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# Celebrating USA's 250

**July 4, 2026  
Bel Air, Maryland**



**CELEBRATING USA'S**  
**250**  
**JULY 4, 2026**  
**BEL AIR, MARYLAND**

**J**ohn Adams, Samuel Chase, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Edward Rutledge, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, Francis Lightfoot Lee — these and many other names are still memorable (if only as characters in musicals such as *1776* or *Hamilton*), and perhaps we recognize them as “Declaration Signers”: but does anyone today truly understand how difficult, and how unlikely, the process was that led to the Declaration of Independence that was dated July 4, 1776 — 250 years ago this day?

Thirteen colonies there were, clinging to the narrow Atlantic seacoast, north of Spanish-owned Florida, south and east of British-controlled Canada (just recently wrested from France) and east of the Great American Desert (now known as the mid-west) and Spain’s other imperial possessions. These thirteen colonies might have all spoken the same language, but they were as different as could be: in their religious persuasions, in their economic structures, in their customs, in their loyalties. Colonials served bravely in 1763, fighting for the British Crown against the French, but barely a decade later each colony sent representatives to a hastily-assembled Continental Congress to try to decide what, actually, they all were doing, sending untrained farmers to fight British Regulars and Hessian mercenaries, first in New England and now on Long Island, over complaints including unwanted taxation, lack of representation, perceived hostility, the abolition of the rule of law and the Mother Country’s refusal to redress grievances (among many other issues!).

Amazingly, and against all expectations, an idea emerged that hardly even the boldest delegates thought might solve everything (of course at great cost): INDEPENDENCE from Britain. After monumental debates and not a few bitter struggles — and with deep doubt and fears — every colony voted for it. And in so doing created a new country, wherein “all men are created equal ... endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, ... [including] Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

250 years later, we salute those brave delegates who signed the Declaration, but more also we honor and love what they created against all odds with their signatures: the United States of America, where, today, we all may enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We also hope that we still “pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

We on the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, Inc., have a vision of what this annual celebration of our Independence should be. The committee works hard to realize that vision, and we are grateful for the contributions we receive from businesses and individuals, plus the help we receive from our volunteers and from our friends in the Town Government on the day of the event.

We hope that our July 4 work realizes our vision: that, thanks to the sacrifices and hard work of many, on this day, as on all days for the past 250 years, we can freely assemble, and without rancor celebrate what is beautiful and harmonious about our town, our community, our families, and our nation. **We CELEBRATE USA'S 250 — please come and celebrate it with us!**

# 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 Toyota and 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, President 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 Toyota is part of the over-100 years of the family-run automotive business, serving Harford County and the surrounding area. Since its founding by patriarch C. M. Jones, the Jones family has served 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.



*Left to right: Michael Blum, Vice President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, and David Williams, President of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, receiving the Premier Sponsorship donation from Bryan Kilby, President of Jones Junction, and Debra McCollum, Jones Junction Chief Financial Officer.*

For more information on Jones Junction, please visit [JonesJunction.com](http://JonesJunction.com).



## 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 Bel Air Lions Club



# Parade Sponsors

We thank these local businesses & organizations,  
whose donations help fund the parade:

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

**Akers Financial Group**  
*sponsor of the* Patterson Mill High School Marching Band

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

**Bel Air Lions Club**  
*sponsor of the* Miss Bel Air Independence Day and Miss Bel Air Teen



**Edgewood Lions Club**  
*sponsor of the* Edgewood High School Marching Band

**Hello Harford / Harford County Economic Development**  
*sponsor of the* Harford Highlanders Pipe Band

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

**JES Foundation Repair, a Groundworks Company,**  
*sponsor of the* Harford Technical High School

**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

**Miracle League of Harford County by Tom & Sharon Walls**  
*sponsor of the* Sonus Brass Theater of the Shenandoah Sound

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

**University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health**  
*sponsor of the* Havre de Grace High School Marching Band



**2026 Independence Day**

All events are free to the public except the Pancake Breakfast.  
 For more information, please visit our web site at  
<https://BelAirJuly4.org>.

Please note various locations, below.



## SCHEDULE of EVENTS — See Map

**At Town Hall – LOCATION A**

6:45 am (approx.) ..... Flag Raising & National Anthem Ceremony  
 American Legion Post #39 and Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial American Legion Post #55, with  
 Robert Hudson, Bugler; Sienna Bauer, Soprano



**At Bel Air High School – LOCATION C**

7 am – 11:30 am ..... Pancake Breakfast\*  
 Offering pancakes, sausage links, choice of milk, apple juice, coffee, tea or water

**At Rockfield Park – LOCATION B**

8:30 am (approx.) ..... Flag & National Anthem Ceremony  
 8:30 am ..... Horseshoe Pitching (Registration 8 am)

**At the Hays House – LOCATION C**

9 am – noon ..... Hays House tours\*  
 Presenting "The American Revolution Experience," which examines how people in the 13 colonies  
 reacted to the Revolution. Children's activities will also be held outside.

**At Shamrock Park & BAES – LOCATION A**

9:30 am (approx.) ..... Flag & National Anthem Ceremony  
 9:30 am ..... Water Balloon Toss (No Registration Necessary)  
 (Divisions: Ages 6 & under, 7-9, 10-12, 13-17; Adult)  
 10:30 am ..... Uncle Sam Says (No Registration Necessary)  
 (Divisions: Ages 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14+)  
 11 am ..... Bicycle Registration and Rodeo (at BAES)\*  
 (Boys and Girls Divisions: Ages 5 & under, 6-8, 9-10, 11-13)  
*Flag & National Anthem Ceremony prior to the Rodeo*  
 11 am ..... Watermelon Eating Contest (No Registration Necessary)  
 (Ages 6 & under, 7-10, 11-16, 17+)  
 Noon ..... Bel Air Community Band & Bel Air Community Choir Concert

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6 pm ..... **Bel Air JULY 4 PARADE**

9:30 pm (approx.) ..... **Bel Air JULY 4 FIREWORKS**

(For Parade & Fireworks Locations, See Center Spread Map, pp. 6-7)

# Saturday Morning Events Map • Bel Air



Souvenirs, Restrooms & Refreshments are available at most event locations.



**ALL STREETS & ROADS REMAIN OPEN DURING MORNING JULY 4 EVENTS.**

**PARADE & FIREWORKS ROAD CLOSURES BEGIN at 4 PM; SEE PAGES 6-7.**

\*The Pancake Breakfast is a function of the Bel Air High School Boosters Club. The Bicycle Rodeo is a function of the Town of Bel Air Police Department. Hayes House is a function of the Harford County Historical Society. These organizations are responsible independently for their respective events; we have included them here so that all the patriotic events of this day may be listed together.

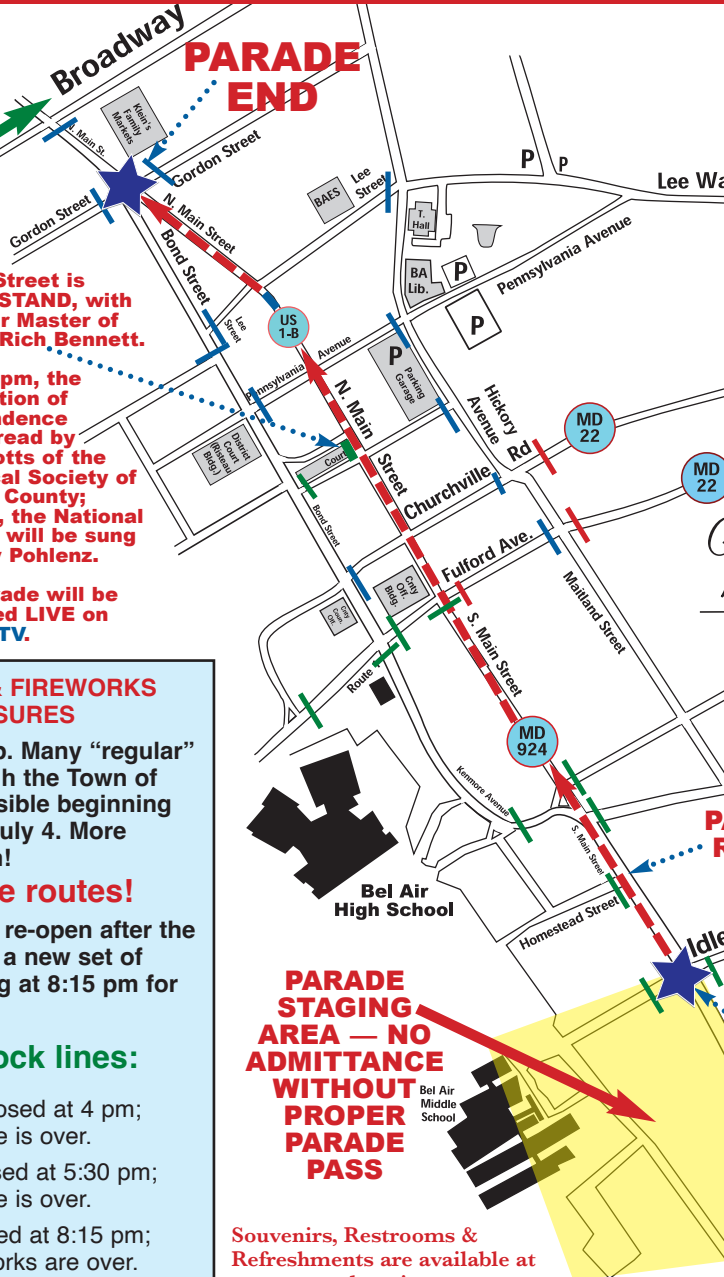


# Saturday, July 4, The 2026 Bel Air Parade

*Followed by the 2026 Fireworks Display*



Traffic goes this way



At the Fountain on Main Street is the **PARADE REVIEWING STAND**, with **Kristy Breslin** (below), our Master of Ceremonies, assisted by **Rich Bennett**.



At 5:45 pm, the Declaration of Independence will be read by **Chris Potts** of the Historical Society of Harford County; at 6 pm, the National Anthem will be sung by **Mary Pohlenz**.

The Parade will be streamed **LIVE on HarfordTV**.

### KEY TO PARADE & FIREWORKS ROAD CLOSURES

Please review this map. Many “regular” ways of getting through the Town of Bel Air will not be possible beginning at 4 pm on Saturday, July 4. More roads close at 5:30 pm!

### Plan alternate routes!

Although all the roads re-open after the parade (around 8 pm), a new set of roads closes beginning at 8:15 pm for the Fireworks Display.

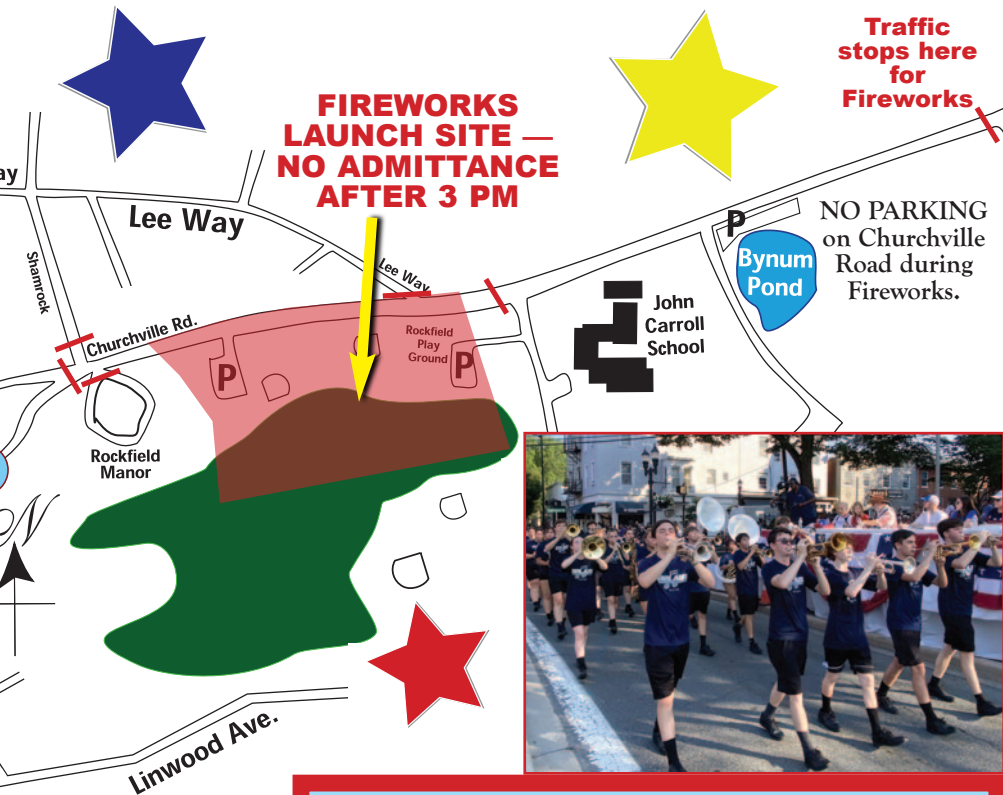
### Guide to road block lines:

- **Green** = Road closed at 4 pm; stays closed until parade is over.
- **Blue** = Road closed at 5:30 pm; stays closed until parade is over.
- **Red** = Road closed at 8:15 pm; stays closed until Fireworks are over.

**PARADE STAGING AREA — NO ADMITTANCE WITHOUT PROPER PARADE PASS**

Souvenirs, Restrooms & Refreshments are available at most event locations.

2026 at 6:00 pm  
Celebrating USA's 250!  
2026 Bel Air Fireworks



9:30 pm (approximately):

# BEL AIR FIREWORKS

proudly sponsored by

# JONES JUNCTION



## 2026 Founders

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

**Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union**

**Akers Financial Group**

**AnSer of Maryland**

**Balsamo, Lutters, Renna & Rosenteel, LLC, CPAs**

**Bel Air Lions Club**

**The Drescher Foundation**

**Edgewood Lions Club**

**Hello Harford & Harford County Economic  
Development**

**Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan Association**

**JES Foundation Repair, a Groundworks Company**

**Jones Junction — Our Premier Sponsor**

**Klein's ShopRite of Harford County**

**Michael Blum Associates, Inc.**

**Miracle League of Harford County by Tom and  
Sharon Walls**

**Tar Heel Construction Group, LLC**

**The Town of Bel Air**

**University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health**



# Meet Miss Bel Air & Miss Bel Air Teen

Tiara Kittelberger is the new Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2026, and Evelyn Brush is the inaugural Miss Bel Air Teen 2026! Both were chosen through an interview process of interested applicants.

“The selection process this year was very difficult because we had so many qualified candidates – young women who were eager to represent the Town of Bel Air and its annual Fourth of July celebration,” said Gabrielle Brady, chairperson of the Miss Bel Air Selection Committee. “It was also the first year we had to interview for both a Miss and a Teen! So it was exciting to bring that into the fold this year.”

Kittelberger, the 16th consecutive title holder familiarly known as “Miss Bel Air,” and Evelyn Brush, the inaugural Miss Bel Air Teen, will serve as official hostesses and participants on Saturday, July 4, 2026 in the Town of Bel Air. “I’m most excited to meet the people of Bel Air, and spread the message of my Community Service Initiative: Balance Beyond Standing,” Brush said.

Kittelberger is currently a Junior Marketing Associate for Noble Prestige Impact. In this position, she puts her Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communications to use in helping clients market their products, and manage customer engagement and retention. Evelyn Brush is a freshman at North Harford High School and is part of its magnet program.



Photos here-in, from the 2025 festivities, were taken by Matt MacDonald, Don Stewart, and Gabrielle Brady.



## Meet the 2026 Cover Artist

The cover of this year's program was created by Adeline Yarbrough, who has just finished 5th grade at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School (HWES).

Adeline is very excited to have her artwork chosen for this honor, and hopes that it will inspire others to harness their individual creativity. She has had a passion for all things artistic, and started sketching and drawing at the age of 4.

Adeline has also earned awards in the past from the Town of Bel Air (for her drawing of the Bel Air Armory) and for the HWES Wildcat T-shirt cover contest!

Submissions to the Cover Contest were handled by Mike Blum and David Williams, with the huge assistance of county art educators, especially Mrs. Melissa Poet and Mrs. 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 four drawings that earned an Honorable Mention from the judges in the 2025 contest. The artists are, clockwise from upper left: Olivia Hinson, 4th Grade, HWES, Art Educator: Mrs. Glackin; Alex Merced, 5th Grade, HWES, Art Educator: Mrs. Poet; Adalyn Greel, 5th Grade, HWES, Art Educator: Mrs. Poet; Julie Buettner, 4th Grade, HWES, Art Educator: Mrs. Glackin.





# 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., 2026

**President** .....David B. Williams  
**Vice President** .....Michael Blum  
**Secretary** .....Lisa Williams  
**Treasurer** .....Don Stewart – Bel Air Lions  
**Board of Directors 2026** .....Amy Biondi, Michael Blum, Gabrielle Brady, Aaron Cahall,  
 Debbie Kerby, Tommy Kerfoot, Matt McDonald, Don Stewart,  
 Perry Thompson, David Williams & Lisa Williams



**Bicycle Registration & Rodeo** .....Officer Rick Krause, Bel Air Police Explorers  
 & Auxiliary Police Unit  
**Communications** .....Amy Biondi  
**Corporate Sponsorships** .....Amy Biondi, Tommy Kerfoot, Don Stewart & Michael Blum  
**Field Arrangements** .....Freddie Murillo – Town of Bel Air Public Works  
**Fireworks** .....David Williams & Don Stewart  
**Emergency Services** .....Lt. Nick Harrison, Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.  
**Flag Raising** .....American Legion Post #39, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial American  
 Legion Post #55, Robert Hudson (Bugler) & Siena Bauer (soprano)  
**Hays House** .....Julie Brasch, Historical Society of Harford County  
**Harford TV Parade Simulcast** .....Robert D. Lidke, Kelly Jara & Harford TV Staff  
**Horseshoe Pitching** .....David Williams, Lisa Williams, Andy Politz & Logan Politz  
**Miss Bel Air Independence Day 2026** .....Tiara Kittleberger  
**Miss Bel Air Teen 2026** .....Evelyn Brush  
 Selection Committee: Gabrielle Brady, Chair; Amy Biondi, Michael Blum, Laura Patnaude,  
 Don Stewart, David Williams & Lisa Williams  
**Pancake Breakfast** .....Bel Air High School Boosters  
**Parade Chairman** .....Michael Blum  
**Parade Committee** .....Michael Blum, David Williams, Aaron Cahall, Don Stewart & Andy Whaley  
**Parade Banner Coordination & Deployment** .....Michael Blum, Roxanne Tiso  
**Parks & Recreation** .....Chad McGraw, Harford County Parks & Recreation  
**Police Liaison** .....Cpl. John Ganovski, Bel Air Police Department  
**Program Distribution** .....Bel Air Police Explorers & Michael Blum  
**Program, Maps, Graphics, Forms, Logos, Web Site** .....Michael Blum with Matt McDonald  
**Publicity** .....Aaron Cahall, David Anderson & Michael Blum  
**Reviewing Stand Narration** .....Kristy Breslin from WMAR-TV 2, with Rich Bennett  
**Unit Order Texting** .....Perry Thompson & Amy Biondi  
**Reviewing Stand Decoration** .....MaryAnn Williams, Kim Politz, Aiden Politz & Jeanne Bayer  
**Security** .....Town of Bel Air Police Department, City of Aberdeen Police Department,  
 City of Havre de Grace Police Department, Harford County Emergency Services,  
 Harford County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Fire Marshall & Other Participating Agencies  
**Shuttle During Parade** .....Amy Biondi  
**Trophies, Ribbons & Certificates** .....Don Stewart, David Williams & Michael Blum  
**Uncle Sam Says** .....Michael Blum  
**Vendors Coordinator** .....John Hayes  
**Water Balloon Toss Contest** .....Tim Odell & Bel Air Lions  
**Watermelon Eating Contest** .....Amy Biondi & Bel Air Lions  
**Web Hosting and Web Security** .....Michael 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:



## Meet the Committee:

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, every year on July 4.

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 — they are all volunteers, backed, of course, by dedicated professionals in law enforcement and our friends in Public Works.

We are lucky here in and around Bel Air to have a tradition of volunteer public service that runs deep and true.



Here are a few of the 40+ Members of the Bel Air Independence Day Committee, assembling to tape a "Good Morning Maryland!" video for WMAR-TV Channel 2. For a full list of our Board of Directors and our Members, and their responsibilities, see the inside back cover of this program.

Please come and enjoy yourself in Bel Air on Saturday, July 4, 2026. While you do, please think of all the people behind the scenes who work that day — and the 364 others — to make it happen!