenance Plan
- Repare Drive & Install Front Gate

If you would like to attend the event and have not been invited, please reach out to us as we do have a few extra spots on our guest list.

**EVENT DATE**  
**MAY 20, 2023**

historicswansbury.org | historicswansbury@gmail.com | 111B Beards Hill Rd, Aberdeen, MD 21001

# SAVE-TH-DATE



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US FOR OUR  
**7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SGT. ALFRED B. HILTON  
 MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER**

**TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**  
 MARYLAND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
 5:30PM COCKTAILS, 6:30 DINNER/PROGRAM



Sponsorships Available.  
 Please call: (410) 459-9411  
 Please visit our website or scan the QR Code to stay connected.

[www.SGTALFREDBHILTONFOUNDATION.com](http://www.SGTALFREDBHILTONFOUNDATION.com)



DIVE INTO A

# Joyful June



## JOIN US FOR A MONTH OF FUN!

As we continue to commemorate this historic milestone, we are excited to announce our upcoming "Joyful June" events. From family-friendly festivals to educational exhibits and historical moments, there is something for everyone to enjoy. View a full list of June Celebrations and be sure to follow Harford 250 to find out the latest County happenings.

JUNE 1ST  
TO  
JUNE 5TH

### Pride of Baltimore Visits Havre de Grace

The City of Havre de Grace welcomes The Pride of Baltimore II. This historic ship will be docking at Hutchins Memorial Park, 100 Congress Ave.

JUNE 10TH  
AT  
4:30 PM

### Harford Legacy Farm

During the event, we will recognize Harford County's Legacy Farms, farms that have been continuously owned by the same family for 100 years or more, and includes dinner and presentations.

JUNE 17TH  
AT  
8:30 AM

### NAACP Freedom 5K Run/Walk

Harford County NAACP 1st Annual Freedom 5K Run/Walk will take place at the Ma & Pa Trail. Swag and Medals will be given to each participant.

JUNE 17TH  
AT  
12 PM

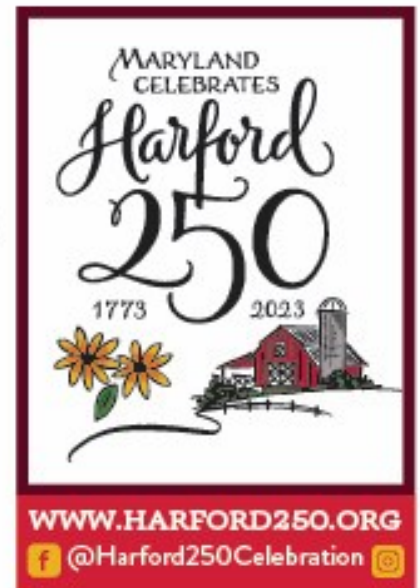
### Upper Bay Juneteenth Festival

The 2023 Upper Bay Juneteenth Festival is Hosanna's seventh year hosting a Juneteenth event. Featuring Music, Food, Storytellers, Dance, Vendors, Genealogy Workshops, Horse Rides, Puppet Shows and African Drummers!

JUNE 23RD  
TO  
JUNE 25TH

### The Maryland Dove Visits Havre de Grace

The City of Havre de Grace welcomes The Maryland Dove. This historic ship will be docking at Hutchins Memorial Park, 100 Congress Ave.



[WWW.HARFORD250.ORG](http://WWW.HARFORD250.ORG)

[@Harford250Celebration](https://www.facebook.com/Harford250Celebration)



# Harford 250 Events—May to August 2023

Here is a partial list of 2023 events planned to date:

May 13—Through the Ages Tea, Steppingstone Museum, 1 PM

May 20 –

Reopening & Museum Launch at Historical Society of Harford County. 2-6 PM

Hosanna Storyteller Series at Hosanna School Museum, 1 PM

Demonstration Day at Aberdeen Proving Ground

May 23— Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Fundraiser, Maryland Golf & Country Club, 5:30 PM

June 1-5 Pride of Baltimore II at Havre de Grace

June 10 – Legacy Farms Celebration, Equestrian Center, 4-7 PM

June 17—Upper Bay Juneteenth Celebration at Hosanna School

June 23-25—*Maryland Dove* at Havre de Grace

July 4—Independence Day Parade in Bel Air

August 4-6—Chesapeake Bay Hot Air Balloon Festival

August 19—Harford 250 Night at the Ball Park

For a complete list of Harford 250 events go to [www.harford250.org](http://www.harford250.org). Share your event plans with us at [250celebration@harfordhistory.org](mailto:250celebration@harfordhistory.org), so we can include them in a future newsletter.



## Harford Legacy Farm



CELEBRATING OUR  
AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE  
HARFORD 250

Harford County Equestrian Center

Saturday, June 10, 2023

4 - 7 pm

Tickets \$20 - ON SALE APRIL 3

12 & under free

Dinner, Awards, and Presentation

Questions? Ask Nina Depkin  
[ndepkin@harfordlandtrust.org](mailto:ndepkin@harfordlandtrust.org)





# Harford 250 Steering Committee

Chair: Carol Deibel    Co-Chair: Jackie Seneschal

Alyssa Canepa, Main Street Design  
Angela Robertson, Town of Bel Air  
Arden McClune, Liriodendron  
Bill Walden, President, Historical Society of Harford County  
Bob Cassilly, County Executive  
C. John Sullivan, Jr. Museum representative  
Chris Potts, Historical Society of Harford County  
Chuck Castoro, Historical Society of Harford County  
Diane Sengstacke, Upper Chesapeake Chorus  
Iris Barnes, Hosanna Museum  
Jacob Bensen, Harford County P & Z  
Janika Lynch, Business owner  
Jennifer Farrell, Community Foundation of Harford County  
Jenny Falcone, Bel Air Alliance

Julie Mancine, Harford Community College  
Kelly Jara, Harford TV  
Kenny Wilson, Aberdeen Historical Museum  
Laura Bianca Pruitt, Town of Bel Air  
Lauri Orzewicz, City of Havre de Grace  
Maryann Foran, Private Citizen  
Matthew Scales, [Visit Harford](#)  
Megan Hallett, Visit Harford  
Paul Koermer, Private Citizen  
Rebecca Nappi, Aberdeen Proving Ground  
Sharon Delgado, Private Citizen  
Stephanie McKaughan, Darlington Community Council  
Vicki Jones, NAACP

*Harford County has always lain in the main stream of national life.*

*In a sense, its history is the record of our country, reduced in scale.*

Senator William S. James



Published by:

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