

**Be a Volunteer —
Help Your Community!**

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**The July 4, 2025,
Celebration in
Bel Air, Maryland**

Bel Air, Maryland

**Be a Volunteer —
Help Your
Community!**

July 4, 2025

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., is an all-volunteer organization which produces and stages the activities held in and around the Town of Bel Air on July 4. Think of that: all the work that goes into planning and pulling off a celebration that starts at dawn and lasts until late at night, is run by volunteers. And everyone who works on the events, and the parade, and the fireworks — all volunteers.

So it goes with many really rewarding operations: they rely on volunteers. We are lucky here in and around Bel Air: we have a tradition of volunteer public service that runs deep and true. If you're reading this program (written and produced by a volunteer!), ask yourself: AM I A VOLUNTEER? If the answer isn't "YES," please — PLEASE — find a commission, or a religious group, or an enterprise that you approve of and enjoy, and JOIN IT AS A VOLUNTEER.

Help your community — join hundreds of your fellow citizens. And, of course, we thank you!

We also thank Bel Air, "Our Home Town," for its efficient and effective non-partisan government, led by Commissioners Paula S. Etting (Chair & Mayor of Bel Air), Mary F. Chance, Steven T. Chizmar, James B. Rutledge III and Jakob D. Taylor.

The Town Administration is managed by Edward Hopkins, whose effective department heads include Angela Robertson, Director of Economic Development; Michael Krantz, Director of Human Resources & Administration; Charles Moore, Chief of the Bel Air Police Department; Lisa Moody, Director of Finance; Kevin Small, Director of Planning; Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works; and many others.

We on the Committee (see the inside back cover for all of us, and what we do, individually!) run the July 4 activities, but these terrific people and their hard-working staff members (many of whom we've known, appreciated and worked with for decades!) run the Town of Bel Air, and we couldn't pull it off without them.

So, please come and enjoy yourself in Bel Air on Friday, July 4, 2025. While you do, please think of all the people behind the scenes who work that day and the 364 others, to make it happen.

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., has a vision of what this annual celebration should be. The committee works hard to realize that vision, and we are grateful for the contributions we receive from businesses and individuals (see the lists, later in this program), plus the help we receive from our volunteers on the day of the event.

We also truly appreciate and respect the enthusiasm and commitment of the thousands of spectators and participants in everything we do on July 4.

In conclusion, we hope that our July 4 work realizes our vision: that, thanks to the sacrifices and hard work of many, on this day we can freely assemble, and without rancor celebrate what is beautiful and harmonious about our families, our communities, our nation and our town.

We Thank Our Premier Sponsor, Jones Junction!

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., once again gives its deepest thanks to Jones Toyota and to the entire Jones Junction Automotive Group, the Premier Sponsor of the 4th of July celebration in Bel Air.

According to David Williams, President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, "We are extremely pleased to have Jones Junction back again this year as our Premier Sponsor, and their donation makes them the power once again behind the fireworks! Jones has a history of generous giving to the Bel Air community, and we welcome this commitment from them," Williams adds.



"We believe in our community, and salute the hard workers and all the volunteers who have been so important to the health and well-being of our community," says Bryan Kilby, Co-Owner of Jones Junction. "Our support of the Bel Air July 4 activities is a big part of how we give back to all the people who help us make our dealerships strong," Kilby adds.

Michael Blum, Vice President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, agrees. "We are very pleased and happy to be able once more to celebrate our country with patriotic and fun events, a parade and fireworks in Bel Air. We cannot produce all this without the generous support of local businesses, and Jones Toyota and Jones Junction lead the way" he adds.

Jones Junction now celebrates its 108th consecutive year as a family-run automotive business, serving Harford County and the surrounding area. Since its founding by patriarch C. M. Jones, the Jones family has serving its community with superior customer service, now from its 40-acre location on Belair Road.

The business comprises ten new car dealerships, a PreOwned Superstore and a Collision Center. Owners Larry Jones, Danny Jones and Bryan Kilby carry on their parents' philosophies and dedication to hard work and integrity. For more information on Jones Junction, please visit JonesJunction.com.



Left to right: Perry Thompson (Committee Board Member); Lisa Williams (Committee Board Member); Kyla Ghirardello (Miss Mel Air 2025); Bryan Kilby, President of Jones Junction; Michael Blum, Vice President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee; Danny Jones, Owner of Jones Junction; and Mary Chance, Jones Junction Director of Community Outreach.

Sponsoring Organizations

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee relies upon the support of these Municipal and Civic Groups:

The Bel Air Auxiliary Police Unit

The Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

The Town of Bel Air

The Lions Club of Bel Air



2025 Program Sponsor



Pictured, left to right, at a ceremony honoring our new Program Sponsor, the American Water Charitable Foundation and Maryland American Water Company: Miss Bel Air 2025 Kyla Ghirardello; J.W. Walker, Principal, Business Development, Maryland American Water; Marybeth Leongini, External Affairs Manager, Maryland American Water; David B. Williams, President, the Bel Air Independence Day Committee; Martin Roche, Supervisor, Field Operations, Maryland American Water.



Parade Band Sponsors

We thank these Local Businesses & Organizations, whose donations help fund the bands in the parade:

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union
sponsor of the Aberdeen High School Marching Band

Balsamo, Lutters, Renna & Rosenteel, LLC, CPAs,
sponsor of the Fusion Core

Bel Air Lions Club
sponsor of the Patterson Mill High School Marching Band

Edgewood Lions Club
sponsor of the Edgewood High School Marching Band

Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan Association
sponsor of the North Harford High School Marching Band

JES Foundation Repair, a Groundworks Company,
sponsor of the Uptown String Band

Jones Junction — Our Premier Sponsor
sponsor of the C. Milton Wright High School Marching Band

Klein's ShopRite of Harford County
sponsor of the Bel Air High School Marching Band

Maryland American Water & the American Water Foundation
sponsor of the Havre de Grace High School Marching Band

Plaza Ford
sponsor of the Harford Highlanders Pipe Band

Tar Heel Construction Group, LLC
sponsor of the Fallston High School Marching Band



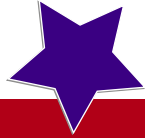


Friday, July 4, 2025 at 6:00 pm

The 2025 Bel Air Parade: *Be a Volunteer — Help Your Community!*

Followed by the 2025 Bel Air Fireworks





2025 Founders

The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., appreciates the generous contributions of our patrons. Their gifts underwrite the expenses of our activities!

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

AnSer of Maryland (formerly A Better Answer)

Balsamo, Lutters, Renna & Rosenteel, LLC, CPAs

Bel Air Lions Club

The Dresher Foundation

Edgewood Lions Club

Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan Association

JES Foundation Repair, a Groundworks Company

Jones Junction — Our Premier Sponsor

Klein's ShopRite of Harford County

Maryland American Water & the American Water Foundation

Michael Blum Associates, Inc.

Plaza Ford

Tar Heel Construction Group, LLC

The Town of Bel Air



Photographs throughout this program are mostly from the 2024 festivities, and were taken by many different photographers, including Matt MacDonald, Don Stewart, and David Anderson.



Meet the 2025 Cover Artist

The cover art of this program was created by Benjamin Kraft, a recent 5th grade graduate of Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School (HWES) in Bel Air.

Ben is very creative and loves to paint and draw. He always looks forward to art class with Mrs. Glackin, and learning new art techniques. Ben would like to thank Mrs. Glackin for believing in him and encouraging his artistic growth. When he grows up he would love to show his art to the world. Ben is very grateful for this opportunity.

Submissions to the Cover Contest were handled by Mike Blum and David Williams, with the huge assistance of county art teachers, especially Melissa Poet and Melinda Glackin of HWES.

We are grateful for the support we have received from so many art teachers over the years, resulting in the excellent series of cover art submissions and winning entries.

We are pleased to include on the next page the five drawings that earned an Honorable Mention from the judges in the 2025 contest.



Meet Miss Bel Air



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

"All our candidates were highly qualified and had close ties to the Town of Bel Air," states Michael Blum, chairperson of the Miss Bel Air Selection Committee. "We couldn't have done it without the excellent scoring process created by Laura Patnaude, herself a former Miss Bel Air, and the help of our new Miss Bel Air Coordinator, Gabrielle Brady," Blum adds. "Kyla Ghirardello, who grew up in Bel Air, marched in our parade as a clarinet player and drum major, and lives and works in Bel Air, will be a wonderful Miss Bel Air, and a continuing credit to the community," Blum concludes.

In Kyla Ghirardello's own words, "My mission is to promote a cleaner, more beautiful greater Bel Air community, and to encourage today's youth to pursue careers in

STEM. I'm thrilled and pleased to be able to serve my community and represent Bel Air all through this year, in the Miss Maryland Competition, and especially on July 4th!"

Kyla Ghirardello is currently a Lead Urgent Care Veterinary Technician for Homeward Bound Veterinary Services of Bel Air. In this position, she provides high-quality veterinary care, administers vaccines, medications and diagnostics, and advocates for fear-free vet practices, ensuring that every pet feels safe and comfortable during a visit.

She is a graduate of C. Milton Wright School, Harford Community College, and Towson University, and is pursuing a Masters Degree in Marine Science online at Unity Environmental University in New Gloucester, Maine.

Honorable Mentions



Artists of the Honorable Mention designs, clockwise, from upper left: Kyleigh Geslois, Grade 5, HWES, Art Teacher: Mrs. Glackin; Emma Martinez, Grade 5, HWES, Art Teacher: Mrs. Glackin; Adalyn Greel, Grade 4, HWES, Art Teacher: Mrs. Poet; Alice Dornas Garten, Grade 2, HWES, Art Teacher: Mrs. Glackin; Adeline Guy Grade 4, HWES, Art Teacher: Mrs. Poet.



Town of Bel Air Code Regulation of Itinerant Merchants, Vendors and Solicitors: Alcoholic Beverages Provisions

§ 272-2. License Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of itinerant dealer, peddler or solicitor in the Town of Bel Air without having first secured a license from the Town. The license shall be valid for not more than one year....

§ 272-3. Exemptions.

The following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

...

B. Persons, businesses, firms or organizations who or which engage in any of the following activities: ...

- (5) Persons participating in the Bel Air Independence Day activities that are approved and licensed by the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc.

§ 345-14. Alcoholic Beverages ...

B. Prohibited Acts

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume any alcoholic beverage while located on any public street, lane or highway.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume or drink any alcoholic beverage while located on any public sidewalk.
- (3) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume or drink any alcoholic beverage while located on any public parking lot ...
- (4) It shall be unlawful for any person to consume or drink any alcoholic beverages within the confines or any park owned by the Town of Bel Air between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

C. Possession of open container. The action of drinking or consuming alcoholic beverages in Subsection B(1), (2), (3) and (4) as set forth above shall also include the act of possessing an open container of any alcoholic beverages.

TOWN OF BEL AIR FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

§198-3. Discharge and Sale of Fireworks.

No person shall distribute, sell, cast, throw, discharge or fire any squib, rocket, fire-cracker, torpedo, grenade, or other combustible fireworks of any kind, to include ground-based sparkling devices or explosive preparation, within the Town, provided that the Commissioners shall have the authority to grant, free of all charges, a permit for using fireworks upon application made to them.

**Note: Unattended or suspicious packages may be
confiscated and destroyed.
Please obey all directions from Law Enforcement Personnel.**

Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., 2025

PresidentDavid B. Williams
Vice PresidentMichael Blum
SecretaryLisa Williams
TreasurerDon Stewart – Bel Air Lions
Board of Directors 2025Amy Biondi, Michael Blum, Aaron Cahall, Tommy Kerfoot,
Don Stewart, Perry Thompson, David Williams & Lisa Williams



Bicycle Registration & RodeoOfficer Rick Krause, Bel Air Police Explorers
& Auxiliary Police Unit

CommunicationsAmy Biondi

Corporate SponsorshipsAmy Biondi, Tommy Kerfoot, Don Stewart, Michael Blum

Field ArrangementsFreddie Murillo – Town of Bel Air

FireworksDavid Williams & Don Stewart

Emergency ServicesChief Stephan Cox, Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Flag RaisingAmerican Legion Post #39, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial American
Legion Post #55, Robert Hudson (Bugler) & Siena Bauer (soprano)

Harford TV Parade SimulcastRobert D. Lidke, Kelly Jara & Harford TV Staff

Horseshoe PitchingDavid Williams, Lisa Williams, Renée Weller & Jake Weller

Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2025Kyla Ghirardello; Miss Bel Air
Selection Committee: Michael Blum, Chair; Laura Patnaude, Gabrielle Mercedes
Brady, Amy Biondi, David Williams, Lisa Williams, Perry Thompson

Pancake BreakfastBel Air High School Boosters

Parade ChairmanMichael Blum

Parade CommitteeMichael Blum, David Williams, Aaron Cahall & Don Stewart

Parade Banner Coordination & DeploymentMichael Blum, Chris Van de Verg

Parks & RecreationMany thanks to Harford County Parks & Recreation

Police LiaisonLt. Robert Pfarr – Bel Air Police Department

Program DistributionBel Air Police Explorers & Aaron Cahall

Program, Maps, Graphics, Web SiteMichael Blum

PublicityAaron Cahall & Michael Blum

Reviewing Stand NarrationKristy Breslin from WMAR-TV 2, with Rich Bennett

Unit Order TextingPerry Thompson & Amy Biondi

Reviewing Stand DecorationMaryAnn Williams, Kim Politz, Andy Politz & Jeanne Bayer

SecurityTown of Bel Air Police Department, Harford County Department
of Emergency Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office,
Maryland State Fire Marshall & Other Participating Agencies

Shuttle During ParadeAmy Biondi

Trophies, Ribbons & CertificatesDon Stewart & Michael Blum

Uncle Sam SaysMichael Blum

Vendors CoordinatorJohn Hayes

Water Balloon Toss ContestTim Odell & Bel Air Lions

Watermelon Eating ContestAmy Biondi & Bel Air Lions

Web Site Hosting & SecurityMichael Blum Associates, Inc.
The Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., is recognized by the Internal Revenue
Service as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Fireworks Sponsor:



Program Sponsor:



and

