

March 2024

# Harford Heritage News

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

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



## Celebrating Tomorrow: Make Harford History Now

The last year brought county residents and visitors together in so many ways from a Showcase of all the County has to offer last March, to Harford 250 Night at the Ballpark in August, to a book written for and by county residents, *In Their Own Words: Harford in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, to the Harford 250 signature brew, *Come See About My Pale Ale*, to the creameries creations of *Come Taste My Ma & Pa Tracks* and the numerous products, programs and events in between. As we prepare to close out this year-long celebration, county residents are invited to join in a final tribute by ringing a bell at noon on March 23, 2024, to ring in the coming 250 years. Bell ringers will be joined by bells tolling from the county courthouse, area churches, and firehouses. **Everyone is invited to join us in ringing a bell at 12 noon on March 23, 2024. A limited number of Harford 250 Commemorative bells are available at the Historical Society headquarters, 143 N. Main St., Bel Air and at the Liriodendron open house events on March 10, 13 and 20.**

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For those who would like to participate in person at the Celebrating Tomorrow event, a limited number of tickets are still available. This program will be held between 9:30 am and noon at the Bel Air Reckord Armory at 37 N. Main Street. The event is free, but tickets are required. To register for a ticket, visit [www.harford250.org](http://www.harford250.org).

The focus of Celebrating Tomorrow will be the county's youth and its future. Attendees will enjoy a musical performance by the Deer Creek Youth Choir; peruse a display of items collected to represent this commemoration in the Harford 250 Time Capsule, to be opened at Harford's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2073; and be among the first to witness the unveiling of the mosaic panels entitled *Rooted in History – Lighting the Way to Tomorrow*. The mosaic panels will be installed in Bynum Park in the spring for all to enjoy. At noon, the countywide bell ringing will close the year-long celebration.

***Join in the Celebration***

***Ring in the Next 250 Years***

***Noon—Saturday, March 23, 2024***

## With Sincere Appreciation

Although the Harford 250 celebration has been front and center throughout the county for the last year, business sponsors, participating non-profits and countless volunteers have been working on this amazing project for the last three years. As this is our last newsletter, we would like to highlight the unflagging generosity and commitment of the people who made this celebration possible.

At the end of each newsletter, we post the names of the incredible group of volunteers who made up the Harford 250 Steering Committee. These people met at least monthly and sometimes much more often to organize programs, generate donations needed to make these programs a reality, and work behind the scenes at each event. In addition to this amazing group, county residents and business owners routinely joined us throughout the last few years to assist with writing their stories of life in Harford, advertising, manning booths, providing materials, creating special brews and ice cream flavors and so much more. There are so many of you that we can not begin to list everyone, but you made this celebration possible and we are truly grateful.

**MARYLAND CELEBRATES**  
*Harford*  
**250**  
1773 2023

# Celebrating TOMORROW

**MAKE HARFORD HISTORY NOW**  
**BEL AIR ARMORY | MARCH 23 | 9:30AM**



### SEE THE HARFORD 250 TIME CAPSULE

*Learn which pieces of Harford County's history are being preserved for future generations to uncover in 2073.*



### UNVEIL HARFORD 250'S MOSAIC

*Experience the long-anticipated unveiling of **Rooted in History - Lighting the Way to the Future** by Mosaic Artist Lisa Scarbath*



### RING BELLS ACROSS HARFORD

*Be a part of the final celebration. Celebrate at noon as bells ring out across the county. **Everyone can participate!***

# Jazz Ambassadors at the STAR Centre:

## *A Harford 250 Encore Performance*

The Jazz Ambassadors, America's Big Band travels around the world performing for wide-ranging audiences as they connect the American people to their Army, telling its story, and honoring our Soldiers and Veterans at home and abroad. We are honored to welcome this amazing group of musicians to Harford County. The Big Band performance will focus on *The Greatest Generation*. The free concert will be held at the STAR Centre in Havre de Grace on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 7 pm as an Encore event of the county's Harford 250 celebration.

This is a unique opportunity to embrace the music of the 40s with such classics as – *Stardust, Sing, Sing, Sing, I'll Be Seeing You* – and so many more being played by world-class musicians right here at home. Tickets are available at [www.harford250.org](http://www.harford250.org) or [www.starcentremd.com](http://www.starcentremd.com).

For additional information about the Jazz Ambassadors' performance in Havre de Grace, please contact The Havre de Grace Visitor Center by phone at 410-939-2100 or visit STAR CENTRE online at <https://starcentremd.com>.



**Harford 250 Encore:**

# Jazz

**AT THE STAR**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music by the internationally acclaimed The Jazz Ambassadors of The United States Army Field Band. This special concert is presented as an encore event to conclude our celebration of Harford 250!

**WHERE:** STAR Centre  
700 Congress Ave | Havre de Grace, MD

**WHEN:** Thursday | April 25 | 7pm

**FREE CONCERT!**  
*The Military's Most Traveled Musicians*

Scan for your **FREE** Ticket  
Tickets are Required

# Historic Harford: The Story Continues

Harford County's story in many ways echoes the story of the country. In 1773, the first major confrontations with the British occurred with the Boston Tea Party. Harford County very quickly took up the cause of the citizens of Boston, leading to the adoption of the Bush Declaration in March 1775. Harford County was then the population center point of the thirteen colonies that made up America. Over the next two years, the county will join the nation in several celebrations. Harford 250 was just the beginning.



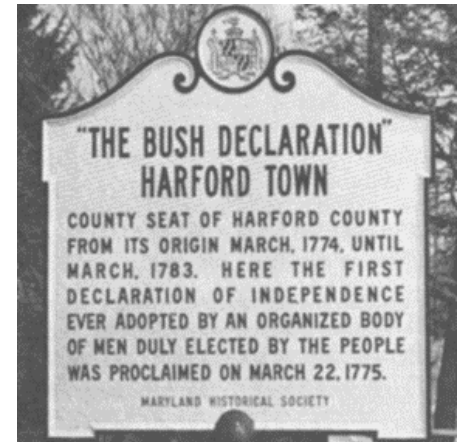
In 1774, Bush or Harford Town became Harford County's first official county seat. The county seat would be moved to Bel Air in 1782. All of these local landmark events were occurring with the nation on the brink of the American Revolution which led to the Washington, Rochambeau, and Lafayette troop movements through the county and the establishment of Maryland as a state, no longer a colony. Over the next two years, events are planned to recognize the anniversaries of these early days in the nation, the state, and the county.

## Bush Declaration

Harford County's first America 250! Commemorative Event will occur on March 22, 2025, with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Bush Declaration.

The Bush Declaration is often hailed as "the first Declaration of Independence." In reality, it was a declaration in support of the patriot cause, that was signed at the Town of Bush on March 22, 1775. It is believed to be the first (or one of the first) such resolutions drafted by an elected body in one of the colonies.

News of events across the colonies, especially the situation in Boston, reached the ears of the citizens of the newly-created Harford County. Harford's citizens were already collecting goods and money to send to the aid of the citizens of Boston. One question historians have explored is how familiar with the Bush Declaration were the men who drafted the Declaration of Independence, especially its author, Thomas Jefferson. Certainly, men traveling by horse or horse-drawn carriage to Philadelphia from the southern colonies may have traveled through Bush on the Old Post Road. The language of the last line of each document bears uncanny similarities.



Last line of the Bush Declaration:

*"we do most solemnly pledge ourselves to each other, and to our country, and engage ourselves by every tie held sacred among mankind, to perform the same at the risk of our lives and fortunes."*

Last line of the Declaration of Independence:

*"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."*

A committee of interested persons has been created to plan events to celebrate this anniversary. If you are interested in learning more or exploring volunteer opportunities, please contact Sandi Wallis at [swallis1776@gmail.com](mailto:swallis1776@gmail.com).

# Lafayette Returns

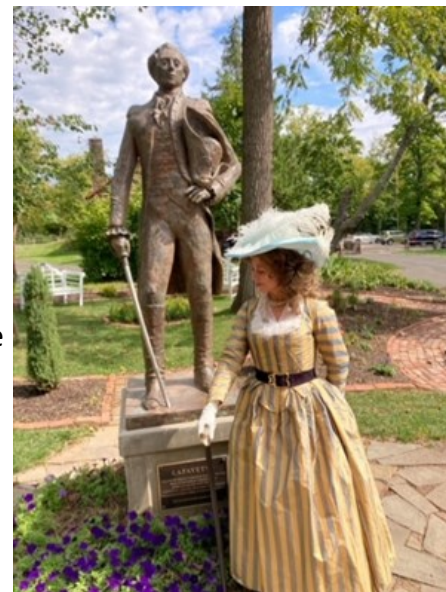
On July 29, 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette stopped in Havre de Grace while traveling from Lancaster, Pennsylvania to Baltimore. On July 29, 2025, Harford County citizens will celebrate the anniversary of his farewell tour and welcome the Marquis to Havre de Grace once again with a festive celebration. A full program of events is being planned in preparation for this visit. These events will include living history presentations, lectures, exhibits, and theatrical and musical productions. Events will kick off in August 2024 and continue until July 2025.

The Historical Society is planning two programs celebrating the Lafayette anniversary this year. The first will be held on September 22, 2024 at the Historical Society's headquarters in Bel Air. The event will include dinner, a birthday cake celebration for Lafayette, and the appearance of reenactor, Alise Dupuy as Adrienne de Lafayette. Ms. Dupuy will share the stories of Lafayette's role in the American Revolution and the incredible story of his wife Adrienne.

In November, three local historians, Jacob Bensen, Amy Rosenkrans, and Ken Sterner, will share their year-long research on Lafayette in Harford, relaying the many stories of his time and influence here and debunking some of the myths as well. This event is planned for November 9 at the Society's Headquarters in Bel Air.

Lafayette was 66 years old when he traveled from France to New York in August 1824 to begin a jubilant tour across 24 states as the "Guest of the Nation." He was given a hero's welcome everywhere he went. He ended the tour 13 months later.

What was the purpose of this "Farewell Tour?" The United States was embroiled in a very contentious presidential race and then-President James Monroe thought the country needed a morale booster. The country was also approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Monroe proposed bringing back the last living American General from the American Revolution in celebration of the nation's 50 anniversary and in hopes of reigniting a feeling of patriotism. That last surviving general was Lafayette. He came—planning to stay for three months or so. He stayed a total of 13 months and was greeted everywhere with outpourings of affection. Even in places he did not visit, citizens celebrated his return.



## *Bel Air 150*

### *Salute to Bel Air at 150*

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 11 pm at the Town of Bel Air's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Bel Air Armory, 37, N. Main St., Bel Air. The event will feature historical displays tracing Bel Air's history from its early days as a town of just 42 lots centered around a courthouse, jail, and sheriff's residence to the bustling town we know today. A concert featuring the Bel Air Community Band and Chorus will follow at Shamrock Park at 4 pm. Everyone is welcome, no registration is required.

# THE GALLERIES AT LIRIODENDRON MANSION

## JEFFREY CONOVER'S

miniature town of **YELVERTON**

+ **SMALL PAINTINGS**

by Liriodendron's *Wednesday Artist Group*



**Opening Sunday February 11 from 11:00 - 3:00  
through Wednesday March 27**

**Open every Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00  
and Sunday March 10, 11:00 - 3:00**

Come visit the magical, miniature, Maine coastal town of Yelverton. Except for one structure, this fictional town is completely scratch built to N scale. [ $1/16'' = 1'$ ] Some buildings are based on existing structures but many are designed purely from imagination. 3 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years in the making; completed for this exhibition. The train will not be running!

The paintings that will be on exhibition were created by the *Wednesday Artist Group* expressly to compliment the small aesthetic of the installation.



## Liriodendron Mansion

502 W. Gordon Street • Bel Air, MD 21014

**[www.liriodendron.com](http://www.liriodendron.com) • 410.879.4424**

*Limited access to our second floor.*

# Celebrate Maryland Archeology Month

## PETROGLYPHS AT BALD FRIAR FORD

### A Chronological and Geographic Study of Stone Images, With New Interpretations

Friday, April 12, 2024

Harford Community College, Entrance 3

Edgewood Hall, Room 132

*6PM—Student Poster Presentations*

*6:30—8 :00 PM Lecture*

Presenter: Daniel Coates, Maryland Certified Archeological Technician and Museum Curator

Destruction of the Lower Susquehanna petroglyphs began as early as the late 1700's, with limited recording until the first photographs of 1871. In-situ study ended with the complete removal of remaining chipped stone images in 1927, during construction of the Conowingo Dam. The removal, dispersal and some loss of these specimens has hampered their organized study. Paul Cresthull of Harford County and George Reynolds, Jr. of Cecil County, both founders of a fledgling Maryland archeology program in the 1960s, were responsible for recent avocational study of these ancient artifacts. Since then, additional petroglyphs have been discovered below the Holtwood and Conowingo Dams; and the study of prehistoric migration routes has led to a new interpretation of the purpose of the examples at Bald Friar.



Bald Friar Petroglyphs in MAC Lab Storage.

## EVENT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by Harford Community College Sociology and Anthropology Programs,  
in partnership with the Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF

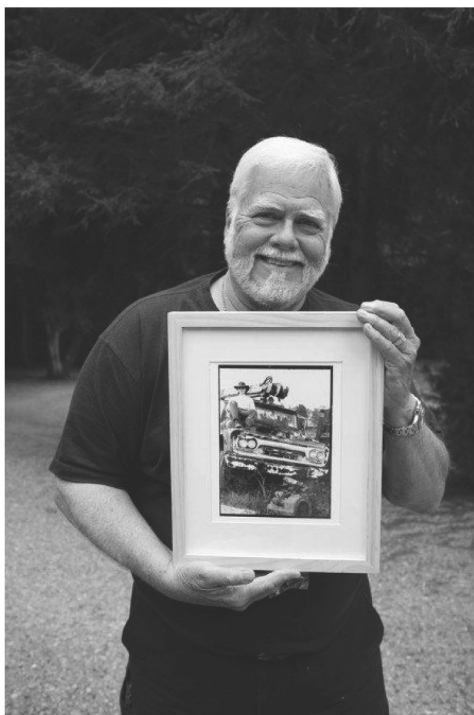
HARFORD COUNTY PRESENTS

# ADVENTURES AT THE AEGIS

*Todd Holden*

**April 13, 2024, 2pm**

**Historical Society Headquarters**



Todd Holden, celebrated photographer, writer, and journalist will share stories of his years as an Aegis reporter and photographer in Harford County. Todd's memories and photographs of the famous H. Rap Brown trial, the fury of Agnes, the storm that threatened the Conowingo Dam, and the many charming characters along with some of the villains, that he encountered in his career are sure to entertain.

**Reserve Your Ticket TODAY!**

## ADMISSION

Members \$15

Non-members \$20

\*Registrations Recommended



**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.HARFORDHISTORY.ORG)**



# Harford County Memorabilia Days

for African American History and Culture



## Save Harford's History!

Join the Historical Society of Harford County and Hosanna School Museum in preserving and sharing vital African American history and culture through a traveling exhibition that highlights Black life throughout Harford County over the centuries. We are seeking your support.

Contribute to the exhibition by bringing your memorabilia and photos to the Historical Society. Whether you loan or donate items, you're ensuring that the African American experience in Harford County is preserved and celebrated for future generations to explore.

**Your support is crucial.**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
and  
Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**11:00 am to 2:00 pm  
at the  
Historical Society  
of Harford County (HSHC)**

**143 N. Main Street  
Bel Air, MD**

**(or call to make a Wednesday  
appointment until April 30th.)**

**For more info, call 410-838-7691**



**HISTORIC  
HOSANNA  
SCHOOL MUSEUM**

Sponsored in part  
by support of the  
Harford County Government



# Special Thanks to the Harford 250 Sponsors

## **Henry Harford**

Harford County Government

## **Marquis de LaFayette**

The Kelly Group

## **Ernest Burke**

The Klein Families:

- Klein’s ShopRite
- Klein’s ShopRite Charitable Fund
- The Ralph and Shirley Klein Foundation
- Colgate Investments LLC

## **J. Alexis Shriver**

Harford Community College  
Harford Chamber of Commerce  
Harford TV  
The Drescher Foundation  
UMUC-University of MD Upper Chesapeake

## **Kate Lord**

APGFCU  
Harford County Public Library  
Main St. Design

## **Sergeant Alfred Hilton**

APG Professional Association Network  
Anchor Mechanical  
Brightview Senior Living  
The Town of Bel Air  
Brown, Brown & Young  
DiPaula Law  
Freedom Federal Credit Union  
Harford Bank  
Harford County Cultural Arts Board  
The City of Havre de Grace  
McComas Family Funeral Homes  
Snee, Lutche, & Helmlinger

## **Commodore John Rodgers**

ACER Exhibits and Events  
Boyle Buick GMC Truck  
BSC America  
Donahue Hart Thompson Financial Group  
F.O. Mitchell & Brothers  
Mayor Patrick McGrady  
M&T Bank  
Stark & Keenan  
SynerGen Solar

## **Senator Mary Risteau**

Architectural Design Works  
Beacon Staffing  
Bel Air Construction  
Bottle Works, Inc  
Charles Castoro, M.D.  
Bill & Paige Cox  
Jennifer Farrell  
Bill & Lois Kelly  
Patti and Kelly Kirk  
Home Title Company of Maryland Sengstacke Law  
Sharon’s Snowballs  
Melodic Melodies  
Arden & Tony McClune  
Susan Glackin Miller  
O’Neill Realty & Auction  
Jackie & Phil Seneschal

## **Matilda O’Neill**

William Brieger  
Carol Deibel  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
Christina Kramer

## **Nonprofits**

Aberdeen Historical Museum  
Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake  
BSA-Boy Scouts of America  
CASA of Harford County  
Community Foundation of Harford County  
Harford Artists  
Harford County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Harford Farm Fair  
Harford Fire & EMS  
Harford Family House  
Harford Land Trust  
Historical Society of Harford County  
Hosanna School Museum

Jerusalem Mill  
Ladew Topiary Gardens  
Liriodendron Foundation  
MD Center for the Arts  
Soil Conservation Service  
Steppingstone Farm Museum  
Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra  
Upper Chesapeake Chorus  
Visit Harford  
YMCA of Central Maryland

# 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  
Tyler Zeisloft, 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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