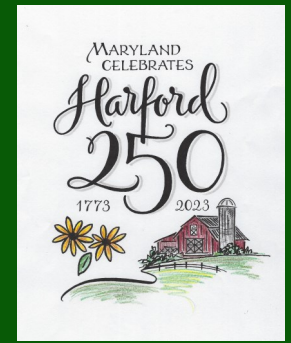


September 2023

# Harford Heritage News

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

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



What is your favorite Harford County memory?

**PIECING TOGETHER**  
**Harford's History**

*Drop off items at ANY Harford County Public Library*

**ITEMS ARE DUE: OCTOBER 1, 2023**

The graphic has a background of colorful, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue, purple, and orange. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, white, and red fonts. There are two yellow flowers with green leaves at the bottom left.

- ◆ [Arts Across Harford](#)
- ◆ [Virginia Hall speaker](#)
- ◆ [B&O Train Station](#)
- ◆ [Underground RR](#)
- ◆ [Harriett Tubman](#)
- ◆ [Lincoln—Booth](#)
- ◆ [Italian Festival](#)
- ◆ [Good Endeavor](#)
- ◆ [Upcoming Events](#)
- ◆ [Committee](#)

**We want to hear from you!** Send in an item or material to represent that favorite memory and artist, Lisa Scarbath, will incorporate it into the Harford 250 Mosaic. The Mosaic will memorialize the special characteristics of Harford County by incorporating these bits and pieces into a large-scale mosaic based on the theme *Rooted in History: Lighting the Way to the Future*.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW! The deadline is Sunday, October 1, 2023!** Gather a piece of nonbiodegradable material. It can be a pin, a rock, a business memento, a keychain, any item that holds memories for you. The piece should be no larger than your fist. The next step is to take it to your nearest county library. Include a brief story about why this item or the county is special to you. This can be a sentence or a full-page long.

These stories will be collated and published as part of the Harford 250 project. All stories will be published anonymously, but you are asked to provide your name and contact information in case the artist, Lisa Scarbath, has questions. The Mosaic will memorialize the special characteristics of Harford County by incorporating these bits and pieces into a large-scale mosaic based on the theme *Rooted in History: Lighting the Way to the Future*. The county Parks and Recreation Department will install the mosaic for permanent display at Bynum Run Park next spring.

The Mosaic will be unveiled on March 23, 2024 as part of the Grand Finale of the Harford 250 anniversary celebration. We all have special memories of our time in the county. This is a unique opportunity to share those memories for posterity. Help make this a very special part of our county's history and future.

Detail and the form are at the back of this newsletter.



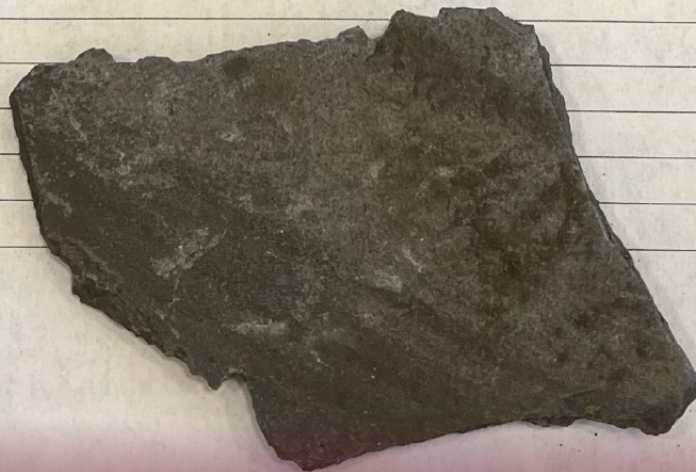


# PIECING TOGETHER

## Harford's History



**THE STORY OF MY OBJECT:** *The moving of the Aberdeen B&O Station was my first historic preservation project in Harford County. I was fortunate to have started my job with the Historical Society just a few months before the old station was to be lifted from its foundation and moved back 50 feet away from the still-active railroad tracks. I stood in the cold rain and mud with my colleagues that December and watched as the last of Frank Furness's small-town stations slowly made its way across the lot to its new home so that restoration could begin. Although I have been fortunate to work on many preservation projects since then, that first project will always be one of my favorites. I look forward to the day that the station's restoration is finished, so I can walk inside and say, "I remember the day this building moved."*



## What will **YOU** send in?

The items you provide will be embedded in the mosaic.



### Are You Involved in a Harford County Business or Non-Profit?

This is the perfect opportunity for any local business to leave a lasting imprint on Harford County during its 250th anniversary. We would love to accept your company's story and how your business has been a part of Harford County's history. We can accept any promotional materials, overstock inventory or representative items as long as they are non-biodegradable (glass, metal, tile, wood, etc.)

# The Arts in Harford

This September promises to introduce an amazing celebration of the Arts in Harford. The Historical Society will help to kickoff the numerous events with an online presentation on September 12, 2023 at 12:30 pm featuring Bob Willenbrink as he shares the story of this county wide celebration and the years of preparation that have gone into expanding the arts in the county. Harford 250 is the perfect time for us to experience the amazing growth of the arts and what they mean to county residents and visitors.

As an introduction to the numerous planned events, the Historical Society is pleased to host Bob Willenbrink, the Executive Director of the Maryland Center for the Arts in Harford County (MDCFA) on this virtual presentation. Bob is an accomplished guitarist and singer, his professional background includes stints as a theater director, a professor, and a Dean.

In 2020, just as the COVID pandemic hit, Bob came to the county to lead the MDCFA. Even with these challenges, he was able to generate enthusiasm and participation in the arts by moving programs outside. The annual Bluegrass festival continues to be a major success drawing people from across the country. Plans call for the expansion of this event to include Celtic, folk, and blues. Likewise, the Plein Air Art Festival grows each year drawing submissions from talented artists and leading to displays in the Bel Air Armory. With Bob's leadership, the county is experiencing an increased interest in the arts and the development of a vibrant arts scene.

The Historical Society invites everyone to join us at this virtual presentation to learn more about the exciting expansion of the arts in Harford. To view this event, visit the Historical Society of Harford County YouTube channel. You can find the channel at [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org).



## Join in 16 Days of Celebrating the Arts!

Arts organizations across Harford County are partnering together to create sixteen spectacular days of events in all disciplines. Attend one event, just a few or fill your calendar for the entire sixteen days!

In between events, experience Harford County galleries or take advantage of touring the popular Barn Quilt or Mural Trails plus many additional pieces of public art located throughout the County. As state designated Arts & Entertainments Districts, both [Havre de Grace](#) and [Bel Air](#) boast collections of public art that are accessible with walks through their downtowns.

Arts Across Harford highlights the creativity of our community and features dance, live musical performances, plein air painters, gallery exhibits, theatre and so much more. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the arts in Harford County! Events include:

September 14 – 11 am or 6 pm, Public Art Trolley Tour, Havre de Grace, free

September 15 -17 – 10 am -3 pm, Plein Air Gallery at the Bel Air Armory, Main St., Bel Air

September 17 – 9 am – 5pm, Annual Bel Air Festival of the Arts, Shamrock Park, free

For more details on these and additional planned events, visit [www.harford250.org](http://www.harford250.org).



## Get to Know Virginia Hall: America's Great WWII Spy



On Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm the Historical Society of Harford County invites you meet a Maryland legend at a catered dinner including an open bar, and a silent auction. The highlight of the evening is reenactor and storyteller Rosemarie Mimi Zannino Law detailing the story of a Maryland Legend, Virginia Hall. Ms. Hall's adventures have been recounted in numerous books and movies. Originally from Monkton, her exploits took her across Europe during

World War II. She is considered one of the greatest espionage agents of the era, going on to become one of the first female officers at the CIA.

The menu includes: appetizers, a three-course dinner featuring a field green salad, Petit Filet of Sirloin and Chicken Marsala accompanied by a vegetable medley and oven roasted potatoes, concluding with dessert. Beverages will include beer, wine, soda, tea and coffee.

The cost for Society members is \$45 and for non-members \$75.

The dinner will be catered by Dean and Brown. This promises to be a very special event with an opportunity to see the renovations and some of the new museum pieces on display at the Historical Society, 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air. This is an event you won't want to miss.

To register for this event, visit the Society's website at [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org).

## Hear the Whistle Blow...

Friends of the Aberdeen MD B & O Train Station are hosting a celebration of the restoration of the station On Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 11 am to 1 pm at 404 W. Bel Air Avenue, Downtown Aberdeen. All are invited to Get Onboard for the restoration of Aberdeen's historic train station.

The station, originally constructed in 1885, is an architectural gem. The restoration work includes a new slate roof, new cedar shake siding, repair and replacement of the original windows and doors, brick veneer (using 4,000 original bricks), and other improvements. Once completed the station is eligible for designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

The vision for the station is to preserve it as *The Historical Gateway* to Aberdeen and America's Railroad Heritage. Everyone is welcome.



# September Is Underground Railroad Month



## Havre de Grace **MARITIME MUSEUM** and Environmental Center

The National Park Service recently designated the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum's exhibit, *Underground Railroad: Other Voices of Freedom*, as a National Underground Network to Freedom site. The Maritime Museum is marking the month with a series of lectures

### **Through Their Eyes: Contemporary Artwork in the Underground Railroad Exhibit**

- Saturday, September 16, 2023, 4:00 PM 5:00 PM

This lecture describes the art work used in the permanent exhibit on the Underground Railroad in the greater Upper Chesapeake Bay region. Learn about the artists who created the powerful original artwork in *The Underground Railroad: Other Voices of Freedom* exhibit at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. Leslie Kaufman, art curator and President of Philadelphia Sculptors, will illuminate the process of selecting artists, their personal connections to the subject matter, and the special creative techniques they used. Art is a critical part of this important exhibit.



### **Exhibit Creation the Underground Railroad: Other Voices of Freedom**

- September 23, 2023, 5:00—6:00 PM

Juliette Moore was a co-curator on the Underground Railroad exhibit. Ms. Moore will detail the legal battle over the "ownership" of an African-American woman from the Darlington area of Harford County, that was one of the precursors to the Civil War. She will also discuss the bounty hunters, bloodhounds, and extortion exhibited.

### **The Underground Railroad: Other Voices of Freedom**

- September 30 4:00 PM 5:00 PM

Havre de Grace Maritime Museum President Bruce Russell was the head curator of this exhibit. Mr. Russell explains that the exhibit focuses on the Upper Chesapeake Bay and Lower Susquehanna River watersheds and the role of the waterways as both impediment to escape and as avenue to freedom. Hear stories of successful and failed escapes, black freemen and white abolitionists, bounty hunters, kidnappers, a murder, and an infamous court case that originated in Harford County and led to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Mr. Russell will discuss the research behind the exhibit and the overall approach in presenting these stories.





**HOSANNA SCHOOL MUSEUM**



**MEET  
HARRIET  
TUBMAN**

PORTRAYED BY  
JANICE CURTIS  
GREENE

TICKETS ARE \$5


JOIN US AT HOSANNA SCHOOL MUSEUM TO CELEBRATE

**INTERNATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
MONTH | SEPT. 2023**

2424 CASTLETON RD, DARLINGTON, MD 21034, USA  
SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1-3PM

**CONTACT US:**

 [HOSANNASCHOOLMUSEUM.ORG](https://www.hosannaschoolmuseum.org)

 410-457-4161

# The Lincolns, the Booths, and the Spirits

## *& The Forgotten Women of the Lincoln Assassination*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 | 1:00 TO 4:00 PM | BEL AIR, MD**

We're very excited to announce that the Junius B. Booth Society (JBBS) and the Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. (HSHC) are holding an intriguing, one-of-a kind fundraising event titled *The Lincolns, the Booths, and the Spirits & The Forgotten Women of the Lincoln Assassination* featuring author/historian Terry Alford and author/historian Kathryn Canavan on Saturday, October 21 at the Historical Society of Harford County. Seating is limited to 100 people, so reserve your seats now. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Following the closing remarks, the first floor of Tudor Hall, the childhood home of John Wilkes Booth, will be open to attendees till 5:30 PM. Tudor Hall is located at 17 Tudor Lane, Bel Air, MD 21015.

### Please Join Us:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023**

1:00 to 4:00 PM

The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014 **DOORS OPEN AT NOON.**

*(Parking is available on the street and the Historical Society of Harford County)*

**REGISTER EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE!**

*Space is limited to 100 people.*



**REGISTER NOW AT [WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG)**



# Maryland Italian Festival

On Friday, September 29 through Sunday, October 1, the Society of Italian American Businessmen (SIAB), a Maryland-based charitable organization supporting organizations focused on education, family and child services, mental health and addiction, will host the largest Italian festival in Maryland at the Harford County Equestrian Center in Bel Air, Maryland.

The Inaugural Maryland Italian Festival kicks off National Italian-American Heritage Month and coincides with the 10th anniversary of SIAB and Harford County's Sestercentennial (250th anniversary) celebrations in 2023.

The family-friendly festival will include Italian food and retail vendors, carnival rides and midway games, national and regional entertainment and a piazza serving wine, beer and liquor. In addition, SIAB's annual Bocce Tournament will be folded into the festival allowing teams to compete for big cash prizes on Saturday and cheer on athletes from the Special Olympics as they compete in a multi-state regional tournament on Sunday.



A promotional graphic for the Bocce Tournament at the Maryland Italian Festival. The background is dark red with a pattern of bocce balls. The text is arranged in several colored circles and blocks. At the top left is the festival logo. A blue circle contains the text 'Held on 4 newly built bocce courts provided by Harford County!'. A large yellow circle contains the text 'SATURDAY September 30 @ 11am public tournament begins. 30 teams (4 people each team) \$400 per team, \$100 of which goes directly to the Special Olympics!'. A red circle contains the text 'SUNDAY October 1 @ 12pm Special Olympics Regional Tournament begins. no cost for the Special Olympics Athletes'. A green circle contains the text '\$100 of each Entry goes to benefit The Special Olympics!'. The main title 'THE MARYLAND ITALIAN FESTIVAL BOCCE TOURNAMENT' is in large yellow letters, with 'to benefit the Special Olympics' in white below it. The website 'www.marylanditalianfestival.com' is at the bottom.



## Exploring Joppa's Past through the Lens of *Good Endeavour*

In 1695 a family of English colonists acquired the rights to 110 acres of land near the Port of Joppa, on the Chesapeake Bay. They established Good Endeavour farm, which remained in the family for three centuries. Ned Tillman's just released novel, *Good Endeavour: A Maryland Family's Turbulent History 1695-2002*, is the story of the members of that family. But it is far more than a multigenerational family saga, it is also a window into the evolution of the nation we live in today. Drawing upon in-depth research, Tillman documents dramatic moments in America's history including wars, the abolition of slavery, the struggle for women's rights, the rise of industry with the labor conflicts and environmental destruction it produced, the Great Depression, and the activism of the 1960s and 70s. But he does it in a uniquely personal way.

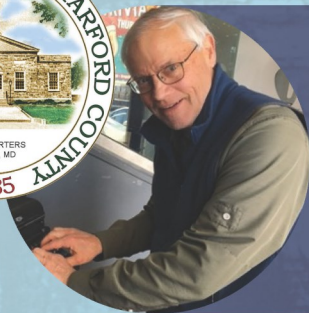
Ned Tillman is an award-winning author of three previous books; two works of nonfiction, *The Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, and *Saving the Places We Love: Paths to Environmental Stewardship*, and the YA novel *The Big Melt*. His books engage readers in caring about our past, our impact on our planet, and how to deal with the moral challenges we face today. Reserve Your Ticket TODAY!

**The Historical Society of Harford County Inc,**  
*Presents*  
**The Eighteenth Annual George W. Archer Lecture**

# EXPLORING JOPPA'S PAST

*Through The Lens of Good Endeavor*

The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.  
143 N. Main St., Bel Air | 410-838-7691  
**Saturday, November 11, 2023 | 2 P.M.**



### **GUEST SPEAKER - Ned Tillman**

An award-winning author, Ned Tillman will share his personal stories of life in Joppa from his family's arrival in 1695 until the sale of the homestead in 2002. The author will bring to life Harford's frontier, its triumphs and tragedies, the ordeals countians faced establishing a home in the wilderness, surviving during the war years, meeting economic challenges, and dealing with the many characters and events that shaped Joppa's role in county history.



**Reserve Your Ticket TODAY**

VISIT [WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG)

**Admission \$15**

\*Registrations Recommended

# Upcoming Events

## Harford 250 Events—September — November 2023

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

September 14 – Public Art Trolley Tour, Havre de Grace

September 15 - 30, Arts Across Harford, 16 Days of Celebrating the Arts

September 15-17, Harford Plein Air Gallery, Bel Air Armory

September 16, 23, & 30—Underground Railroad Presentations, Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

September 17 – Annual Bel Air Festival of the Arts, Shamrock Park

September 17—Virginia Hall at the Annual Meeting, Historical Society of Harford County

September 22—Harford United Charities Gala, Maryland Golf & Country Club

September 29—October 1—Maryland Italian Festival, Harford Equestrian Center

September 30—Harriett Tubman, Hosanna School Museum

October 14— Genealogy Workshop, The Historical Society of Harford County

October 21—Copley Parish Historic Fall Festival, Church of the Resurrection Joppa

October 21—Lincoln, the Booths & the Spirits, Historical Society of Harford County

October 31— Get Onboard for Restoration, Aberdeen B&O Train Station

November 3— 1950's Murder Mystery Party for CASA, Richlin Event Center

November 11— 18th Annual Archer Lecture, Historical Society of Harford County

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 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

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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



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