

The Northern Zone

News from your District D Councilman **Chad Shrodes** | *February/March, 2016*

Highlights In this Issue

North Harford Elementary School named a 2016 Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Norrisville's own Kaitlyn Watkins awarded Charlie Riley Community Service Scholarship grand prize

Bel Air Bakery closes its doors after 60 years on Main Street

Northern Harford County in American History: *Harford's Southern Sympathies* and *The Mason-Dixon Line*

Daniel Magness named 2015 Harford County Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year

Harford County retains its AAA bond rating

Dear valued members of the North Harford Community,

Thank you for your interest in the second edition of *The Northern Zone,* a newsletter highlighting issues, news, people and events in northern Harford County. I sincerely appreciate the thoughtful feedback and responses to the first issue. As a result of your recommendations, several new features have been added.

In the months ahead, *The Northern Zone* will include stories from talented guest authors encompassing a wide variety of topics. In this issue, local historian Doug Washburn explores the history of our iconic northern border, the Mason-Dixon Line, and the conflicted loyalties of North Harford residents during the Civil War. I hope you enjoy reading his interesting findings as much as I have.

Further, "The Good Stewardship Corner", a column written by local conservationists, will offer information and tips to help care for our environment, helping to safeguard our wildlife treasures for future generations. Look for it starting in April's issue.



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www.facebook.com/groups/NorthHarfordZone

Email Chad:
CShrodes@HarfordCountyMD.gov

Visit:
www.harfordcountymd.gov/directory.aspx?EID=1155

A Calendar of Events supplement, to complement *The Northern Zone* during off-months when the newsletter is not published, will also roll out in March. Please help me promote your events by sharing them on Facebook at *"Northern Harford County Zone" Community News, Events & Celebrations.*

Thank you again for your meaningful suggestions, and please keep them coming! I hope that you enjoy the latest edition of the *The Northern Zone.*

Sincerely yours,

Chad Shrodes

Chad Shrodes
Harford County Councilman



Dear residents,

The tragic loss of Harford County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Pat Dailey and Deputy First Class Mark Logsdon plunged our community into deep mourning. Like so many of you, I am struggling with the loss of these two remarkable fallen heroes, who selflessly risked their lives every day to protect our community. We owe them, and every first responder, a tremendous debt for their courageous and unwavering service.

The last two weeks have been a cyclone of emotion. Shock, anger, sorrow, remorse, and yet also deep, burning pride to be a citizen of Harford County. I am so incredibly proud of the way our community came together to wrap our arms around the families and colleagues of these heroes, to pay tribute to them in extraordinary fashion, and offer heartfelt support.

Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler said it best: "To be sure, we are heartbroken. But we are not, cannot, and will not *be* broken."

In the coming weeks and months, our first responders and the families of Deputies Dailey and Logsdon will need our support even more. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to offer your support, or contribute to future memorial efforts, I have included a list of links and contacts below. You will also find grief counseling and other resources for any individuals, families and children experiencing depression and anxiety in response to this tragedy.

From the absolute bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you do. You make Harford County an incredible place to live.

God bless our fallen heroes. God bless our first responders. And may God continue to bless Harford County.

Sincerely yours,

Chad



Contributions in memory of Senior Deputy Pat Dailey:
Toys for Tots Foundation
c/o Gift Processing
Administrator, 18251
Quantico Triangle, VA 22172

Honor Patrick Dailey's Sacrifice
https://www.gofundme.com/c3cbd6d8

Contributions in memory of Deputy First Class Mark Logsdon:
Wounded Warrior Project
P.O. Box 758517
Topeka, KS 66675

Mark Logsdon Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 1176, Aberdeen, MD 21001

Honor Mark Logsdon's Sacrifice
https://www.gofundme.com/rtbbkpkk

Contributions may also be made in memory of both deputies to:
Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union Benevolent Fund HCDSU GoFundMe page:
https://www.gofundme.com/hcdsubenevolent
(please note that GoFundMe takes a small percentage of your donation)

You may also mail your enclosed contribution to:
HCDSU Benevolent Fund
P.O. Box 881, Bel Air, MD 21014
(Donations are tax deductible, EIN# 20-8557313)

BEREAVEMENT/GRIEF SUPPORT RESOURCES:

- **Mobile Crisis Services**
  102 N. Main Street, Suite 201
  Bel Air, MD 21014
  (410) 638-5248
  mobilecrisisteam@sheppardpratt.org
  mobilecrisis@sheppardpratt.org
  https://www.sheppardpratt.org/patient-care-and-services/crisis-services/mobile-crisis-services
  Hours: Everyday 8:00 AM - 12:00 Midnight

- **Bereavement Support Group**
  (443) 904-6424 | Beth Hewitt, Ph.D.
  (410) 879-9390 | Debbie Czylotko
  Bereavement support group schedule:
  www.goodwordsforgrieving.com/events/

- **Grief Support: Bel Air United Methodist Church**
  924 Linwood Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014
  (410) 838-5181 • www.baumc.com
  Grief support meeting schedule:
  http://ems.baumc.com/BookingDetails.aspx?data=7cZwpi-iplNvkc5zw3ktVRgEKVLiod%2bAYebL6kNWQV%2bx6Nj0PtwljuYS3WuCYV5tQPaYI7ZcPt1usgdjzDATvY6fLetsYmpor

THE INCREDIBLE VALUE OF A STRONG COMMUNITY . . .

THE NORTHERN ZONE! by Torri Dietrich, Mason-Dixon Community Services

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". These wise words were spoken by Helen Keller many years ago and continue to ring true today. Mason-Dixon Community Services, Inc., was able to help over 200 low-income families and over 220 seniors this holiday season thanks to the phenomenal generosity of our community in the Northern Zone! We received an outpouring of support from churches, schools, civic organizations and businesses, as well as from individual citizens and their families who wanted to reach out to make the holidays special for those who are less fortunate. In addition to a wide array of gifts, each family received the makings and trimmings for a bountiful holiday meal. Funding was also available to assist qualifying seniors with an outstanding utility bill. We offered a holiday luncheon program sponsored by the North Harford High School Chorus, and had close to 80 people in attendance. The North Harford High School students not only served the meals, but serenaded us in three-part harmony with our favorite Christmas songs! Mason-Dixon Community Services sends a heartwarming "thank you" to each and every one of you who "together did so much" to make a difference this holiday season. NZ

Thomas Mullen – White Hall's newest Eagle Scout

Councilman Shrodes was honored to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor celebration for the newest Eagle from White Hall's Troop 265. The momentous achievement of Thomas Mullen (pictured) was celebrated on Sunday, November 29, 2015, with a formal ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8672 in Jarrettsville. Councilman Shrodes presented Thomas with a proclamation from the Harford County Council.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Thomas led the construction of a nature trail at Camp Wo-Me-To, planting posts into the ground to identify local flora and fauna and adding a trail sign. In total, 26 plant and tree species were identified through the efforts of Thomas, his family and several volunteers. In all, Thomas' project required a remarkable 350 man-hours to complete.

Congratulations, Thomas, on accomplishing the highest performance-based achievement in Scouting! NZ



CAPTION: Councilman Shrodes presents Eagle Scout Thomas Mullen of Troop 265 with a Harford County Council proclamation. *(VFW Post 8672 in Jarrettsville, 11/29/2015)*



Eats & Sweets: Pylesville's hidden restaurant gem

Councilman Shrodes presents a legislator citation to Eats & Sweets' owners Wendy and Joe Borkoski, pictured at middle and right. A true family restaurant perfect for all residents of the northern Harford County community, Eats & Sweets offers an assortment of diverse and reasonably priced homemade fare. The Pylesville restaurant – located in the heart of town near North Harford High School – caters to families and children of all ages with its delicious ice cream, desserts and American-style drive-in food. *(Pylesville, 1/17/2016)*

North Harford Elementary School named a 2016 Maryland Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

North Harford Elementary has been named a 2016 Maryland Blue Ribbon School by the Maryland Department of Education, one of six elementary and high schools in the state and the only Harford County school in 2016 to receive this top distinction for academic excellence.



Councilman Shrodes joins with staff members, PTA representatives, and a proud group of North Harford Elementary School students to celebrate the school's recent designation as a 2016 Maryland Blue Ribbon School by the Maryland Department of Education. *(North Harford Elementary School, 1/20/2016)*

In order to receive the Maryland Blue Ribbon award, schools must meet stringent state and federal benchmarks for high achievement. Students are required to score higher than 95 percent on statewide reading and math tests while showing academic improvement and demonstrating community involvement. The students at North Harford have demonstrated high overall math and reading proficiency during past Maryland State Assessment (MSA) tests, and attendance consistently exceeds 95 percent.

At a recent gathering with North Harford students, parents and teachers, Councilman Shrodes presented principal Lisa Sundquist and students of North Harford Elementary with a proclamation on behalf of the Harford County Council recognizing their achievement.

"I would like to congratulate the students, staff and parents at North Harford Elementary on their award," said Councilman Shrodes. "The Blue Ribbon Award is the culmination of years of effort, and represents a great example of the impressive work taking place at Harford County Public Schools."

North Harford will now be invited by the U.S. Department of Education to apply for recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School, the highest honor an American school can achieve. The winners will be announced in September 2016. NZ



Councilman Shrodes presents North Harford Elementary School principal Lisa Sundquist, left, and PTA President Deborah Dawson, right, with a Harford County Council proclamation in honor of the school's recent distinction as a 2016 Maryland Blue Ribbon School. *(North Harford Elementary School, 1/20/2016)*

Norrisville's own Kaitlyn Watkins awarded Charlie Riley Community Service Scholarship grand prize



Councilman Shrodes congratulates Norrisville VFC's Kaitlyn Watkins, selected as the Charlie Riley Community Service Scholarship Foundation's overall scholarship winner among fire service personnel, with a proclamation from the Harford County Council. *(Level Volunteer Fire Company, 11/11/2015)*

On Nov. 11, 2015, the Charlie Riley Community Service Scholarship Foundation held its annual awards ceremony at the Level Volunteer Fire Company to recognize local Harford County high school students and emergency services personnel for their exemplary leadership and community involvement.

More than 200 people – including Harford County Councilmen Chad Shrodes (District D) and Mike Perrone (District A), the honorees' friends and families and other dignitaries – offered congratulations to the scholarship winners, including Norrisville Volunteer Fire Company's (NVFC) own Kaitlyn Watkins, selected as the overall scholarship winner among fire service personnel. She received a larger scholarship award for the distinction.

Kaitlyn is a paramedic with the NVFC. She completed her paramedic and rescue tech for vehicle and machinery training and has served on the fire prevention, banquet and recruitment and retention committees. She has also chaired the Company's apparel committee and served with the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Kaitlyn has shown her commitment to community service and involvement by serving as a reader and crafter at a local nursing home. Kaitlyn was also active in both the Best Buddies and Adopt-a-Family programs, and founded the North Harford Toddler Moms Support Program. She is currently enrolled in the Paramedic-to-RN Bridge Program at the Community College of Baltimore County. She hopes to become a trauma nurse.

Councilman Perrone was honored to recognize scholarship winners Fadehan Kolawole of Joppatowne High School and Joi Dixon of Edgewood High School at the ceremony. Both Joi and Fadehan are, like Kaitlyn, fantastic examples for Harford County youth. They represent the incredible value of community involvement and leadership for the entire community.

Congratulations Kaitlyn, Joi, Fadehan and all of the award recipients for your impressive achievements! Thank you for your dedication and service to the residents of Harford County!

To learn more about the Charlie Riley Community Service Scholarship Foundation, please visit www.crcssf.com. NZ

Bel Air Bakery closes its doors after 60 years on Main Street

At 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve, 2015, the Bel Air Bakery – an esteemed, long-time Harford County business – closed its doors for good after 60 years in business. Husband and wife Jim and Rose Hamilton have owned and operated the bakery in downtown Bel Air since October 1955; the Churchville couple plans to retire to spend more time with their children and grandchildren.

Famous for its Danishes, turnovers, sugar twists and especially its doughnuts (which cost just 5¢ when the Bakery opened), the Bel Air Bakery was one of the few remaining generations-old independent businesses in downtown Bel Air. They had 17 employees, most of whom worked part-time on the weekends.

The line for customers to snatch up one last freshly baked treat started at 4:30 AM on the bakery's last day, and stretched at least a block prior to its opening at 6:00 AM. Local residents waited in rain and darkness for one last chance to enjoy their favorite baked goods, and to express well-wishes to the Hamiltons.

"Jim and Rose have made a significant impact on Bel Air and the larger Harford County community. The Bel Air Bakery is a neighborhood institution. It will be missed," said Councilman Shrodes. NZ

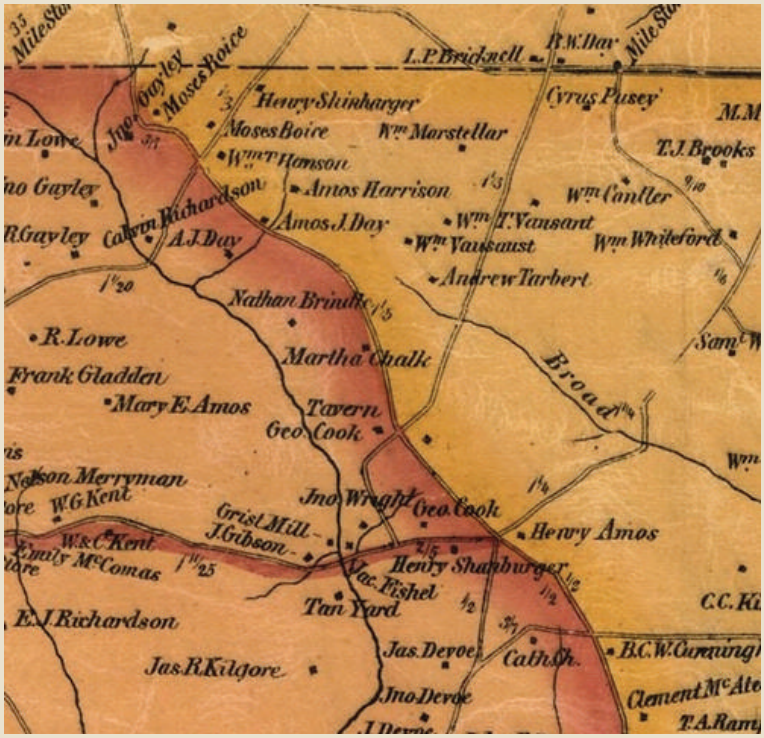


Councilman Shrodes' daughter, Madelyn, poses with a cake from the Bel Air Bakery with her dad and the bakery's owner/operator, Rose Hamilton. The long-time Harford County institution closed its doors for good on Christmas Eve, 2015. *(Bel Air, 12/24/2015)*

NORTHERN HARFORD COUNTY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Harford's Southern Sympathies

by Doug Washburn



A portion of Martenet's 1878 map of Harford County, from *A History of Pylesville.*

The American Civil War tore apart our nation; some say because of slavery and others say because of states' rights. The preponderance of men north of the Mason-Dixon Line fought for the Union, and the majority of men in Virginia and to the south fought for the Confederacy. But, like the nation, Marylanders were truly divided and many siblings chose opposing sides.

Our northern neighbor, Pennsylvania, had abolished slavery in 1780, 81 years before the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, S.C. Perhaps this was due to the large Quaker population. But that does not mean that all Pennsylvanians were so disposed. My maternal grandmother was a WHITEFORD, and I have found newspaper ads where my Pennsylvania ancestors offered a reward for the return of their runaway slave. How could that be, I ask? The answer: they lived in Pennsylvania and they owned slaves, but they rented them out south of the Mason-Dixon . . . York to Harford, or Lancaster to Cecil.

Anyone who attended school knows that John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. Some may even know that Booth's original plan was not to kill Lincoln, but rather kidnap and ransom him for POWs and funds. But unless you grew up in Harford County, or at least Maryland, you probably never paid any attention to the fact that Booth was born and raised in Harford County at Tudor Hall, not far from the Harford Community College campus. And it is even less likely that you know that Booth's plotting is part of the history of Pylesville. Yes, sleepy little Pylesville.

When plotting the kidnapping of Lincoln, Booth frequented a tavern just north of Five Forks in the 21132 postal code, Pylesville. At this time, the area would have been served by the Clarmont Mills (sic) Post Office. This tavern was owned by George Cook, an Englishman that migrated to America in 1853. The tavern was located in the NW corner of the intersection of Rocks and Constitution Roads. Constitution Road, at this time, crossed over Rocks Road and continued on to the SW to intersect with Harkins Road. South Constitution Road still connects to McFadden Road, the forerunner of this section of Harkins Road, but today serves as little more than a driveway to a couple of houses.

The 1860 U.S. Census shows that George Cook was a resident of Election District 4 (a portion of Pylesville west of Maryland 24) and he had a seven-year-old daughter, Hannah, who grew up to marry John W. Frey. They resided in East Prospect, Pennsylvania. Flora Hankins Wiley unearthed a transcription of an unidentified newspaper article interviewing Mrs. Frey in the 1920s. The article describes her childhood recollections of Booth's plotting at her father's tavern in the fall of 1864.

Although Mrs. Frey had no specific recollection of anyone's involvement other than Booth, her father's tavern was frequented by members of the WHITEFORD, STREETT, McATEE, DeVOE, GIBSON and WRIGHT families. The first three of these Harford County families listed were known to have Southern sympathies.

My 4th great grandfather McFADDEN's 1811 will freed his slaves and my 3rd great granduncle McFADDEN's grave in Slate Ridge Cemetery displays the marker of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic, a.k.a. The Union). Does that mean that McFADDENs had a change of heart before the outbreak of the Civil War? I doubt I will ever answer that question. NZ

NORTHERN HARFORD COUNTY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The Mason-Dixon Line

by Doug Washburn

The northern border of Maryland and Harford County is the famed, or infamous, Mason-Dixon Line. "The line" was plotted by Englishmen Charles Mason, an astronomer, and Jeremiah Dixon, a surveyor. Although the border did not become well known until the time of the American Civil War, when it was deemed the dividing line between the North and the South, it had been established 100 years earlier to settle the land dispute between the Calvert family of Maryland and the Penn family of Pennsylvania.



A map showing the area disputed between Maryland and Pennsylvania during Cresap's War.

When Maryland was granted in 1632, Lord Baltimore assumed he owned up to and including the port of Philadelphia (then Dutch). When Pennsylvania was granted in 1680, William Penn assumed he owned as far south as Havre de Grace, so his port of Philadelphia would have access to the bay, and hence the ocean.

Both Calvert and Penn had agreed that the dividing line between Maryland and Pennsylvania would be the 40th parallel, but neither really knew where that line fell. Over the next 56 years there were constant conflicts until, in 1736, serious fighting known as Cresap's War erupted. Cresap was a ferryman who considered himself to be a Maryland citizen. But he operated his ferry north of where the Mason-Dixon would be established some 40 years later. At one point, a sheriff from Pennsylvania came to arrest Cresap; Cresap shot and killed him because Cresap did not consider a Pennsylvania sheriff to have any authority in Maryland. The Governor of Pennsylvania sent a message to the Governor of Maryland that Cresap should be turned over to Pennsylvania authorities; the Maryland governor responded by promoting Cresap to a Captain in the local militia.

The line was surveyed between 1763 and 1767 with Mason & Dixon passing through then Baltimore County (future Whiteford, Pylesville and Norrisville) in 1765. The marker stones were set a year later. Each mile is marked with a stone that has a "M" and "P" on the appropriate face.

Every fifth mile is noted by a "crown stone" with the family crest on the appropriate face. Replacements for damaged or missing stones were set in 2003; these retain the "M" and "P" markings but also add the dates 1766 and 2003.

Pylesville has three sections where you can "drive the line". The first is a portion of Salt Lake Road east of Carea Road. The second is Mason-Dixon Road between West Heaps and Onion Roads. The third is Graceton Road east of Constitution; this section extends into the Whiteford postal code. When driving east from Constitution on Graceton Road, the poles on the right are "The Line" and houses on the right are in Maryland. The road, the poles and houses on the left are in Pennsylvania. NZ



It's all smiles as members of the Mason-Dixon Business Association present a check to representatives of North Harford High School. The organization donates funds each year for scholarships for some of the school's students. [Pictured, from left to right: Edward Jones Financial Advisor Craig Tilghman; Harford Bank Hickory Branch Manager Heather Patrick; NHHS Teacher Greg Murrell; NHHS Assistant Principal Bryan Pawlicki; and Freedom Federal Credit Union VP of Business Banking Bob Wehland] *(Delta, PA, 12/16/2015)*

Daniel Magness named 2015 Harford County Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year

White Hall agriculturist Dan Magness was named the 2015 Farmer of the Year at the Harford County Farm Bureau's annual awards banquet at Level Fire Hall on Nov. 21, 2015.

Dan has managed his family's White Hall farm since graduating from Penn State with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. In his decades at the farm, Dan has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments, including building a milking parlor to increase the size of his milking herd; designing and selling farm equipment still in production today; and adopting ultra-narrow corn rows more than 20 years before the practice gained mainstream acceptance.



Harford County Councilmembers Pat Vincenti, left, and Chad Shrodes, right, present a proclamation to White Hall's Dan Magness, named the 2015 Farmer of the Year at the Harford County Farm Bureau's annual awards banquet. *(Level Volunteer Fire Company, 11/21/2015)*

Dan is also very active in the local community. In 1999 he was named Harford County Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year, and in 2006 he was recognized as the Harford County Innovative Farmer of the Year. In being named 2015's Farmer of the Year, he follows in the footsteps of his late father, Timothy Magness, who received the same honor in 1993.

Dan has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Harford County Soil Conservation Committee, where he was recently reappointed as a District Supervisor through 2020. He has also worked with the Natural Resources Conservation District, the University of Maryland and the Maryland State Highway Administration to study farming issues such as cover crops and wetland restoration.

Dan has accumulated an extensive collection of rare antique tractors, equipment and dairy supplies that he uses to educate the public on the dairy industry, the environment and "farming then and now." He graciously hosts school and other groups at his on-farm museum, and has hosted two Harford County Farm Visitation Days. NZ

Happy 70th Anniversary to George and Evelyn Cairnes!

On Dec. 29, 2015, George and Evelyn Cairnes celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary in Bel Air. George and Evelyn are lifelong citizens of Harford County. Married on Dec. 29, 1945, they have been leaders in the Jarrettsville business community and were named Harford Living Treasures by the Harford County Council in 2014.

George, 92, was a farmer and the owner of Cairnes Insurance Agency until he retired. He was a governing board member of the Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company for over 70 years, and a former president and charter member of the Lions Club. Evelyn Hess Cairnes, 94, handled administrative duties for the insurance company.

To learn more about George and Evelyn – and all other Harford Living Treasures – visit the Harford County Public Library's Living Treasures Oral History Project http://collections.digitalmaryland.org/cdm/search/collection/hclt. NZ



Councilman Shrodes and his daughter, Madelyn, present Harford Living Treasures Evelyn Cairnes, left, and George Cairnes, right, with a legislator citation to commemorate the couple's 70th wedding anniversary. *(Jarrettsville, 12/31/2015)*

Darrel and Bonnie Comer celebrate 60th anniversary milestone



Darrel and Bonnie Comer pose with a legislator citation, presented to the couple by Councilman Shrodes in honor of their 60th anniversary, at their home in Norrisville.

On Dec. 31, 2015, long-time North Harford residents Darrel and Bonnie Comer of Norrisville celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Darrel, 79, graduated from North Harford High School in 1954 and spent much of his adult life as a community activist and dairy farmer. He later founded Comer View Construction, builders of the original Norrisville firehouse.

Bonnie, now 78, married Darrel in 1955 at the age of 18. She and her husband are both Charter Members of the Norrisville Volunteer Fire Company. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2005 with a trip to Alaska.

Darrel and Bonnie are enjoying retirement at their beautiful northern Harford County farm, located off of Jolly Acres Road in Norrisville. NZ

Harford Living Treasures Wanted!

Do you know anyone in your community that should be recognized as a Harford Living Treasure? Once these special folks close to you are confirmed, our Oral Historian captures their stories to place on permanent file with the Harford County Public Library. www.hcplonline.org/downloads/LivingTreasureNominationForm.pdf



Councilman Shrodes enjoys some holiday fun with Harford County Board of Education member Al Williamson, back left, principal Robin Payne, back right, school mascot "Bendy" the Bear and four happy students at the North Bend Elementary School Christmas Restaurant. *(North Bend Elementary School, 12/15/2015)*



[Pictured, from left to right:] Dan Silva, Councilman Chad Shrodes, Amber Shrodes, Tom Galbreath, Margaret Hilsmeier and Debbie Koermer celebrate Christmas North Harford-style with local seniors at the Highland Senior Center's annual Christmas Party. *(Highland Commons, 12/7/2015)*

ATTENTION NON-PROFITS: applications now being accepted for FY17 Tourism-Related Grant Program; Grant Workshop planned

From Harford County Government, January 12, 2016

Beginning on January 19, 2016, eligible organizations are invited to apply to Harford County's tourism-related grant program for funding in the fiscal year 2017. The county government grants support cultural, historical, museum, eco-tourism and sports-tourism activities that draw visitors from outside the county and generate economic benefits through admissions, dining, gas, and, potentially, overnight stays. A grant application workshop is planned for March 10. The application deadline is April 15, 2016.

Last year, tourism-related grants were awarded to 24 non-profits across Harford County totaling $1.4 million. One such recipient was the Bel Air Downtown Alliance.

"We were so excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with local and county officials," said Christine McPherson, executive director of the Bel Air Downtown Alliance. "Our market study funded through the grant is nearing completion and will help set strategy to further enhance the Town of Bel Air as a visitor destination and an economic engine for Harford County."

All applicants for fiscal year 2017 funding are urged to attend the following grant application workshop:

- Thursday, March 10, at 6 PM at Harford County's Economic Development Office, 2021 Pulaski Highway in Havre de Grace

Applicants should review the application form prior to the workshop (click here to download the form, or pick up a hard copy at branches of the Harford County Public Library). Grant awards are for operating programmatic funding only, for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016 and ends on June 30, 2017.

The county's annual tourism-related grant program is funded by revenue generated from the hotel lodging fee initiated by County Executive Barry Glassman and first implemented in March 2015. Eligibility is limited to 501(c)3 and 501(c)6 organizations whose programs or operations assist in the promotion of Harford County as a premier tourism destination. The program is administered by the Harford County Economic Development Advisory Board's Tourism Activity Review Committee, which makes award recommendations to County Executive Glassman.

If you have additional questions or would like to sign up for the workshop, please contact Eva Hanley at (410) 638-3059 or at ehanley@harfordcountymd.gov. NZ



Harford County retains its AAA bond rating

From Harford County Government, January 19, 2016

Harford County government has once again earned the highest possible bond rating by the nation's major independent bond-rating agencies. Moody's, Fitch, and Standard & Poor's late last week reaffirmed Harford County's Triple-A bond rating, which is an evaluation of the county's credit worthiness and fiscal management. The top ratings will mean that Harford's newest debt should bring the lowest interest rates in the marketplace.

Each of the rating agencies cited the county's economic diversity and strong management. Fitch also noted the county's adherence to "conservative debt management guidelines"; Standard & Poor's noted the county's "very strong management, with strong financial management policies and practices . . ."; and Moody's said, "the County benefits from prudent and active financial management. In fiscal 2015, the county took steps to right size staffing, reduce costs by outsourcing services when financially beneficial, and reduce non-essential capital spending."

Harford County citizens will realize a significant savings – millions of dollars, per Director of Administration Billy Boniface – as a result of the County's AAA ratings.

A $40 million bond sale took place on January 26, at which the County received a record-breaking low interest rate of 2.29 percent, the lowest for a bond sale in Harford County history. These general obligation bonds will be used primarily to complete funding for capital projects already underway. About two-thirds of the $40 million will be used for general capital or highway projects, while the remaining third will cover water and sewer projects.

Some of the projects to be funded with these newest bonds include:

- Youth's Benefit Elementary School replacement building *($13 million)*
- Replacement of HVAC systems at Prospect Mill Elementary and the Center for Educational Opportunity in Aberdeen *($4 million total)*
- Harford Metro Area Network (HMAN) high-speed public broadband system upgrades *($2 million)*
- Watershed restoration projects
- Bridge repair/replacement projects

Harford County is one of only five Maryland counties to earn a Triple-A rating from all three agencies. NZ

The North Harford community fills the "Mason" jar and love overflows!

by Carol Strine



Meet Mason Howell . . . Mason is an amazing and inspiring sixth grade student at North Harford Middle School. He loves to fish, hunt, play soccer and hang out at the beach. His personality and smile light up a room.

Mason's life differs from that of most other children his age, however. He is battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia for the SECOND time in his young 11-year-old life. Mason was first diagnosed in 2007 (at three years of age). In January 2011, he completed his treatments and continued his life as a thriving first grader. For five years, Mason's life was "normal"; but when Christmas 2015 arrived, the nightmare began all over again. His leukemia had returned.

The North Harford community, in conjunction with Buon Gusto Pizzeria and Grill, came together on Wednesday, February 10 to show their support for the "Fill the MASON Jar" Campaign designed to assist Mason and his family (Kurt, Tabitha and Morgan Howell) with ongoing medical expenses. This multi-faceted fundraiser kicked off with an all-day event at Buon Gusto Pizzeria and Grill. Over 400 local residents came to show their support for Mason. Donations were accepted, #TeamMason bracelets were sold, and raffle tickets were distributed for the grand prize of four tickets to The Everyman Theatre in Baltimore to see both *Death of a Salesman* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (a theatre package valued at $256). In a few short hours, over $4,100 was collected to support the Howell family.



[Pictured, left to right:] Lorenzo Mannino, Kati Mannino, Tabitha Howell and Kurt Howell at the "Fill the MASON Jar" Community Fundraiser Night. *(Whiteford, 2/10/2016)*

Through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at North Harford Middle School, students were given the opportunity to purchase and wear orange #TeamMason bracelets to show their support for Mason.

Those who could not attend the event supported the Howell family by donating to the "Fill the MASON Jar" GoFundMe page (www.gofundme.com/nq2wtan8).

The North Harford Community made love overflow for this family! NZ

The Department of Planning and Zoning is pleased to release the draft Master Plan, known as HarfordNEXT, for public review and comment. HarfordNEXT is a departure from previous Master Plans, combining the various element plans into one streamlined and cohesive document. The public review period will last for 45 days. To view the HarfordNEXT document and submit comments online, click here: http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/660/HarfordNEXT

HARFORD NEXT
A MASTER PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The Northern Zone

Calendar of Events
February/March 2016

Dublin / Darlington Community Advisory Board

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 7:00 PM

Location: Conowingo Dam Visitor Center – 4948 Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD 21918

Presenter: Sharon Lipford, Healthy Harford

Regular Meetings

Third Wednesday of every month, 7:00 PM
(July, August & holidays excluded)

Location: Conowingo Dam Visitor Center – 4948 Conowingo Road, Conowingo, MD 21918

Jarrettsville / Norrisville Community Advisory Board

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 17, 2016, 6:30 PM

Location: Jarrettsville Library – 3722 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Presenter: Karen Winkowski, Harford County Office on Aging

Regular Meetings

Third Thursday of every month, 6:30 PM. Alternating between the Jarrettsville and Norrisville Libraries *(July, August & holidays excluded)*

Location(s): Jarrettsville Public Library – 3722 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 & Norrisville Public Library – 5310 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD 21161

Whiteford / Cardiff / Pylesville / Street Community Advisory Board

Next Meetings:

Monday, February 22, 2016, 6:30 PM

Location: Whiteford Library – 2407 Whiteford Road, Whiteford, MD 21160

Presenter: Steven Tomczewski, Maryland Environmental Service (MES)

Monday, March 21, 2016, 6:30 PM

Location: Whiteford Library – 2407 Whiteford Road, Whiteford, MD 21160

Presenter: Jeff Stratmeyer, Harford County Department of Public Works

Regular Meetings

Third Monday of every month, 6:30 PM
(July, August & holidays excluded)

Location: Whiteford Library – 2407 Whiteford Road, Whiteford, MD 21160

Closures – Harford County Public Schools

Friday, March 4, 2016
- Elementary Schools 3 hour early dismissal

Monday, March 21 and Tuesday, March 22, 2016
- Harford County Public Schools CLOSED for students for "Professional Development"

Wednesday, March 23 through Monday, March 28, 2016
- Spring Break – Harford County Public Schools closed

Harford County Council Public Meetings

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
- Legislative Session @ 7:30 PM

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
- Legislative Session @ 7:30 PM

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
- Legislative Session @ 7:30 PM

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
- Legislative Session @ 7:30 PM

All meetings are held in the County Council Chambers – 212 S. Bond Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Harford County Sheriff's Office monthly community meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:00 PM

HCSO Northern Precinct – 3726 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Open to the public, topic to be announced

The Harford County Sheriff's Office's monthly community precinct meeting, designed to increase awareness about criminal activity in the county and to foster communication between the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of the county.

Tourism-Related Grant Program Workshop

Thursday, March 10, 2016, 6:00 PM

Harford County Economic Development Office – 2021 Pulaski Highway, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

For more information, please email Eva Hanley at ehanley@harfordcountymd.gov, call (410) 638-3059 or visit www.HarfordCountyMD.gov/oed

continued on next page

ATHENA Awards & Women's Leadership Breakfast

Friday, March 4, 2016,
8:00 – 9:45 AM

Richlin Ballroom – 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood, MD 21040

Tickets should be purchased by February 26. Tickets to the breakfast are $40 per person or $350 for a table of ten.

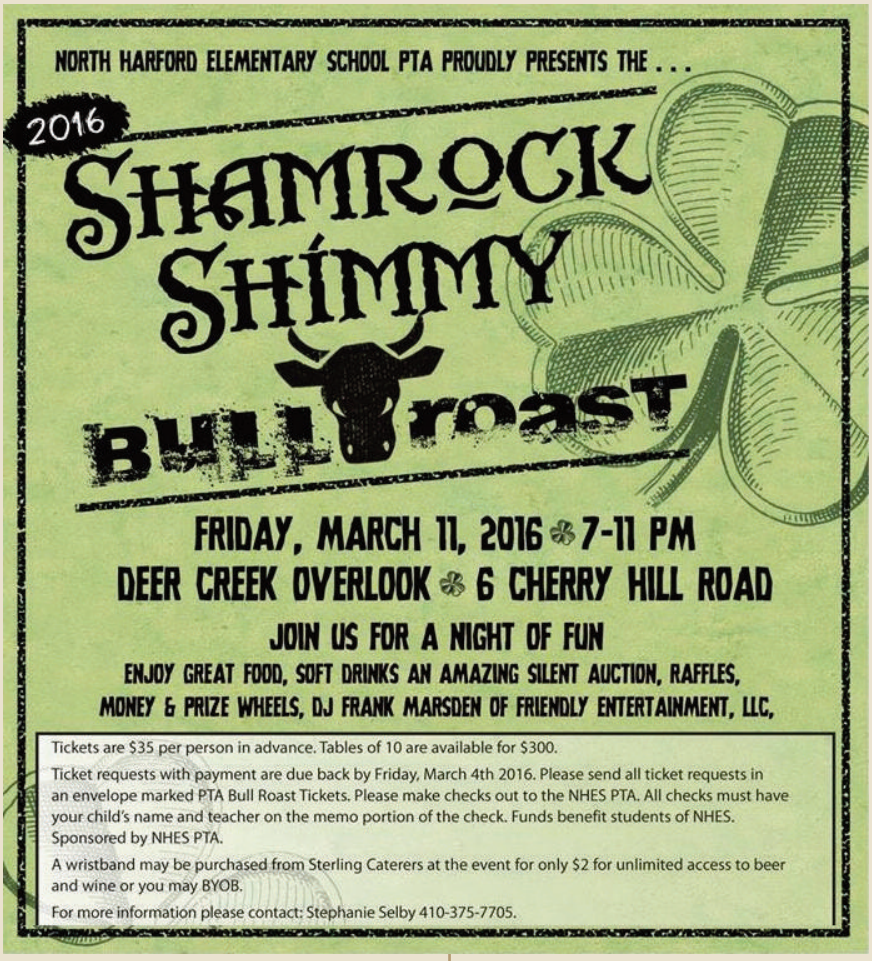
For more information, please visit https://www.Harford.edu/Athena or call (443) 412-2428

"Addicted", an original play performed by North Harford High School students & alumni

Thursday, February 25 &
Friday, February 26, 2016,
7:00 PM

North Harford High School – 211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, MD 21132

An original play written & directed by NHHS school psychologist Christle Henzel spotlighting heroin's impact on our community. Free and open to the public. A video trailer can be viewed at www.harfordcountymd.gov/449/Office-on-Drug-Control-Policy.



Deer Creek Coffeehouse

1022 Main Street, Darlington, MD 21034 (Grace Memorial Episcopal Church)

Tommy & Saundra O'Sullivan
Saturday, February 27, 2016,
7:30 PM

Songs range from traditional Irish and traditional American music to the works of contemporary writers, from both sides of the Atlantic. *Suggested donation - $10*

The Early Mays
Saturday, March 12, 2016,
7:30 PM

Appalachian-inspired folk songs built on deep country sensibilities. *Suggested donation - $10.*

For more information about the Deer Creek Coffee House, call (443) 877-7125, email deercreekch@zoominternet.net, or visit www.facebook.com/DeerCreekCoffeeHouse

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Set your clocks FORWARD one hour!

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 @ 9:00 PM DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2016 PRIMARY

Click here to register online, or to print an application for mailing.

continued on next page

Fried Oyster & Ham Dinner @ Ayres Chapel UMC

Saturday, March 19, 2016,
3:00 - 7:00 PM

Ayres Chapel United Methodist Church – 3046 Ayres Chapel Road, White Hall, MD 21161

Fresh hand-patted fried oysters and ham with green beans, corn, potato salad, rolls, coffee, baked goods and candy available. $25 for adults. For more information, call (410) 692-9222 or email ayreschapel@verizon.net

It's almost 5K season here in the Northern Zone!

7th Annual Sunshine 5k Run/Walk & 1-Mile Family Fun Walk
Sunday, April 24, 2016,
8:00 AM

Start location: Eats & Sweets – 305 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, MD 21132

Benefitting therapeutic care for trauma & grief-stricken children

Enjoy the beautiful scenic route through Pylesville's farmlands. Prizes, free t-shirt for first 100 5k registrants, refreshments and fun for everyone!

For more information or to download a registration form, go to: www.sunshinesangels.com

2016 North Harford Hawks 5k Run/Walk
Sunday, May 1, 2016,
8:00 AM

NHHS – 211 Pylesville Road, Pylesville, MD 21132

Participants will receive a t-shirt & bottled water. Cost is $25. All proceeds go toward the North Harford football program.

For more information, or to register online, visit https://www.edline.net/pages/North_Harford_High_School or contact Kim Iddings at (410) 638-3650.







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STAY CONNECTED

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