



Promising practices in outreach, recruitment for STEM



Pamela Silvers, a co-principal investigator of Mentor-Connect, offers recruitment advice based on her experiences leading three ATE projects that aimed at recruiting more women into computer technologies and engineering programs. (All photos: Event Photography of North America Corp.)

BY KATHRYN MARCHOCKI NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Ask any 12-year-old girl what she wants to be when she grows up and she most likely will say a doctor, teacher or veterinarian.

“They want to help people,” explained Pamela Silvers, a co-principal investigator of **Mentor-Connect**.

But most colleges promote their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to prospective students with the promise of making money and getting good jobs, she said, adding: “Studies show when men pick careers, that’s why they pick careers.”



Community colleges that want to improve student recruitment and retention need to market STEM careers in ways that also appeal to women, Silvers told a session at the [2023 Advanced Technological Education \(ATE\) Principal Investigators' Conference](#) held last week in Washington, D.C. The [American Association of Community Colleges \(AACC\)](#) hosted the event with [National Science Foundation](#)

([NSF](#)) support. AACC is also a partner on Mentor-Connect, which is hosted by [Florence-Darlington Technical College](#) (South Carolina).

“Think about how you talk about the jobs. No young woman is going to say, ‘I can hardly wait to take organic chemistry.’ But they will say, ‘I want to help others and work in a team and make a difference,’” advised Silvers, who has been principal investigator on three grants aimed at recruiting more women into computer technologies and engineering programs.

Recruitment and retention strategies

Silvers and Esperanza M. Zenon, a professor of physics and physical sciences at [River Parishes Community Colleges](#) (Louisiana), detailed student recruitment and retention strategies to educators at the conference. Zenon is the principal investigator of the advanced industrial instrumentation control technician training ATE project at River Parishes, a project she was awarded after receiving Mentor-Connect mentoring. Zenon was a Mentor-Connect fellow in 2023 to prepare to be a Mentor-Connect mentor.

Marketing brochures, Silvers and Zenon said, should show photos of smiling men and women working together, not sterile images of equipment and laboratories.

It's also important to build strong working relationships with your campus recruiting staff and to interact with high school counselors, industry partners, careers coaches and parents of high school students, Zenon added.

“Let them know who you are so when they have conversations with their students while they are in high school...they are going to think of us first,” Zenon said.

It's important to survey students for feedback about what worked and what didn't, she added.

“That’s how we figured out we weren’t getting enough females in our (advanced industrial instrumentation control technician training) program,” she said.

Maintaining strong connections with industry and making sure they are visible on campus during career fairs and site visits are key as well, Zenon said.

“We want students to know we have industries who are eager to take them in they finish their programs,” she said.

Creating opportunities

Speaking at a separate session, **Harford Community College** (Maryland) assistant biology professor Jaclyn Madden discussed the BIOTECH Pathways program. The program’s goal is to create accessible pathways for future biotechnicians from public high schools to Harford where they can earn associate in applied science (AAS) degrees and certificates. These credentials are needed to join the biotechnology workforce or pursue further study at four-year institutions.

The intent is to increase the biotechnology workforce in Maryland and create more opportunities for students, especially those from populations that have been historically underrepresented in STEM fields.



Jaclyn Madden shares outcomes from three high school student outreach efforts that she initiated for the BIOTECH Pathways project at Harford Community College (Maryland), where she is an assistant biology.

Madden said she launched three community outreach efforts for high school students, their families and high school educators. The first was an evening workshop held at public high schools that traditionally have a lower number of students who go to college or postsecondary programs. The intent was to provide parents and students an overview of biotechnology and the types of careers it offers, from agriculture to biotechnology to pharmaceuticals. She also allows students to conduct a laboratory experiment by leading them through “some very simple DNA procedures.”

“They feel like real scientists...We want them to know what it feels like to engage in science on a day-to-day basis,” Madden said, noting it’s important to include parents in these workshops because research shows parent and family support impacts student outcomes.

A BIOTECH Pathways Summer Institute, a week-long program for high school students, and the BIOTECH Pathways Teaching Academy, a two-day program for high school STEM educators, are the other community outreach programs, Madden said.

It’s important to evaluate program results to see if it is achieving its goals, including increasing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, she said. Students’ survey responses in the evening workshops, for instance, showed significant increases in their knowledge and attitude toward biotechnology careers, she said.

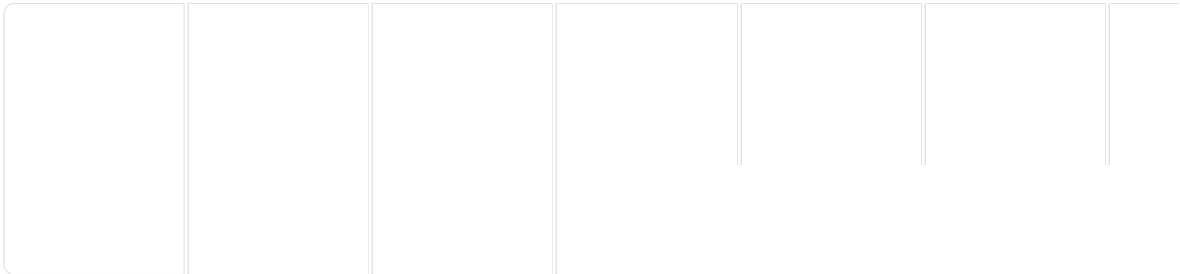
Connecting with non-students, too

During a breakout session, community college educators identified community outreach, dual enrollment with high schools, holding open houses and expanding on adult education courses as among strategies they use to increase enrollment and student diversity, equity and inclusion.

Andria Denmon, an associate professor in the life sciences department at [Santa Monica College](#) (California) shared how she has used an ATE grant and other external support to start the biotechnology certificate and degree programs there. Among her outreach activities are “lunch and learn” sessions that she hosts to introduce the biotechnology industry and its demand for workers. Attendees have included college counselors and administrators, representatives of different campus support groups, directors and deans of workforce development, marketing and public relations along with chairs of the physical sciences and math departments.

“But what was key was making sure that we emphasized that this would be a safe space for students because, students of color especially, are not sure they belong in this field,” Denmon said. “We wanted the attendees to walk away with the feeling that it’s safe to send students to this program.”

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HARFORD COUNTY

Aberdeen Proving Ground dedicates supercomputers to early programmers

By Jason Fontelieu
The Aegis • Last Updated: Oct 06, 2023 at 10:17 am

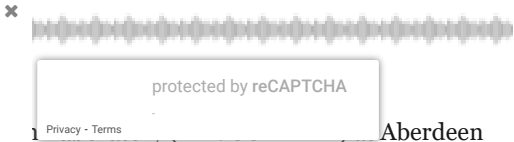


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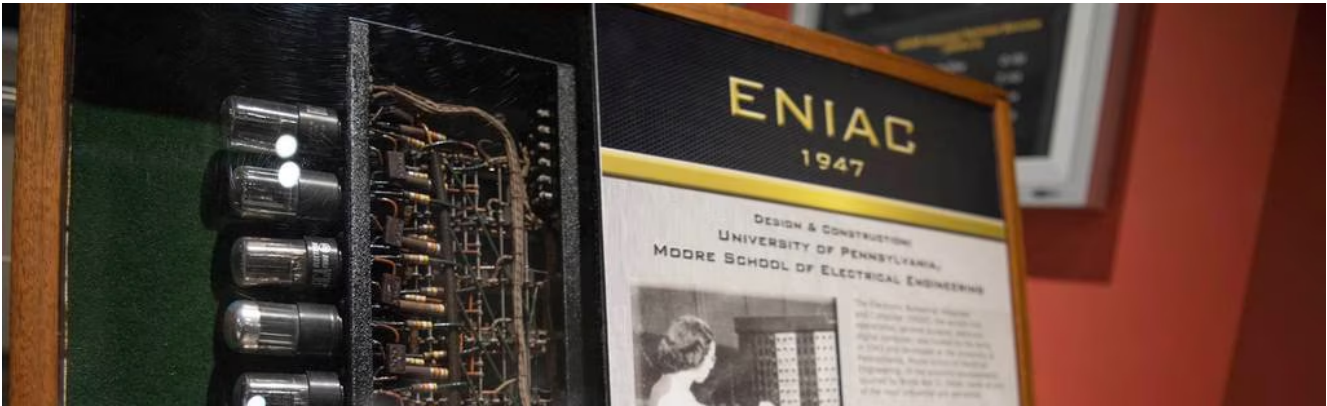
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Proving Ground dedicated five new supercomputers to the programmers of the world’s general purpose scientific computer at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 28.

The six women programmers, called “computers” at the time, were nicknamed the “ENIAC Six” for their involvement in programming the first all-electronic digital computer, known as the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC), in 1945.





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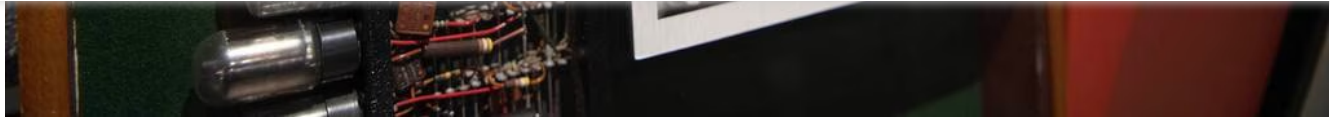
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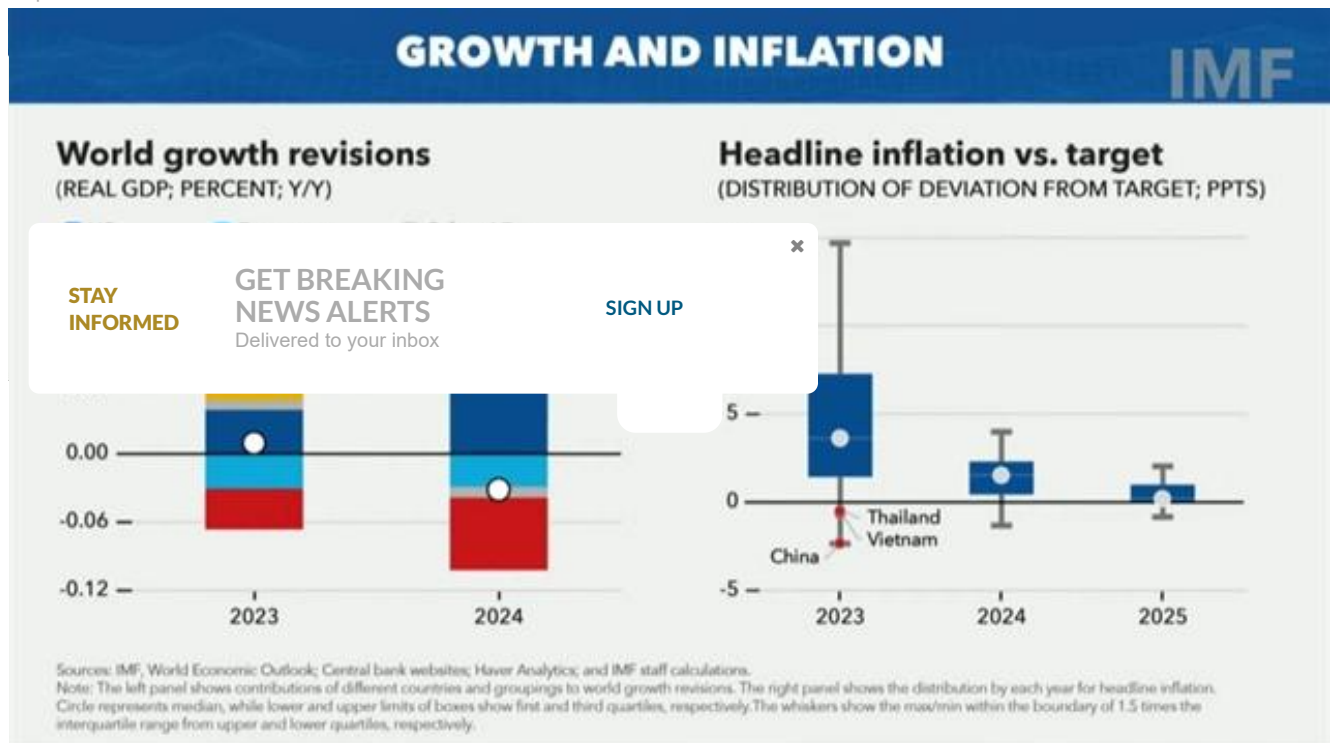
The Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) was the first all-electronic digital computer, a machine of approximately 18,000 vacuum tubes and forty black 8-foot panels. (U.S. Army)

Those programmers were: Betty Jean "Jean" (Jennings) Bartik, Frances Elizabeth "Betty" (Snyder) Holberton, Kathleen "Kay" (McNulty) Mauchly Antonelli, Marlyn (Wescoff) Meltzer, Frances "Fran" (Bilas) Spence and Ruth (Lichterman) Teitelbaum.

THE ENIAC was used to calculate artillery firing tables for the U.S. Army's Ballistic Research Laboratory. The women were honored posthumously for their groundbreaking contributions they made to the development of ENIAC and the creation of the field of computer programming, with several family members in attendance at the ceremony.

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A sixth computer, dedicated to Spence, will be installed next year. The computers will be used by the DEVCOM ARL DoD Supercomputing Resource Center.

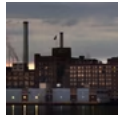


U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory senior leaders, officials and family members of the ENIAC Six cut the ribbon on six new supercomputers named after the original six programmers of the world's first general purpose scientific computer, the ENIAC. The ENIAC was designed and primarily used to calculate artillery firing tables for the United States Army's Ballistic Research Laboratory that later became a part of the DEVCOM ARL. (Left to Right) Mr. Matt Goss – Director, director U.S Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory (DEVCOM ARL) DOD Supercomputing Resource Center, Dr. Forrest Shull - Principal Director, Advanced Computing and Software, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Critical Technologies (OASD(CT)), Ms. Mary-Dulany James – Maryland State Senator, Ms. Kathleen Mauchly McNulty – Daughter of Kathleen “Kay” McNulty Mauchly Antonelli (original ENIAC Programmer), Mr. William McNulty – Son of Kathleen “Kay” McNulty Mauchly Antonelli (original ENIAC Programmer), Ms. Cythnia Bedell – Director Army Research Directorate, DEVCOM Army Research Lab, Ms. Sally FitzSimmons – Daughter of Kathleen “Kay” McNulty Mauchly Antonelli (original ENIAC Programmer), Ms. Pricilla Holberton – Daughter of Frances Elizabeth “Betty” Snyder Holberton (original ENIAC Programmer), Mr. Joseph Spence – Son of Frances V. Bilas Spence (original ENIAC Programmer), Dr. Jerry Ballard – Director DC

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and how we program those machines,” Bedell

Jerry Ballard, director of the High Performance Computing Modernization Program, also acknowledged the significance of the ENIAC Six’s accomplishments.

“These super computers will continue to support these women’s legacy of computational resources that are vital for the protection of our nation,” Ballard said.

Another speaker was Kathy Kleiman, founder of the ENIAC Programmers Project, which involved her interviewing some of the ENIAC Six while they were still alive to help tell their contributions to history, culminating in a short documentary film, “The Computers,” which was presented during the day.

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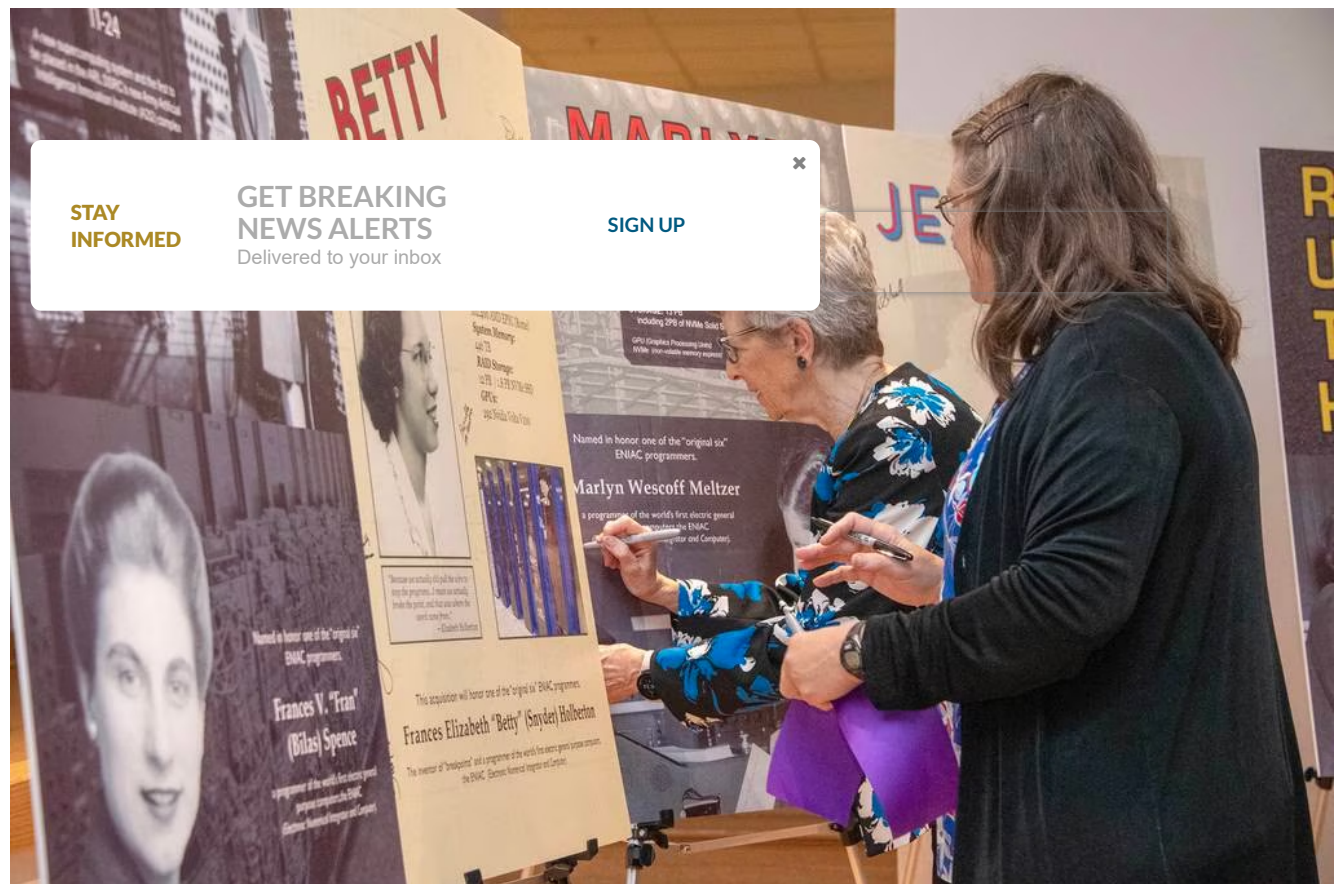
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Kleiman also wrote a book on the programmers, called “Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World’s First Modern Computer.”

“These women really stepped up and changed the world,” said State Sen. Mary-Dulany James, who also spoke at the event.



Family members of two ENIAC Six pioneers commemorate their legacy by signing posters during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Sept. 28. (left to right) Ms. Sally FitzSimmons — Daughter of Kathleen “Kay” McNulty Mauchly Antonelli (original ENIAC Programmer) and Ms. Pricilla Holberton — Daughter of Frances

Elizabeth “Betty” Snyder Holberton (original ENAIC Programmer (U.S. Army)
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ARLS Properties embarks on 35-acre mixed-used 'village' in Bel Air



The 35-acre parcel will shape up to hold a mixed-use development near Interstate 95 off Route 24 in Bel Air.

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By Melody Simmons
Senior Reporter, Baltimore Business Journal
Jan 26, 2023



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A Baltimore developer is reshaping a large parcel in Bel Air into a new mixed-use community off Route 24.

ARLS Properties is building Bel Air Village with new retail, office space and 252 apartments on a 35-acre patch of land off Route 24. Another 24 townhouses are also in the works on property that today is considered a rarity in the fast-growing suburb.

The project kicked off last year with a four-story, 50-unit apartment building and some retail space now under development. The new apartments and retail are expected to open by the end of the year near the Boulevard at Box Hill, a Wegmans-anchored shopping complex.

Harford County has been in growth mode for a decade, including the addition of several large-scale industrial warehouses that have attracted national tenants like [The Container Store](#), [Sephora](#), [Amazon](#), [Medifast](#) and [Georgia-based furniture and bedding manufacturer Elite Comfort Solutions](#). [Scottsdale, Arizona-based investment firm Walton Global](#) this month announced it had acquired [108 acres in Aberdeen](#) for a new residential development.

Bel Air Village, about a mile from Interstate 95, will also include 115,000 square feet of commercial space when built out. [Josh Rosemore](#), principal with ARLS, said the project is expected to bring an unspecified number of new jobs to the area in the coming few years.

Space is being leased by MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate and includes four separate buildings and five pad sites that will face Emmorton Road. [Sean Langford](#), a MacKenzie vice

president, said the development is being bolstered by a return to more normal in-person shopping activity post-pandemic.

"The area remains ripe for retailers," Langford said this week, in a statement.

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ARLS Properties Starts Work on 35-Acre Mixed-Use Community in Bel Air, Md.

BY **KEITH LORIA** JANUARY 24, 2023 5:45 PM



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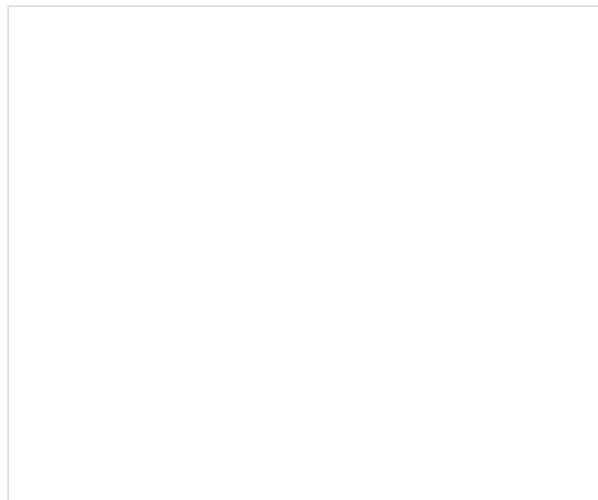
Baltimore-based developer **ARLS Properties** on Tuesday started construction of **Bel Air Village**, a 35-acre mixed-use community in Bel Air, Md.

When completed, the development will include 115,000 square feet of office space, 252 multifamily units and 24 townhomes.

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A four-story multifamily building with 50 units will be the first property developed, and additional multifamily buildings will be built in 2024. The office component and townhomes will follow.

The retail component will consist of four buildings, ranging from approximately 7,000 to 11,000 square feet, and an additional five pad sites ranging from 1 to 2 acres.



MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate Services is handling leasing for the multifamily portion of the project.



we believe there exists numerous restaurants and retailers that will be attracted to the captured audience of Bel Air Village, as well as the more than 32,000 people which reside within a five-mile radius of the site,” **Sean Langford**, MacKenzie’s vice president, said in a prepared statement.

Bel Air Village will be built on Veterans Memorial Highway and Plumtree Road. More than 43,000 vehicles pass the development site daily via Maryland Route 24, with an additional 20,000 driving by each day using the adjacent Emmorton Road, according to the **Harford County Office of Economic Development**.

Among the potential users that the firm is targeting are a craft brewery, fast-casual restaurants, the medical and health care segment and soft goods, according to Langford.

“The Route 24 corridor is considered a highly desirable location and, based on the initial interest already generated, we are confident that it is a long runway for new retailers to expand into the area,” he said.

MacKenzie’s **Tom Fidler** joins Langford in handling leasing for the developer.

Keith Loria can be reached at Kloria@commercialobserver.com.



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Proving Ground to National Park

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Physicist Zack Thompson, left, and Paleontologist and Fossil Butte National Monument Museum curator Arvid Aase place the *Hyopsodus wortmani* fossil into the Digital Radiography and Computed Tomography unit, which the U.S. Army uses to create composite X-ray images of suspect recovered chemical munitions. (Idaho National Laboratory)

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Usually when the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (CMA RCMD) receives a call to assess an item of interest, there is a good chance a chemical warfare agent is involved.

However, in the past several months, CMA RCMD, which is based at Aberdeen Proving Ground, has been supporting the National Park Service in partnership with Idaho National Laboratory to help in the identification of an extremely rare fossil.

The National Park Service website describes Fossil Butte National Monument in southwestern Wyoming as “America’s aquarium in stone.” Fossilized fish, birds, reptiles and mammals that once populated the area in and

around a large freshwater lake during the early Eocene epoch 52 million years ago are notable for both abundance and exceptional detail of preservation.

Park Manager Arvid Aase explained the reason for the exceptional preservation is that the lake had a layer of low-oxygen saltwater and a microbial mat at the bottom. When dead creatures sank to the lake bottom, the mat

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“While being saline at the bottom, it was fresh at the top where things were living, so freshwater microbes weren’t down there to decompose the [dead creatures], and nothing was living down there to scavenge on them,” Aase said. “It was that unique combination of conditions that allowed the fossils to be created in great abundance and very well preserved.”

Aase estimates fossil hunters collect about 100,000 well-preserved fossils each year from private quarries outside the park. “And that’s not counting the broken ones,” he adds.



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to occasionally uncover a fossilized mammal. The Fossil
 ssil from a private collection, first unearthed in the late

psodus wortmani as they were preparing it, resulting
 ng both front forearms, it was still the most complete
 fossil of its kind, so the museum acquired it.

About five years ago, searchers dug up the fossil of a hyaenodontid, a family of carnivorous mammals that evolved and then went extinct. Aase, who is also the museum curator, described the fossil as a small, tree-climbing mammal the size of a squirrel with long fingers and a long tail.

Though this is the most complete specimen of a hyaenodontid fossil, so little is known of this still-uncertain species that once fully prepared, the museum may make history in discovering an entirely new species. It is missing its hip and both hind limbs, which fossil hunters overlooked during digging the previous year.

As the original fossil owners began preparing it, they realized the animal was lying on its back.

“So, they’re preparing the lower part of the skull and the belly of the critter, and that’s the least interesting part of the vertebra. And one hand is hidden behind the head,” Aase said.

Aase and his team were at a crossroads. If they tried to chip away the back side of the fossil to reveal the hand, they might damage what was there.

Luckily, the museum had a working relationship with Idaho National Laboratory, whose scientists previously used high-resolution X-ray microscopy to produce fossil images. Aase hoped the laboratory could help reveal

hidden details of these fossils. The most promising technology had an unlikely partner in this mystery – the U.S. Army.

The Chemical Materials Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate provides centralized management and direction to the Department of Defense for safe and environmentally compliant assessment and destruction of

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proven assessment technologies to determine whether figured without opening the item. The first step in this raphy, more commonly known as the DRCT.

, DRCT uses X-ray technology to vertically scan a gh-quality 2D or 3D digital image of its interior, or ent, as well as the item's explosive potential, without responders and the public.

vered chemical warfare materiel, to reveal its true

hem to see details of the unprepared surface twofold: to see details of the covered portions; and to halted, and instead flipped to prepare it from the ie head?

provided was not a suitable candidate for the

‘First of all, the sample in the rock was too big, but also because the fossil itself was big, it was too thick for our X-rays to really penetrate through and get good data,’ said Bill Chuirazzi, a research scientist at the laboratory. Chuirazzi then approached his colleague, Zack Thompson, a physicist whose work supports the DRCT technology – the same one the Army uses to assess recovered munitions.

A fellow history buff, Kelso Horne, director of the Army Chemical Materials Activity and treaty implementing agent for the Chemical Weapons Convention, said he is excited the Chemical Materials Activity can help the National Park Service while also serving the Army.

“Usually, the operations and technology we support means looking back in time to understand the conditions and parameters that a munition at an Army range might hold,” Horne said. “However, when we were presented with an opportunity by our partners at Idaho National Laboratory to use prehistoric data to improve our systems and possibly make history – well, that was one we needed to take.”

Computed tomography systems come in all shapes and sizes, but the system used by CMA RCMD is designed to look through the metal shell of a munition, as well as the thick stainless-steel container in which it is safely stored – similar to the fossil in the rock.

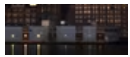
Thompson added that CMA RCMD granted permission for its DRCT system to be used in the fossil analysis, with the understanding that any technological advances they may achieve would be handed over to the Army in its

modernization efforts.

“Part of what we can do with the data is not just image a fossil for the Park Service to do a solid for them, but also develop a low-projection computed-tomography algorithm that CMA RCMD can use to assess recovered chemical weapons,” he said.

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n, they still needed to devise a way to hold the fossil
 ss. Brian Gross, a design engineer at the laboratory,
 printing to create a custom holder for the fossil.
 ssil like a glove, and it plugged right into Zack’s system
 ase was permitted to handle the fossil, a testament to
 or the fossil imaging, using a modular set-up
 e Army uses to assess recovered munitions, and an X-
 ieve sharper imaging. While the set-up took only about
 r intensive than a standard Army assessment
 vered munition, operators set up the scan, press a
 gh-quality X-ray images of the munition and its
 d software programs open on two separate computers
 crements, and the other to capture each image.



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“Zack had to manually click and capture every image. So, when we were taking hundreds of images, it was really two days of me just talking to Zack, so we didn’t fall asleep, and him just taking the data,” said Chuirazzi.

The modular DRCT system Thompson assembled captured 787 2D radiograph images of the Hyopsodus wortmani fossil and 683 images of the smaller hyaenodontid fossils. The next challenge was to figure out how to reconstruct those 2D images into a 3D volume, so Chuirazzi introduced another laboratory colleague to the project.

Rahul Reddy Kancharla is a post-doctoral researcher at the laboratory whose doctoral studies involved limited-angle reconstruction – creating detailed imaging from a limited number of X-ray angles. Kancharla is now developing an algorithm to reconstruct 2D fossil images into a 3D volume to validate his codes for the National Park Service. The actual rendering of 3D images is still weeks, possibly months away, but if successful, he will then turn over the codes to Thompson and Chuirazzi for potential Army applications.

Aase has high hopes for the technological possibilities that could bring a species of the past into the present not only for visitors to the museum – but the paleontological world.

“If the scanning is good enough quality, we can actually get a 3D cast of this critter and hand it to a kid,” Aase said.

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es not require 3D images for all recovered munitions to
tions for Army operations in the future. These
ratories like Idaho National Laboratory ensure CMA
ent of safe, proven, non-intrusive technologies to

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said. “Only through partnership and expertise could
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By Lorraine Mirabella
 Baltimore Sun • Published: Aug 14, 2023 at 5:00 am



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Baltimore-area leaders aim to be in the running to become a national tech hub similar to Silicon Valley or Boston as the city competes for a federal designation and billions of dollars in funding.

A 35-member consortium led by the Greater Baltimore Committee is finalizing a bid seeking to become one of 20 or more cities or regions chosen for the federal Tech Hubs Program.

If it succeeds, federal funding — an estimated \$500 million over five years — is expected to generate \$3.2 billion in economic impact and 52,000 jobs by 2030 in a region including Baltimore and seven surrounding counties, GBC officials say.

“This is a historic, once-in-a-generation type of designation and funding opportunity because of the size of funding,” said Pothik Chatterjee, GBC’s chief economic officer. “We believe the Baltimore region has a strong opportunity to win based on the strengths of our assets.”

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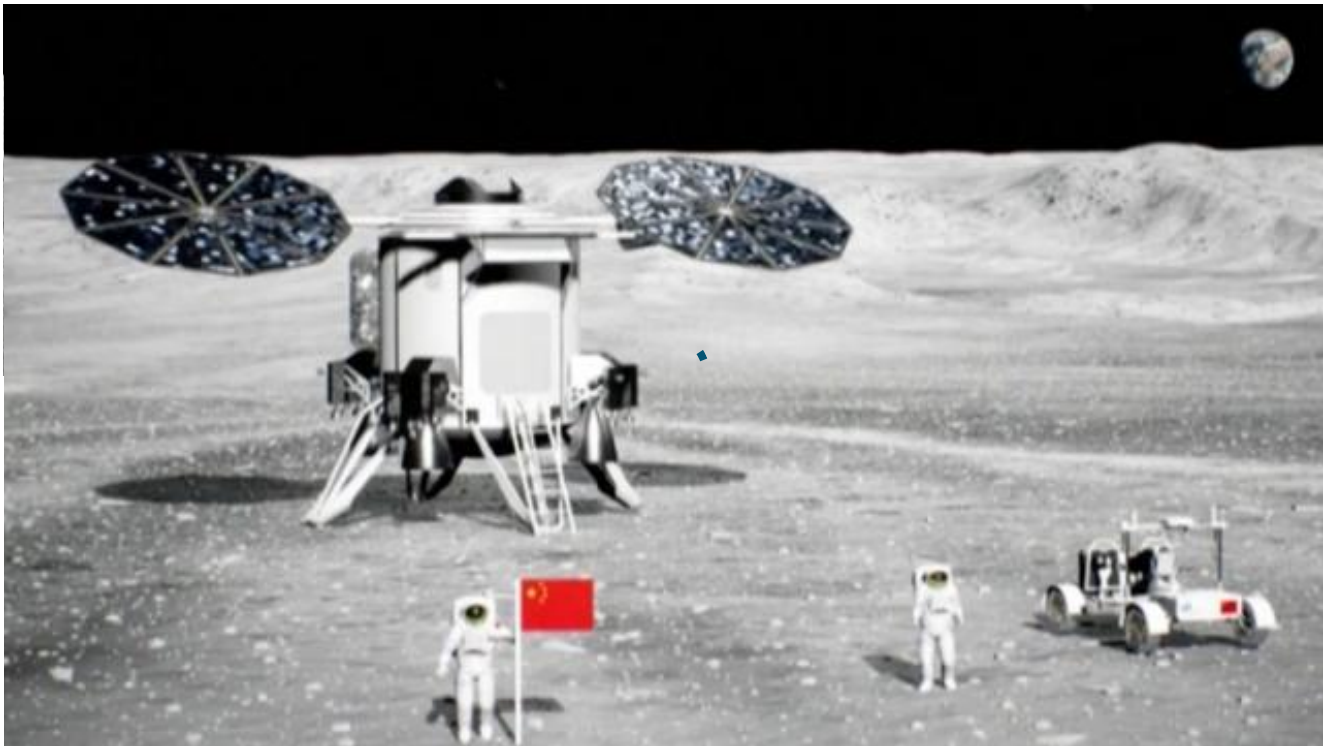
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The \$10 billion economic development initiative, approved as part of the federal CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, aims to spur technology-related manufacturing and commercialization in parts of the country with potential to become globally competitive and create jobs in 10 years. Applications are due Tuesday to the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration, which plans to announce selections in September.

The program aims to diversify technology investment and development beyond Silicon Valley, Boston and New York, which currently attract 80% of tech funding. Others reportedly seeking designations include Richmond, Virginia; Toledo, Ohio; and Houston, as well as regions of Colorado, Michigan and North Carolina.

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Baltimore's group describes its hub as focusing on the intersection of artificial intelligence and biotechnology, an area still in the early stages of adoption. It refers to the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning on health data for applications such as diagnostics and drug development.

The consortium says the area is primed to combine artificial intelligence, machine learning and autonomy with biotech, medical technology, genomics and synthetic biology, and to commercialize technologies that can improve health at the individual, community and national levels.

"We're saying that our Baltimore region is going to be globally competitive at the intersection of those two tech focus areas," Chatterjee said.

The technology can be used in areas such as clinical decision-making, bioethics, development of personalized medicine and new therapeutics. Other goals include developing advanced biomanufacturing capabilities and developing advanced med-tech manufacturing.

The consortium estimates an economic impact of \$3.2 billion in the region by 2030 and a global economic impact of \$600 billion by that year.

The group includes historically Black colleges and universities Morgan State University and Coppin State University, along with the Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, University of Maryland Medical Center, University of Maryland Baltimore, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Towson University, Harford Community College and Cecil College.

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projects requiring \$700 million in funding. In addition, 60 area tech firms have offered letters of support for the bid.

Some area companies supporting the effort include Haystack Oncology, which developed testing technology to aid in early detection of cancer; EpiWatch, which developed an app to help manage epilepsy; and Bullfrog AI, which uses machine learning to develop pharmaceuticals.

“The world is moving digital, and technology is the backbone to all of that,” said Todd Marks, founder, president and CEO of Baltimore-based Mindgrub Technologies, a consortium member. “By being a tech hub ... [the region] is going to get that much more attention, and then fast-forward 10, 15, 20 years, it’s going to be phenomenal for us.”

The Baltimore region already should be recognized for its assets and advances in med tech and other technologies, but often is not seen that way, he said.

The region — which includes Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Carroll, Cecil and Queen Anne’s counties — has an advantage as home to more than 400 tech startups with access to federal and academic research and development spending and more than a dozen accelerators supporting companies, Chatterjee said.

The region also has a history of commercialization in medical diagnostics, health care analytics, medical devices, and gene and drug therapeutics. With a diverse racial population, the region has a chance as well to develop an equitable and inclusive tech hub, he said.

“With the private institutes we have here and the universities, I think we have the ideal ecosystem for hosting such a hub,” said Willie E. May, vice president of research and economic development and a chemistry professor at Morgan State. “We think we have all of the components that are necessary to put together an innovative, vibrant and thriving tech hub to move this country forward in this area.”

The bid marks one of the GBC’s first big initiatives under the leadership of Mark Anthony Thomas, who steered economic development in Pittsburgh, New York and Los Angeles before replacing **longtime GBC CEO Donald Fry** in December, taking over a group that merged last year with **the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore**. In unveiling **a 10-year strategy for the city and region in May**, Thomas said economic expansion could be fueled by more involvement from the private sector, working collaboratively with government and community members, with GBC as an active leader.

“What has been really inspiring is to see how GBC has stepped into this coalition-building role,” said Andrew Coy, CEO of Digital Harbor Foundation, a consortium member that works to create pathways from the classroom to future technology careers.

“I’m really encouraged to see how this moment is taking shape,” he said, with members thinking broadly about what’s best for the region and making room for each other’s ideas.

“It does feel like we’re all linking arms and ... bringing this type of energy to the region,” Coy said. “There’s more than e

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The region's proposal outlines several ideas for building the hub, each of which includes collaboration with various combinations of stakeholders.

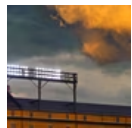
One concept involves creating an accelerator and funding program that would invest in AI-based therapeutic ventures led by minority entrepreneurs, with partners such as Blackbird Labs, Fearless, Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland, Upsurge and Morgan State. Another proposes building a physical center to anchor the hub.

Morgan State will be developing property near its campus that could house hub-related facilities, May said. And three of Morgan's state-funded research centers could play a role as well, including the Center for Equitable AI & Machine Learning Systems, the Cybersecurity Assurance & Policy Center and a new Center for Education and Research in Microelectronics, where a small chips manufacturing facility will be installed for education and demonstration purposes.

"We want to be in a position to support the future workforce in this area of advanced chips manufacturing," May said.

The proposal also calls for bio-manufacturing facilities that could produce biomaterials; lab infrastructure to support biotech; and life sciences startups and workforce development and training.

Coy said that if the region's bid is successful, he would like to see efforts to "help young people in Baltimore today see that they can be a part of that picture" of emerging tech careers. Programs, which would be fleshed out later in the hub designation process, could take many forms, from mentorships to workshops at rec centers hosted by professionals in emerging industries.



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The bid's regional focus means participation from surrounding counties.

"I really feel like Howard County is in a good position to strengthen that application and also benefit from it," said Jennifer Jones, CEO of the Howard County Economic Development Authority.

The authority already is working to scale up emerging technology through the Maryland Innovation Center in Columbia, where about 30 incubator tech and other startups are getting help growing and promoting businesses. A tech hub designation and funding would allow the center to expand its work to more of the county and the broader region and better cultivate an emerging technology pipeline, Jones said.

Areas selected as hubs in September will be eligible to move on to a second phase to apply for funding for specif

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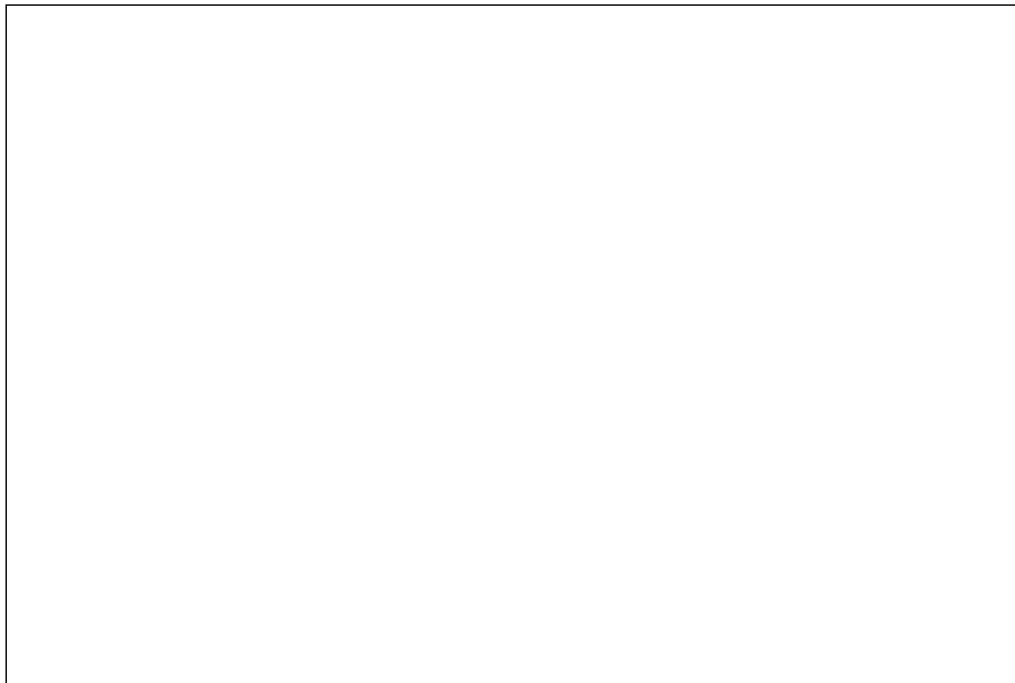
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A hub in Baltimore would not only stem the city's declining population and attract businesses and tech jobs, but could have national implications, helping to control rising health care costs, Chatterjee said.

Studies have shown that broader adoption of AI in health care can lead to cost savings of 5% to 10%, he said.

"By growing our AI and biotech ecosystem in Baltimore," he said, "we can help contribute to national priorities around reining in health care spending."



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BUSINESS

Baltimore selected as federal tech hub for artificial intelligence and biotechnology

By Lorraine Mirabella

Baltimore Sun • Published: Oct 23, 2023 at 10:16 am



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The Baltimore region has been awarded a federal designation as a national tech hub, which could generate hundreds of millions of dollars of investment and create tens of thousands of jobs.

The region, which includes Baltimore and seven surrounding counties, was selected as one of 31 cities or regions for the federal Tech Hubs Program, putting the area in line for a share of an estimated \$500 million in federal funding over five years.

President Joe Biden was expected to announce the hubs Monday.

The designation is **expected to generate \$4.2 billion in economic impact and 52,000 jobs by 2030**, according to estimates from the Greater Baltimore Committee, which organized a bid developed by a 38-member consortium of business and technology leaders.

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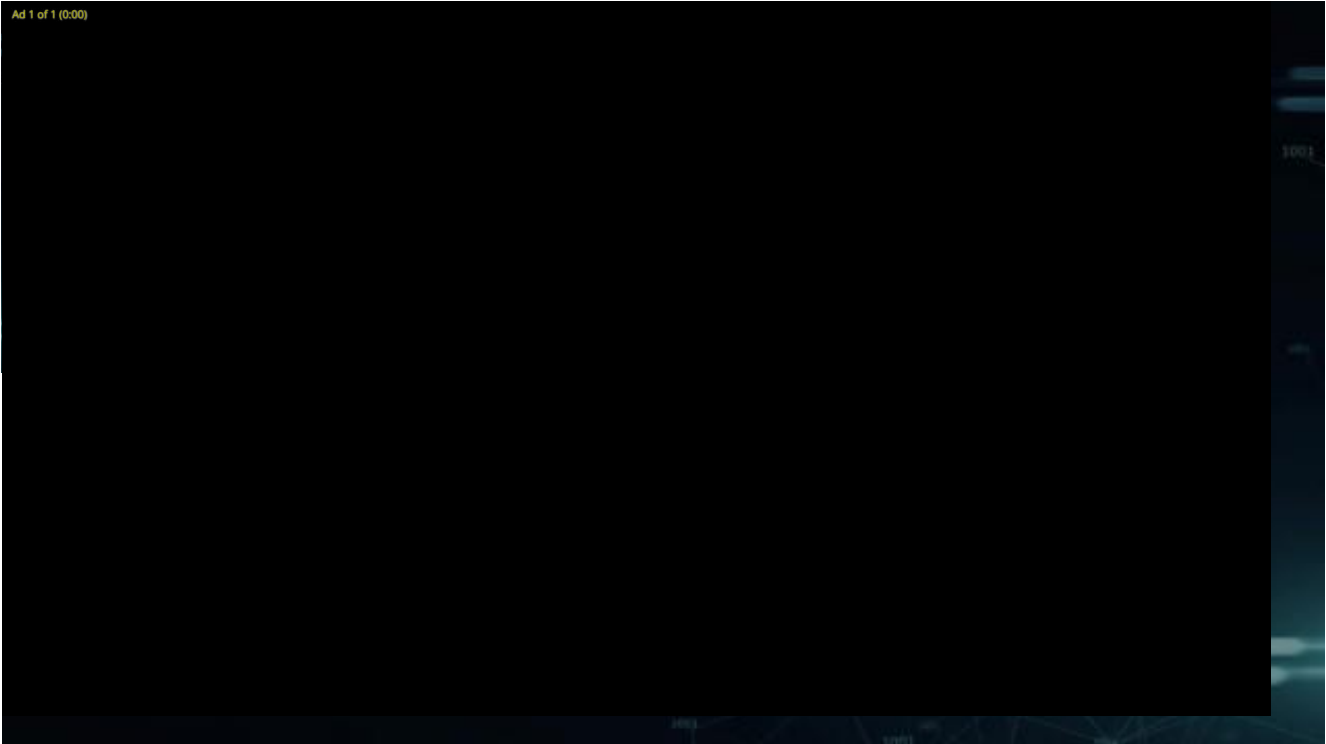
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The regional hub plans to focus on artificial intelligence and biotechnology, a combination still in the early stages of adoption. It refers to the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning on health data for applications such as diagnostics and drug development.

Members of Maryland’s congressional delegation said Monday that they expect the tech hub program to jumpstart high-tech industries and entrepreneurs across the Baltimore region.

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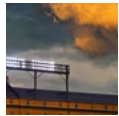
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Sarbanes, Kweisi Mfume and David Trone.

Baltimore submitted its application in August to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. A group of area businesses, colleges and universities, workforce development experts, and state and local government officials are expected to work together to develop the hub.

The bid touted the Baltimore region as an established home to more than 400 tech startups with access to federal and academic research and development spending and more than a dozen accelerators supporting companies. The region also has a history of commercialization in medical diagnostics, health care analytics, medical devices, and gene and drug therapeutics, the application said.

The \$10 billion federal initiative, approved as part of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, aims to spur technology-related manufacturing and commercialization in parts of the U.S. with potential to become globally competitive and create jobs in 10 years.



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The program aims to diversify technology investment and development beyond Silicon Valley, Boston and New York, which currently attract 80% of tech funding.

Baltimore's hub will look to combine artificial intelligence, machine learning and autonomy with biotech, medical technology, genomics and synthetic biology, and to commercialize technologies that can improve health at the individual, community and national levels.

The technology can be used in areas such as clinical decision-making, bioethics, development of personalized medicine and new therapeutics. Other goals include developing advanced biomanufacturing capabilities and developing advanced med-tech manufacturing.

The Baltimore consortium has identified 40 tech-related projects requiring \$700 million in funding.

Each of the 31 designated hubs will be eligible to move on to a second phase to apply for funding for specific projects. An initial pool of \$500 million of the \$10 billion has been allocated to distribute among all hubs in the first phase.

The bid marks one of the GBC's first big initiatives under the leadership of Mark Anthony Thomas, who steered economic development in Pittsburgh, New York and Los Angeles before replacing longtime GBC CEO Donald Fry in December, taking over a group that merged last year with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore.

This story will be updated.



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Technology

Carroll, Harford and Frederick counties partner to win federal tech grant



Image: Matt Hooke/Baltimore Business Journal

Graham Dodge, CEO of technology and economic development nonprofit MAGIC, speaking at the ribbon cutting for the Autonomous Robotics Innovation Center earlier this year. His organization has partnered to win a federal tech grant.

MATT HOOKE/BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL



By [Matt Hooke](#) – Reporter, Baltimore Business Journal
Nov 16, 2023

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Three rural Maryland counties earned the first phase of a federal grant program that could funnel up to roughly \$3 million in federal funding to the region to boost the self-driving vehicle industry.

Westminster's Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory (MAGIC) led an effort with the Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI) and the Harford County Office of Economic Development to win the Ignite grant of the [federal Build to Scale program](#). The grant awarded Nov. 9 will provide \$274,498 to the three organizations to write a strategic plan that will outline how the region can build a technology economy and take advantage of more federal and private funding.

If the strategic plan MAGIC creates catches the eye of the federal government, the area could then receive two additional federal grants that could bring up to an additional \$2.75 million to the region. The second "Build" grant, meant to fund piloting or adapting new programs, could provide up to \$750,000 in funding. The third "Scale" grant, which would go toward scaling up proven programs, could provide between \$750,000 and \$2 million.

The three counties chose to work together since they are largely rural with tech economies based on defense contractors, MAGIC Executive Director Graham Dodge said. He believes the coalition will focus on the autonomous vehicle industry, but emphasized that the project is still in the very early stages. The focus on autonomous vehicles would help Carroll County continue its effort to become a hub for self-driving vehicles. MAGIC recently earned a [makerspace grant](#) from the Maryland Technology Development Corp. to add 3D printing and manufacturing equipment to its [autonomous vehicle center in Westminster](#).

Winning the future rounds of Build to Scale dollars will be easier for MAGIC since Carroll County [is part of the Baltimore Tech Hub](#). The federal designation gives companies in the area priority when they apply for Economic Development Administration programs like Build to Scale. The MAGIC application for Build to Scale occurred at the time a coalition led by the Greater Baltimore Committee started work on the tech hub designation, so it's unlikely it had an impact on the initial Ignite grant award, Dodge said.

How the future federal grants may be spent depends on the result of the strategic plan, Dodge said, with potential uses ranging from new offices to workforce development. The projects could also see how autonomous technologies can affect industries outside of transportation. [The "Digital Twin" simulation](#) that MAGIC is developing with Dynamic Dimensions Technologies to plan an autonomous transit network in Westminster could be used to model manufacturing or other private industry processes, Dodge said.

"As the process continues, we'll discover new opportunities," Dodge said. "And new assumptions may replace old ones."

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Coppermine takes over Bel Air Athletic Club, plans \$4 million overhaul



Coppermine has plans to take over the Bel Air Athletic Club and launch a \$4 million overhaul.

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TEXT WITH OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



By Melody Simmons
Senior Reporter, Baltimore Business Journal
Feb 16, 2023
Updated Feb 16, 2023, 3:30pm EST

See Correction/Clarification at end of article



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Coppermine plans to take over the Bel Air Athletic Club, saving the popular suburban fitness center from closing at the last minute.

Alex Jacobs, owner of the fast-growing Baltimore youth and amateur sports company, said Thursday that Coppermine will assume operation of the four-decade-old Harford County club this week in an undisclosed deal.

Plans to shut down the club for good on Feb. 16 were announced last month and sparked a public outcry. Club operator Wellbridge, listed as Starmark Camhood II LLC, last month blamed Covid-19 and its impact on the health and fitness club industry for the closure.

WBAL-TV reported in January that the facility's Massachusetts-based landlord, SNH Well Properties GA-MD LLC, charged in Harford County District Court that Wellbridge was behind on its rent payment for the club at 6000 St.

Enter Coppermine, which has been in the area for Greater Baltimore for the past five years

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Jacobs said the club will be closed for about three months for a \$4 million overhaul that will include new machines, lighting, flooring and common areas. The acquisition is Coppermine's first athletic club in Harford County "and we're excited about it," he said.

He said in a statement to club members that he toured the club in late January and met a 93-year-old member who lauded the club as a local institution that had given her a "sense of community" for years as a widow with six children.

"I made a silent promise to my 93.5-year-old new friend that she would continue to have her rock, her source of strength and community," Jacobs wrote. "This is 'why' Coppermine signed a letter of intent to take over the BAAC and be part of your community in Harford County. This is why we will ask for you to support us on this journey."

Coppermine has several facilities and youth sports camps around the metro area including a project underway to convert the North Carroll County High School complex in Hampstead into a large-scale sports and entertainment center. Coppermine has other sites in Baltimore City, as well as in Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Harford counties.

The company is developing a large youth sports complex in Edgewood for tournament play. It opened its first membership-based boutique fitness center last year in 22,000 square feet of space at  Towson called The Mine, taking over the former Stebbins Anderson store.

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FOOD & LIFESTYLE

Das Bierhalle Bel Air opening in former Black Eyed Suzie's space



Das Bierhalle, a German-style restaurant in Parkville, will be opening a second location in Bel Air's former Black Eyed Suzie's space this week.

DAS BIERHALLE BEL AIR

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TEXT WITH OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



By Morgan Simpson
Reporter , Baltimore Business Journal
Mar 28, 2023



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A German beer hall-style restaurant is poised to open this week in Bel Air's former Black Eyed Suzie's space.

Das Bierhalle Bel Air owners Mel and [Scott Bauer](#) are soft-launching their new location to family and friends this week before officially opening to the public. The Bauers took over the space at 119 S. Main St. on February 1 and converted it to their concept, which has another location in Parkville.

Black Eyed Suzie's owner [Brian Acuavella](#) announced on Facebook in December that he was "passing on the amazing restaurant torch" to the Bauers after over six years in business.

The Bauers are leasing the roughly 8,000-square-foot space that will have around 25 employees to start off. Das Bierhalle Bel Air will have 30 draft lines with 100 bottles and cans of beer.

Customers can expect to find fresh paint, new tables and chairs, communal-style seating, refurbished floors and new lighting that fits the Das Bierhalle Oktoberfest theme.

"We've been looking around to expand to a new location but weren't sure where that was going to be," [Mel Bauer](#) said.

[Bauer and his husband moved to work for Acuavella in 2016](#)

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The restaurant has been “very successful” over the last few years and Bauer credited some of the success to her husband being a “social media guru.” He grew the Facebook audience from 5,000 followers to around 25,000 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The couple was already eyeing expansion plans when Acquavella reached out about taking over the Black Eyed Suzie’s space. The Bauers received the keys on February 1 and have been in the building “sun up and sun down most days fixing things up.”

Bauer said they weren’t allowed to make structural changes to the building since it was historic, but the couple brought it “to life.” Vendors and representatives like the brightness of the space, she added.

Along with a new look, Das Bierhalle Bel Air will also offer more food options than the Parkville location, including some gluten-free options.

“It’s a much bigger kitchen so we have some opportunity to play around a little bit,” Bauer said.

She declined to give a formal opening date, adding that they want it to be a more gradual process.

Das Bierhalle isn’t the only German-style restaurant opening this spring. A beer garden-style restaurant is also set to open in Hampden.

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FOOD & DRINK

Das Bierhalle will open a second bar and restaurant, replacing a popular Bel Air spot

By Amanda Yeager

Baltimore Sun • Dec 29, 2022 at 5:45 pm



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FEEDBACK



Das Bierhalle will take over the building belonging to Black Eyed Suzie's on Bel Air's Main Street. (Matt Button / The Aegis/Baltimore Sun Media)

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Das Bierhalle, Parkville's German-style bar and restaurant, will expand to Harford County in the new year.

The beer hall has plans to take over Black Eyed Suzie's, a popular Bel Air spot, in early 2023, Das Bierhalle co-owner Scott Bauer said this week.

"It's going to be a great opportunity for us to see if we can take our concept and put it in a bigger space," he said.

In Bel Air, Das Bierhalle will have a rooftop bar and deck and a "dramatically bigger" kitchen that can accommodate a longer menu. Bauer said he expects to add some "healthier" and gluten-free options, as well as an expanded wine list.

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By [Zenni](#)

Diners who have already raised a pint at the Parkville location can also expect to find many of the same offerings in Bel Air, including more than 30 beers on tap, as well as a vast selection of bottled and canned brews. The bar menu will also have a generous selection of crushes in more than two dozen flavors, priced at \$6 for a 32-ounce serving.

This will be a second location for Das Bierhalle, which will also keep its “home base” on Harford Road. Bauer said the beer hall’s success in Baltimore County inspired him and his partners in the restaurant to branch out.

“We felt like we had a pretty good business model that’s proven at this point, and we’re happy with how things have evolved,” he said.

Black Eyed Suzie’s will remain open for another month, through Jan. 29, according to a Facebook post from owner Brian Acquavella, who said he is ready to step away from the daily grind of the restaurant industry after 22 years in the business. He opened Black Eyed Suzie’s on Bel Air’s Main Street in 2016, in a building that has a reputation as a “cursed” spot, based on the restaurant’s long list of predecessors.

In his announcement, Acquavella said Black Eyed Suzie’s “broke that darn curse,” “thrived during COVID” and “enjoyed our best year ever in 2022.”

“It has been over 6 years of fun on Main Street, but I believe it’s the right time in my life for me to allow someone else to carry on the enthusiasm myself and my team have displayed for so long,” he wrote.

Bauer also shrugged off the idea of a curse on the building he’ll be taking over next year.

“It’s not an easy game to operate a restaurant,” he said. “Concepts come and go, things work or don’t work. It’s nothing about being cursed.”



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Story by Aerial Storey 

U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center 

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD – Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (DEVCOM CBC) officially formalized an Educational Partnership Agreement during a signing ceremony that took place at JHU's Shriver Hall in Baltimore,

Maryland on September 11, 2023.

The agreement outlines an official basis of mutual understanding and cooperation between DEVCOM CBC and JHU to encourage and enhance education and research opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs and disciplines relevant to the Center's science and technology programs. Specifically, DEVCOM CBC will support educational opportunities at JHU that allow CBC personnel to teach science courses or to assist in developing science courses and materials for the university. It also permits JHU faculty to be involved in defense laboratory research projects at DEVCOM CBC.

With JHU and DEVCOM CBC working collaboratively on research projects as outlined in the agreement, the partnership also enables an internship program allowing JHU students and postdocs to gain experience working at DEVCOM CBC on defense laboratory research projects. The EPA naturally came to fruition with many CBC employees pursuing their post-graduate degrees at JHU.

Researchers from the Materials Science in Extreme Environments (MSEE) community at JHU worked closely with DEVCOM CBC scientists for assistance in developing and characterizing energetic materials for agent defeat. The JHU researchers worked under the direction of Tim Weihs, a professor of materials science and engineering, as well as the director of the MSEE University Research Alliance at JHU.

Weihs explained how the partnership naturally occurred through the involvement of CBC personnel at JHU-hosted events. "People at DEVCOM CBC have been very supportive and willing to engage. It comes down to establishing good relationships and building those relationships."

The partnership offers many benefits for both parties, enabling JHU to be supported in their research efforts by gaining access to the laboratory-grade equipment at the CBC, in addition to harnessing the expertise of Center professionals.

The partnership could further help to build a pipeline to transition STEM graduates from JHU into CBC. "It is exciting we can formalize a strong relationship with a partner like JHU and keep building on each other's strengths to achieve our individual goals and organizational missions together," said Amanda Hess, supervisory engineer for strategic initiatives at DEVCOM CBC. "Principals on both sides of the partnership have demonstrated the power of partnership and exchange of intellect so it will be exciting to see what challenges we will tackle together in the future."

For more information about the DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center, visit <https://cbc.DEVCOM.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Chemical Biological Center (CBC) is aligned under the U.S. Army Futures Command (AFC) and U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM.)

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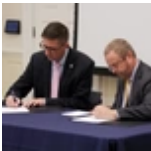
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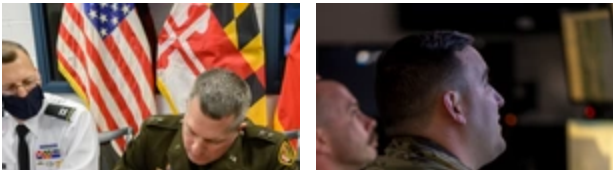
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HEALTH CARE

Faces to Watch 2023: Elizabeth Wise, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health



Elizabeth Wise has marked a year as president and CEO of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health.

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IN THIS ARTICLE

Executive Profiles

Topic

Hospitals

Topic

Elizabeth Wise

Person

Lyle Sheldon

Person



By Joanna Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief, Baltimore Business Journal

Jan 6, 2023

Updated Jan 9, 2023, 8:23am EST



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This profile is part of the BBJ's 2023 Faces to Watch issue, which highlights the local leaders poised to make headlines in the coming year. [Click here to see the full list.](#)

Elizabeth Wise may as well be wearing a construction hard hat these days.

The CEO of the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, about to enter her second year on the job, is overseeing \$250 million worth of construction projects – including the hospital's new campus – that are scheduled to be completed in the new year. The Harford County health system is replacing the aging University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital with a new 220,806-square-foot campus in Aberdeen, a 72-bed patient tower atop its Kaufman Cancer Center in Bel Air and a four-story ambulatory care surgery center in Bel Air.

Wise said the simultaneous projects are consuming much of her time and expects that to be among her biggest challenges in the year ahead. They're slated to open near the end of 2023.

"We are continuing to add services and buildings to support the health of the community," Wise said in an interview. "It really speaks to the investment in Harford County."

The goal of the project is to open up access to patients so they can receive care closer to home, she said.

The Aberdeen campus, for example, will have various practices such as primary care, oncology and orthopedics in the building. It will be connected to a medical center that will have an emergency room, observation rooms with short-stay beds and inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services.

"It's really about getting the patients to the right settings where we can meet their needs – and provide a great experience," she said.

Wise said the patients and the staff remain her main focus whether it's in improving facilities or trying to retain qualified workers who have faced burnout during the pandemic.

She took the top job at Upper Chesapeake, which employs more than 3,600 staff and nearly 500 physicians, in January 2022.

"I came at the height of omicron in January," she said "The focus was very much taking care of patients – and taking care of the people who take care of patients."

Previously, Wise held several roles with Lehigh Valley Health Network, a nonprofit health system with nine hospitals in Pennsylvania, including as president of two hospitals and president of the health system's north region. She succeeded CEO Lyle Sheldon at Upper Chesapeake, who retired from the system after 34 years. Sheldon oversaw the 2013 merger with UMMS and the transition from Fallston General Hospital to the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air in 2000.

Wise said she was drawn to the University of Maryland Medical System, Upper Chesapeake's parent, and the Harford County institution itself – the second largest employer in the county – because of its strong sense of community.

"What I love about my job is the people," she said. "You get into health care because you care about the team members. I love our community."

The health system, like many post-pandemic, is seeing a large number of retirements. Wise says "the great retirement" keeps her up at night. She's trying to figure out how to engage with the people she oversees to make sure they stay.

"It's about finding joy in the workplace – so that people want to come to work every day and love the work that they're doing," she added.

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FOOD & LIFESTYLE

Harford County restaurant group to open steakhouse, catering and events hall



The Local, a restaurant in Fallston, opened in August 2021 and is run by Owner and Executive Chef Zack Trabbold. Now, Trabbold is looking to grow his footprint with two new businesses.

SV IMAGES

IN THIS ARTICLE

Restaurants
Topic

By Morgan Simpson
Reporter , Baltimore Business Journal
Dec 27, 2022
Updated Dec 27, 2022, 4:15pm EST

See Correction/Clarification at end of article

 Listen to this article 4 min 

A third-place win in the 2021 World Food Championships made one Harford County restaurateur realize the only

way was up.

Now, within two years of opening its first restaurant, The Local in Fallston, Evolved Hospitality Group will expand in the new year with a steakhouse and raw bar concept, as well as a catering and events business.

Owner and Executive Chef Zack Trabbold, a former chef at the Bygone in Harbor East, said he started the restaurant group because of the wealth of local products in and around Harford County.

“It’s just a really rich agricultural area,” Trabbold said.

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In the next few months, Evolved will open a full-service catering hall called the Evolved Event Center, designed for small weddings of up to 150 guests. Trabbold, who is the sole owner of the center, plans to get one side of the building up and running before expanding into the rest of the space in another year or so. When complete, the event center will be able to hold around 300 guests.

The center will also host various cooking classes focused on dishes such as pasta and sushi, and will include a nationwide delivery meal prep area with ingredients and cooking



Zack Trabbold is the Owner and Executive Chef of Evolved Hospitality Group.

SV IMAGES

instructions to make The Local's popular beef wellington dish.

Trabbold, as a majority owner along with partners Bobby Winsor and Scott Nortman, said on Dec. 20 he was taking over Black Forest Taphouse in the new year. However, the deal has fallen through and the current owners of Black Forest are staying, Black Forest announced on social media.

The steakhouse and raw bar concept called Butcher and Banter will still be opening in Harford County in 2023.

Trabbold could not be reached on Tuesday for further comment about the Black Forest deal and a new location.



Evolved Hospitality Group plans to convert an existing Fallston restaurant into a new steakhouse and raw bar concept called Butcher and Banter.

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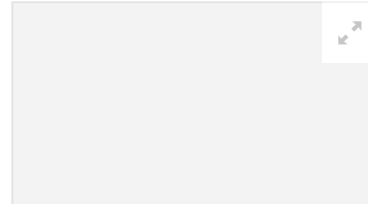
The steakhouse will source products locally as well as offer other items like Japanese Wagyu. For the raw bar, all types of seafood will be offered including oysters, crab legs, fresh fish and clams. Once the restaurant is established, Trabbold said there are plans to incorporate a full-service butcher shop.

Trabbold said Butcher and Banter will be high-end, but no dress code will be enforced, which is similar to The Local's policy.

All of the self-funded restaurant group's new ventures were made possible because of Trabbold's flagship restaurant The Local at 1918 Belair Road in Fallston, he said.

Trabbold and business partners Winsor and Howard Neivod opened The Local in August 2021. Two months after opening, Trabbold took his culinary team to the World Food Championships and placed third out of 1,500 chefs from around the world.

“That was really, really cool,” Trabbold said. “It was actually, I feel like our launching point.”



The Local this year underwent renovations to take over the other half of its building, which expanded its capacity from 60 seats to around 150 seats.

SV IMAGES

The Local offers “elevated comfort food,” with creative dishes such as one brunch entree, chicken and waffles, served with jalapeno and agave butter, cornbread, scallion, chorizo waffle and Thai curry gravy.

While there are places in Baltimore that have a similar focus on local growers, Trabbold felt there was a need for such concepts in Harford County.

“I feel like that’s something that people get a kick out of when they come here,” Trabbold said. “You never know what you are going to get.”

The Local this year underwent renovations to take over the other half of its building, which expanded its capacity from 60 seats to around 150 seats.

Correction/Clarification

The story has been updated to include information from Black Forest Taphouse saying the deal with Evolved Hospitality Group has fallen through. Evolved’s Trabbold provided the original information last week about the takeover of Black Forest for his new steakhouse.

First-ever APG Demo Day draws large numbers

By Rachel Ponder, APG News June 5, 2023



[<https://api.army.mil/e2/c/images/2023/06/05/0fa901ef/original.jpg>]

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ABREDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.— Approximately 7,000 people attended Team APG's first-ever "Proving It" Demonstration Day held on the grounds of Garrison Headquarters and the main front of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center May 20, 2023. It was hosted by the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

The free event, held on Armed Forces Day, featured more than 30 exhibits with cutting-edge military technology and innovations. Participants were encouraged to ask Soldiers

and civilians questions, take photos and videos, and share them on the APG Facebook and Instagram pages.

At noon, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard) Army Drill Team performed for attendees. Spc. Jordan Sanders, the team's narrator, said the U.S. Army Drill Team aims for precision and excellence.

"The drill team represents today's Soldiers as well as yesterday's heroes who proudly fought in the Revolutionary War and continue to serve in all capacities," he said.

Sanders encouraged the audience to cheer as the Soldiers completed the demonstration.

"The total Army must be ready for today, modernized for tomorrow and strengthened by close relationships with our allies and partners," he said.

The performance concluded with a front-to-rear overhead rifle toss, the U.S. Army Drill Team's signature maneuver since 1958.

"This is an exercise in trust, as each member will have to put their safety in the hands of their brother's- in- arms," Sanders said.

After the performance, the Soldiers chatted with attendees and let them hold their rifles. Caroline Howard, 10, said she was impressed with the demonstration.

"They are very talented, and they have to put their lives in other people's hands, flipping around the gun," she said.

While the attendees were gathered, they witnessed a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter landing. Afterward, they could sit in the helicopter and talk to the pilots.

CW2 Ian Sinclair with the Maryland Air National Guard said this helicopter is versatile. Because of this, there are more Black Hawk helicopters than Apache and Chinook helicopters.

"I want people to see how this airframe supports the warfighter," he said.

Exhibits

Dr. Maria Gonzalez, an entomologist with the Defense Centers for Public Health-Aberdeen, said their exhibit featured several insects, including a bee colony, a Madagascar cockroach, and pictures of common pests like bed bugs. She told them the Soldiers wear uniforms that are treated with insecticide.

"The military cares about their Soldier's' health, so one of the things we have to evaluate [is] if insects can give them diseases," she explained.

Stefan Williams, a chemical engineer with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Power Division, said their exhibit featured batteries and alternative energy power generation sources, like power generation through a kinetic backpack.

Williams showed attendees batteries in the small tactical universal battery, or STUB, family. The STUB family is a ground-breaking new series of standardized, rugged, lightweight, rechargeable batteries that reduces the warfighter's battery burden and logistical footprint caused by needing different types of platform-specific batteries.

"The biggest feedback that we got was the standardization of the battery is going to be a big benefit to the Army," he said.

Ian Laforge, a computer engineer with ATC's Survivability and Lethality Directorate, Ballistics Instrumentation Division, led a demonstration where attendees could hit an amorphous dummy with a baseball bat. Laforge explained that the amorphous dummy is similar to a crash test dummy. He said that this demonstration illustrates how the head responds to the movement from the impact and how a hit would equate to an injury.

Laforge said the unique activity drew long lines to the demonstration.

"We had something physical to get the children and their parents engaged," he said.

Live fire

About 4,000 people attended the live fire ticketed event at ATC, which was also live streamed on Facebook by the Defense Media Agency. The program opened with an A-10 aerial flyover conducted by the 175th Wing, a Maryland Air National Guard unit stationed at Martin State Airport in Middle River.

APG Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Edmonson II welcomed attendees to APG, "where we prove it every day."

"We are excited to see the looks on your faces as you watch your Army in action," he said.

This was the first time a live fire was open to the public since 2017.

He said APG, established in 1917, is the oldest active proving ground in the United States. The live fire provides a "behind the curtain" look at the testing; attendees will "experience the sounds of freedom."

"We are still going strong," he said. "If the Soldier uses the weapon anywhere in the world, that weapon has been likely researched, developed, and tested right here in your backyard."

Narrator Wayne Strine, a division chief from ATC, said the first test round was fired on Jan. 2, 1918.

"In the last 105 years, over 500,000,000 rounds have been fired here; if you do the math, that's around 5,000,000 rounds a year, 96,000 per week, 2,400 per hour, or 40 per minute, so why don't we add to that 500,000,000-round total," he said, as the crowd cheered.

During the live fire, several vehicles were featured, including the M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank, equipped with a smooth bore 120mm cannon, which produced the loudest boom.

For the finale, a military family was selected to start the combined arms exercise, where all the systems engaged all targets all at once. 1st Lt. Stephanie McClain, with DCPH-A, surprised her husband Brian and their two daughters, Luci, 4, and Aurora, 7, during the ceremony by coming out from one of the vehicles. She was deployed more than nine

months in Southwest Asia, she said, and was able to return home a little earlier than previously planned.

"I tried not to cry; this was a happy time," she said about reuniting with them during the ceremony.

McClain thanked her neighbors who provided support and served as an extended family while she was deployed.

"I had to opportunity to come home about 10 days early, which never happens; it is always later," McClain said a few days after the live fire. "[Because I came home early] I have had the opportunity to pick them up at school, help with their field days; the little things that some people take for granted."

To close the ceremony, ATC Commander Col. Timothy Matthews welcomed McClain home and said he hoped the live fire demonstration gave attendees a glimpse into what they do at ATC.

"We could not successfully complete our missions without our families and our friend's love and support," he said.

After the live fire, attendees viewed the static displays of military vehicles and exhibits.

John Orem, 10, said he is going to join the Army in eight years. He said he looks up to his relatives who also served.

"This is the best day of my life," he said. "I was born do it [serve in the military]."

Lise Swanson, from Bel Air, said she took her family to Demo Day because her son is interested in military equipment.

"There was so much to see today," she said. "The Black Hawk [helicopter] was a highlight."

Military child Mason Phillips, 11, said he has always been interested in tanks.

"I have only seen tanks blow things up on TV," Phillips said. "But now that I experienced it first-hand, I feel like I have seen freedom."

U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Public Affairs Officer Rebecca Nappi said the demonstrations at APG's Proving It Demo Day showcased the extraordinary missions this workforce accomplishes to ready our Soldiers for the battlefields of today and tomorrow.

"Whether you hear APG's testing of military weaponry from your home or always wondered what exactly your neighbor worked on within the installation, Demo Day was a chance to learn more about our installation and the people who work hard every single day behinds its gates," she said.

For more photos, visit: [First-ever APG Demo Day draws large numbers-May 20, 2023 | Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/albums/72177720308779825) [https://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/albums/72177720308779825]

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HARFORD COUNTY

Five things not to miss at the new children's STEM museum in Harford County

By Mary Carole McCauley
Baltimore Sun • Published: Nov 07, 2023 at 6:00 am



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 Expand



Nishaun Moses, 9, watches balls float in the air in the wind tube at the Discovery Center at Water's Edge, a new kids' STEM and heritage center in Harford County. The grand opening is Nov. 10. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

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Charlie **Nietubicz** has coined a word — “edutainment” — describing the mission of the new Discovery Center at Water’s Edge, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics museum opening Nov. 10.

“We don’t want to make this look like a classroom,” said **Nietubicz**, president of the Belcamp museum. “We want children to enjoy themselves playing without even realizing they’re learning.”

Mission accomplished.

Discovery Center is in its relatively modest first phase, with a \$2 million investment in a 5,000-square-foot building including about eight exhibits. The museum’s board plans to raise \$4.5 million by 2025, enough to double the facility’s size and total exhibits.

Eventually — after the board raises \$35 million — there are plans for a 35,000-square-foot facility that could accommodate 100,000 visitors annually. **Nietubicz** estimates it will take at least five years to complete this phase.

But there's plenty to see and do now.



“This place is awesome,” said Melissa Stutzman, 42, of Aberdeen, who recently brought her 6-year-old daughter Maggie to Discovery Center. “I knew it was coming and I’ve been stalking it. It’s going to be a wonderful resource for this area.”

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Kids get a chance to use sand to create a watershed and see the topography change. The opening of the first phase of Discovery Center at Water's Edge, a new kids' STEM and heritage center in Harford County. The grand opening is Nov. 10. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

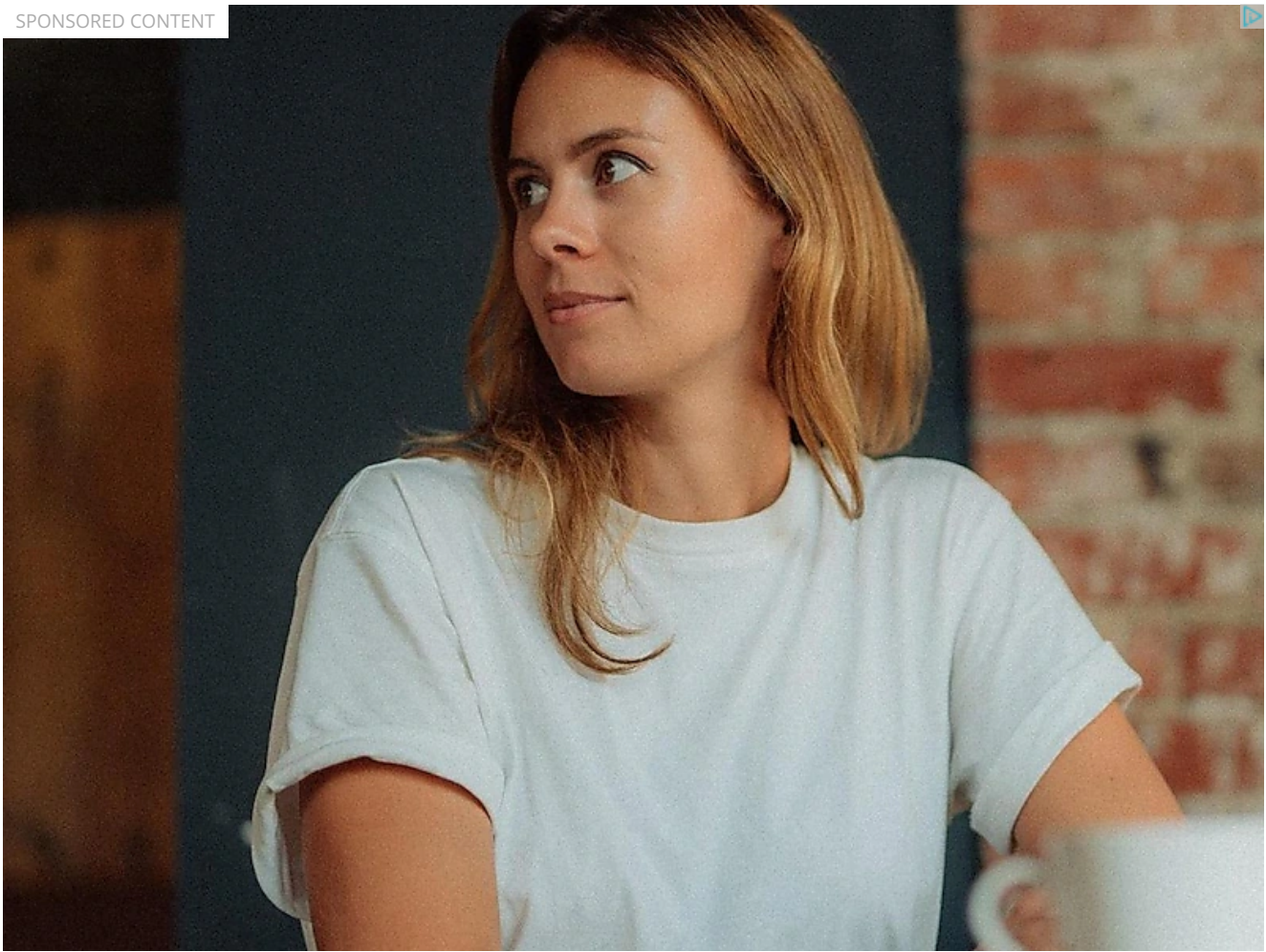
Why Things Fly: Maggie squealed as she released a cardboard parachute into a giant wind tunnel. The parachute caught the air and sailed over her head. “This is so much fun!” she said. Nearby, other children were attaching balloons to Lego block cars and then “racing” them down a wooden tabletop. Lessons being taught: the fundamentals of aerodynamics and Newton’s Third Law of Motion, which holds that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Jayla Moses, 6, of Aberdeen, was playing in what appeared to be a giant sandbox, heaping fistfuls of sand into mountains, then cutting them with the side of her hand to form streams. When she held her hands over the sandbox to simulate clouds, purple lights appeared to make it “rain” over the landscape. What Jayla was learning: how different topographies create areas where pools of water collect, and the implications that runoff has for pollution.

My Keurig Stopped Working — Or Was It My Coffee? [🔗](#)

The Keurig machine seemed like a dream come true until I started to notice the coffee had a strange taste to it.

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Inside a Block of Ice: Young scientists don a virtual headset and gradually explore the interior of a block of ice, beginning with a solid cube and descending to the molecular level. While they're looking at the hydrogen and oxygen atoms, the COVID-19 virus floats by. Not only are the kids receiving instruction in elementary physics, this visualization drives home just how tiny a virus is, and how easily people can become infected.

Big Blue Blocks: This activity is aimed at building engineering skills in preschoolers, and consists of large, lightweight blue foam blocks. Diagrams demonstrate how to build a bridge, tunnel and race track.

Kiddie Kitchen: On the menu: rudimentary chemistry. A volunteer reads kids a classic children's book, such as Eric Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." The kids then cook and eat a food mentioned in the book, observing changes in color, texture and taste.

If You Go: *Discovery Center at Water's Edge, 4505 Pulaski Hwy, Belcamp, is open Thursdays-Sundays. Admission costs \$5; a \$2 discount coupon is available through Dec. 31 on the website. 410-417-7116. discoverycentermd.org*

Bel Air, MD

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Neighbor Posts

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Community Corner

Freedom Federal Credit Union Announces New Philanthropic Foundation

The Freedom to Help Foundation was Established to Expand the Credit Union's Efforts to Support Baltimore and Harford County Communities

Freedom Federal Credit Union, Brand Partner

Posted Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 2:25 pm ET

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(Freedom Federal Credit Union)

This is a paid post contributed by a Patch Community Partner. The views expressed in this post are the author's own, and the information presented has not been verified by Patch.

Freedom Federal Credit Union announced today it has established [The Freedom to Help Foundation](#) to further its commitment to community support and to give back to the people, the organizations, and the communities it serves within Baltimore and Harford Counties.

Going forward, all community outreach and financial support will now flow

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organizations and community partners who align with Freedom's mission and community focus areas. Additionally, all existing financial support, like sponsorships, grants, donations, scholarship programs, to name a few, will be funded and managed as programs of *The Freedom to Help Foundation*.

"As Freedom has continued to grow, so too has our commitment to the people and organizations that do so much good in our shared communities", said Mike MacPherson, President and CEO of Freedom Federal Credit Union. Establishing *The Freedom to Help Foundation* takes our commitment to do good in the community to another level. And it also allows others to share in the good we do. The Foundation creates an opportunity for our business and community partners, members, and employees to take part and join us in our philanthropic initiatives. Together, we can accomplish more, and do more, for those in need".

The Freedom to Help Foundation has been incorporated as a 501 (c)3 non-profit, separate from the Credit Union, whose mission is *to enrich the communities we serve, empower individual success through education, provide resources for health and wellness, and to support our military and their families*.

The Foundation is governed by a separate volunteer Board of Directors, functioning independent from the Credit Union. This Board will oversee the review and approval of all financial support considerations on how funds are distributed for community support based on the needs of Baltimore and Harford County communities and their philanthropic organizations.

Additionally, the Credit Union's Community Outreach Committee, which oversees all volunteer efforts, will now be a part of the Foundation.

"In the last five years, Freedom Federal Credit Union has supported over 80+ organizations annually with over \$1.0M of financial support during that time".

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said MacPherson. “The Freedom to Help Foundation will allow us to grow that support in ways we could not even dream before”.

The *Freedom to Help Foundation* will officially launch this month, and there will be more information to share very soon regarding some great initiatives that are planned for 2023.

About The Freedom to Help Foundation

The Freedom to Help Foundation supports Freedom Federal Credit Union’s commitment to the people and communities of Baltimore and Harford Counties. Established in January 2023, the Foundation’s mission is *to enrich the communities we serve, empower individual success through education, provide resources for health and wellness, and to support our military and their families*. Learn more at freedomfcu.org/foundation.

About Freedom Federal Credit Union

Freedom Federal Credit Union is a community-chartered federal credit union offering consumer financial services to those who live, work, volunteer, worship, attend school, or have family in Harford or Baltimore County. Additionally, Freedom offers a full-line of banking services for all businesses, associations, and other organizations that are based in Harford and Baltimore County. Freedom has been in business since 1953 and has six locations. To learn more, visit freedomfcu.org.

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Freedom Federal Credit Union Launches New Foundation To Give Back To Baltimore And Harford Counties



[Van Fisher](#) Editor



says giving back to the communities that helped it grow is essential to building relationships.

“As Freedom has continued to grow, so too has our commitment to the people and organizations that do so much good in our shared communities, MacPherson said.

The Freedom to Help Foundation has been incorporated as a 501 (c)3 non-profit, separate from the Credit Union. The help foundation’s mission statement is to “*enrich the communities we serve, empower individual success through education, provide resources for health and wellness, and to support our military and their families.*”

“In the last five years, Freedom Federal Credit Union has supported over 80+ organizations annually with over \$1.0M of financial support during that time”, said MacPherson. “*The Freedom to Help Foundation* will allow us to grow that support in ways we could not even dream before.”

The foundation’s board of directors will oversee how funds are distributed for community support based on the needs of Baltimore and Harford County residents.

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share in the good we do, MacPherson added. “The Foundation creates an opportunity for our business and community partners, members, and employees to participate and join us in our philanthropic initiatives. Together, we can accomplish more and do more for those in need.”

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President Joe Biden looks on as Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo speaks on the South Lawn of the White House on Aug. 9, 2022, in Washington. "I have to say, in my entire career in public service, I have never seen as much interest in this one," Raimondo told reporters during an Oct. 22, 2023, conference call to preview the announcement of the 31 technology hubs. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

Greater Baltimore region designated as federal tech hub

Daily Record Staff

(https://thedailyrecord.com/author/dailyrecordstaff/) // October 23, 2023
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The Biden administration Monday designated the greater Baltimore region as a federal tech hub through an Economic Development Administration program designed to make regions nationwide globally competitive in emerging technologies.

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The five-month application bid organized by the Greater Baltimore Committee convened area tech firms, academic institutions, state and local government entities, economic development organizations and other stakeholders to identify and develop projects that could benefit from federal funding.

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Mohan Suntha, president and CEO of the University of Maryland Medical System and chair of the GBC Board of Directors, called the designation a pivotal step in the region's journey toward technological leadership and shared prosperity.

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"By harnessing the power of data science and biotechnology, we stand poised to become pioneers in predictive health, with positive impacts on individual patient well-being and community health," Suntha said.

The EDA will name 31 tech hubs from nearly 400 applications and just under 200 consortia designation requests. The Baltimore region could gain access to a share of \$10 billion in investment in the regional bid's area of focus, which include artificial intelligence and biotechnology.

"The support that this investment will bring to the greater Baltimore region — now nationally recognized as an area of high potential — will help grow a more equitable economy that will expand opportunity, lead to better outcomes for our residents and make us an internationally 'ing innovation hub,'" Gov. Wes Moore said.

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Baltimore Mayor Brandon M. Scott said the city has been nurturing a growing tech industry for years and the announcement by the Biden administration will accelerate the work already happening, fuel a new wave of innovation and help attract a new wave of talented residents to the area.

Baltimore County Executive John A. Olszewski Jr. called the announcement a "game changer" for the Baltimore region.

"This designation will help provide the support, resources and opportunities we need to create jobs, grow communities and transform the entire Baltimore region into an innovative hub that create the tools of tomorrow here and now."

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The submitted bid was organized artificial intelligence and biotechnology on the strength of positioning the region as an area that could lead in predictive health technologies, a tech subset that has the potential to improve health outcomes individually and systemically.

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8:00am	Young Professionals Development
12:30pm	MSBA Real Property Section
6:00pm	MSBA Intellectual Property Section
Friday, December 8	
12:30pm	Consumer Bankruptcy Section
Monday, December 11	
12:00pm	Estate & Trust Mentor/Mentee
5:00pm	Connections – Baltimore
Tuesday, December 12	
12:00pm	MSBA Real Property Section
1:00pm	Worcester County Criminal Justice
5:30pm	MSBA Managing Partners Group
5:30pm	MSBA Negligence, Insurance

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(mailto:?subject=Harford Airport recognized for drone research program&body=Harford County Airport was designated as a Drone Center of Excellence in recognition of advancements in drone research, development, testing and production by two on-site companies, SURVICE Engineering and Malloy... You can read the content in details following link
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Harford County Airport was designated as a Drone Center of Excellence in recognition of advancements in drone research, development, testing and production by two on-site companies, SURVICE Engineering and Malloy Aeronautics.

Representatives for U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, officials from Maryland Department of Commerce, state legislators and local officials attended the designation ceremony Oct. 23. County Executive Bob Cassilly presented proclamations.

SURVICE Engineering, located at the airport since 2020, is a pioneer in drone research and development. The company's team of engineers and scientists in its Applied Technology Operation research drone technologies and applications and manage a Certificate of Authority at the airport issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. This authority allows drone flight testing across 120 acres up to a ceiling of 400 feet.



The Tactical Resupply Vehicle-150 (TRV-150) sits on display during the Drone Center of Excellence designation event Oct. 23 at the Harford County Airport Monday October 23. (Photo courtesy of Harford Airport)

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Malloy Aeronautics is also located at the airport and focuses on autonomous heavy-lift cargo drone production.

SURVICE, using Malloy as a key subcontractor, was selected by the U.S. Navy to produce drones that provide autonomous logistics resupply capabilities for Marine Corps combat logistics battalions.

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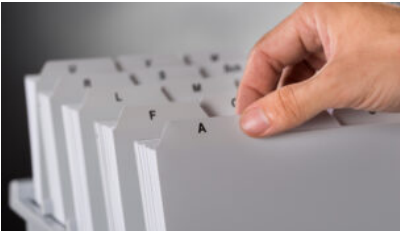


The Daily Record's Giving Guide highlights nonprofits making an impact

The Daily Record Giving Guide features nonprofit organizations who are making an impact on the region.

November 27, 2023

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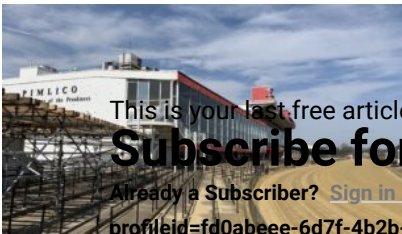
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(mailto:?subject=Harford Chamber celebrates stars at 31st annual Harford Awards&body=Members of the Harford County business community and local dignitaries gathered for the 31st annual Harford Awards Oct. 24 at the Water's Edge Events Center in Belcamp. The award honors... You can read the content in details following link https%3A%2F%2Fthedailyrecord.com%2F2023%2F11%2F16%2Fharford-chamber-celebrates-stars-at-31st-annual-harford-awards%2F)

Members of the Harford County business community and local dignitaries gathered for the 31st annual Harford Awards Oct. 24 at the Water's Edge Events Center in Belcamp. The award honors companies and organizations which exemplify a strong commitment to the Harford County business community. Recipients are chosen through a nomination/application process focused on business growth, increased employment, unique and creative business strategies, technology innovation, and charitable contributions.

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Members of the Harford County business community and local dignitaries gathered for the 31st annual Harford Awards Oct. 24 at the Water's Edge Events Center in Belcamp.

The award honors companies and organizations which exemplify a strong commitment to the Harford County business community. Recipients are chosen through a nomination/application process focused on business growth, increased employment, unique and creative business strategies, technology innovation, and charitable contributions.

Brianne Baccaro Norris, manager at Weyric, Chronin, Sorra and Harford County Chamber Board

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chair welcomed attendees and recognized dignitaries in attendance.

County Executive Bob Cassilly, Harford Community College President Dr. Theresa Felder, president of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health; and Exelon External Affairs Manager Data Cap for Oxford Black

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The 2023 Harford Award winners included Chesapeake Environmental Management, which won the Andy Klein Legacy Award; Elite Power Washing (Service category); Humanim (Nonprofit); Independent Brewing Company (Retail), Hill Tech Solutions (R&D/Technology) and Crabby Axe Throwing (Hospitality/Tourism).

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The Andy Klein Legacy Award recognizes those individuals and businesses showing consistent and continual dedication to our county. Aside from Andy Klein being well-known in the community for serving as President of Klein's family markets, Klein was well-respected for his philanthropic contributions; a giving man of his time, expertise and resources.

Chesapeake Environmental Management, celebrating 30 years in Harford County, is dedicated to building diversity and inclusion, educating the next generation and giving back to our community, pledging to share \$1 million with local nonprofits by 2025.

Elite Power Washing's focus on customer service has driven their exceptional growth over the past six years. Dedicated to honesty and integrity, Elite Power Washing implements new technology to provide the best possible customer experience.

Humanim has a rich history of making a difference in Harford County. Since 1997, Humanim has been supporting disadvantaged families and individuals through workforce training, education, and health services. Humanim recently opened the Infinity Center, a center for children on the autism spectrum to help them reach key developmental milestones.

Opening its doors in 2015, Independent Brewing Company has since hired more than 20 employees, reached 12% year-over-year sales growth and an expanded geographic reach.

Hill Tech Solutions provides IT and cybersecurity services to help each customer achieve their goals. They are also dedicated to workforce development, partnering with Harford Community College to create an IT and cybersecurity internship program.

Crabby Axe Throwing opened its doors just a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic, but their post-pandemic growth led to its winning a 2023 Harford Award in the Tourism/Hospitality category. Crabby Axe welcomes more than 10,000 customers per year at their brick and mortar location and its two mobile units are regulars at several community events. This year, Crabby Axe hosted its first World Axe Throwing League tournament, hosting throwers from across the country.

To submit photos for a future Business Album, email Assistant Editor Sean Wallace at swallace@TheDailyRecord.com.

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Tina and Shaun Hampton, owners of Elite Power Washing, were 2023 Harford Award recipients in the Service category. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)



Brianne Baccaro Norris, manager at Weyric, Cronin, & Sorra and Harford County Chamber of Commerce board chair, delivers an address to guests at the 31st annual Harford Awards. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)



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Today	Monday, November 27
	Tuesday, November 28
	12:00pm Immigration Lunch & Learn
	Wednesday, November 29
	12:00pm Estate & Trust Mentor/Mente
	6:00pm MSBA Young Lawyers Sectir
	Thursday, November 30
	10:00am Business 1-Day Launch Carr
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	Tuesday, December 5
	8:30am 20 Hour Divorce Mediation S
	10:00am MSRA Young Lawyers Sectir
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Beth Rudy and Phil Rudy, second and third from left, co-owners of Independent Brewing Company, accepts a 2023 Harford Award in the retail category. Joining the Rudys on stage were, from left, Angela Rose, president and CEO of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce; Karen Holt, director of the Harford County Office of Economic Development; and Brianne Baccaro, manager at Norris, Weyric, Cronin, & Sorra and Harford County Chamber of Commerce board chair. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)



Diana Ellis, second from left, vice president of partnerships and development at Humanim, accepts a 2023 Harford Award in the nonprofit category. Joining Ellis on stage were, from left, Angela Rose, president and CEO of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce; Karen Holt, director of the Harford County Office of Economic Development; and Brianne Baccaro, manager at Norris, Weyric, Cronin, & Sorra and Harford County Chamber of Commerce board chair. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)

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From left, Mellisa Hill, office administrator at Hill Tech Solutions; Ron Hill, owner and principal at Hill Tech Solutions; Denise Dreiger, executive director of the Harford Community College Foundation; Hillary Depman Tayson, director of operations at Coffee Coffee; Lee Tayson, agent at Comparion Insurance, attended the 2023 Harford Awards. Hill Tech Solutions won an award in the R&D/Technology category. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)



From left, Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly; Karen Holt, director of the Harford County Office of Economic Development; Michelle Marek, of the Harford County Office of Economic Development; and Erin Hughes, Town of Bel Air commissioner, take time for a photo at the 2023 Harford Awards. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)

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Shawn Whalen and Meagan Whalen, owners of Harford Roofing Services, gets a photo with Stacia Cook Kline, promotional consultant with Skylight Creative Ideas, at the 2023 Harford Awards. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)



From left, Denise Dreiger, executive director of the Harford Community College Foundation; Dr. Theresa Felder, president of Harford Community College; and Elizabeth Wise, president and CEO of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health; were on hand for the 2023 Harford Awards. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)

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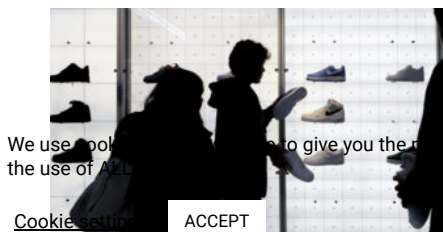


Guests mingle and chat during as the Water's Edge Events Center hosted the 2023 Harford Awards. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)



Robin Sommer, left, CEO of MidAtlantic Photographic, enjoys some time with Dr. William Allen, chair of the Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees, during the 2023 Harford Awards. (Photo by MidAtlantic Photographic)

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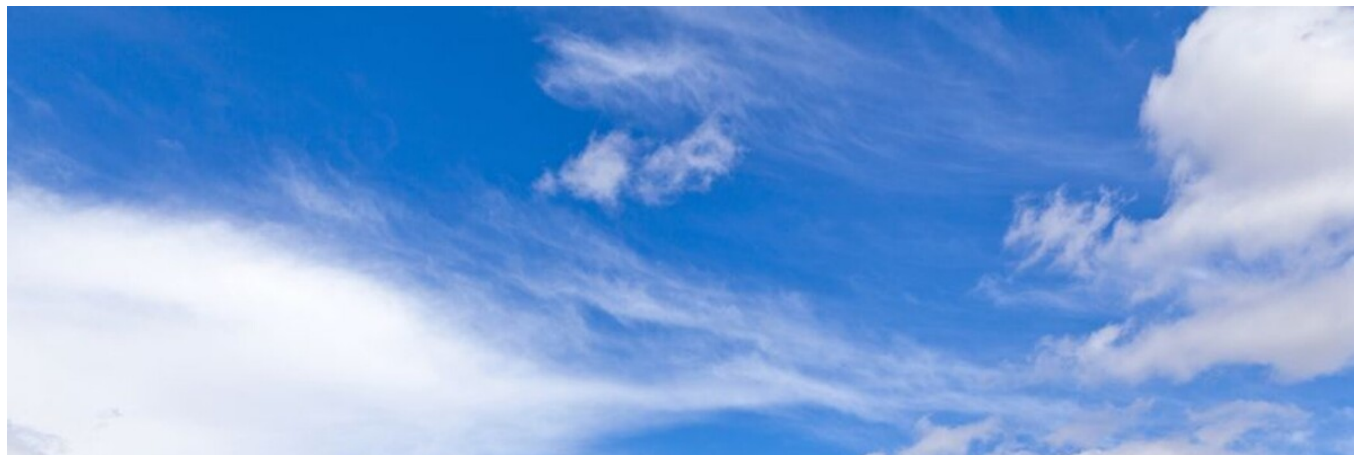
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Harford County 250th Anniversary: Officials And Residents Celebrate Century-Old Legacy Farms



[Van Fisher](#) Editor





A crowd of over 300 people gathered for the event, including Legacy Farm families, many of which were represented by four generations. (Image Credit: Shutterstock)

HARFORD COUNTY - Harford County paid tribute to its rich agricultural heritage at a celebration at the Harford Equestrian Center, [recognizing 61 family farms](#) owned by the same lineage for at least a century.

A crowd of over 300 people gathered for the event, including Legacy Farm families, many of which were represented by four generations. Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks, County Executive Bob Cassilly, and State Senator Jason Gallion were among the speakers.

"It's amazing that Harford has at least 61 legacy farms, including ten that are older than the county itself. By recognizing and honoring these farms, Harford County seeks to promote the preservation of agricultural lands, maintain our rural character, and protect our agricultural heritage for future generations," Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly said.

The oldest farm recognized at the ceremony, Ruff's Chance Farm, dates back to 1684, when Henry Ruff acquired it in Bel Air. Spanning 200 acres, this preserved farm is currently managed by Jonathan Ruff, marking the ninth generation of the Ruff family to oversee its grain and beef cow/calf operations.

"Farm life is hard... It takes a special person to love the land in those seasons when it doesn't love you back. It takes a special person to dig deep into their soul and press on against all odds to keep the farm going

agricultural land preservation planner for Harford County, said.

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This ceremony was initiated by the Farmers & Community Partnership of Harford County in recognition of Harford County's 250th-anniversary celebrations. Now in its fifth year, the partnership brings together local farmers and the community, aiming to address prevalent challenges faced by agricultural producers and consumers alike. Notable partners in this collaborative effort include Harford Community College, Harford County Government, and Harford Land Trust.

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Harford County will continue accepting online applications for the Legacy Farm recognition till October 15, 2023, as part of the anniversary celebrations. To qualify as a Harford Legacy Farm, a property must retain at least 10 acres from the original purchase and remain under active cultivation.

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Harford County Public Library welcomes award-winning journalist L'Oreal Thompson Payton as she discusses and signs her new book at a Meet the Author event on September 5.
- [Former Cecil College baseball player heads Clemson University pitching staff](#) "Players have to know you care about them and have their best interest in mind. Once they know that, they will listen to whatever you say."
– Clemson Coach Jimmy Belanger.

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By Jason Fontelieu
The Aegis • Jul 07, 2023 at 6:00 am



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Lines of bright yellow daffodill flowers add a splash of beauty and color to the Yellow Garden at Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton Friday, March 31, 2023. (Matt Button / The Aegis/Baltimore Sun Media)

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Harford County divvied up almost \$645,000 in grant money to local nonprofits in an effort to boost county tourism.

The fiscal 2024 grant money was allocated to 15 organizations to fund events that would bring more people to stay overnight in the county. According to a county news release, the grant money was funded by the county's hotel tax.

×

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“My administration has reorganized these awards to promote events and activities that draw more people from all over the region to stay overnight here,” Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly said in the release. “Those overnight guests will be able to see how much we have to offer in Harford County and will be supporting our small businesses, like restaurants and specialty shops. The more overnight visits, the greater the impact on our local economy.”

Organizations had to **apply for the grant money by May 12 with a pitch for a large-scale or extended event** and how it would increase overnight stays.

I Thought I Loved My Keurig — Until I Found This Out [↗](#)

The Keurig machine seemed like a dream come true until I started to notice the coffee had a strange taste to it.

By [Angelino's Coffee](#)



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The following organizations will receive grant money:

- Bel Air Downtown Alliance/Ladew Topiary Gardens, \$100,000
- Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, \$85,000
- Maryland Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, \$57,000
- Steppingstone Museum Association, \$57,000
- Susquehannock Wildlife Society, \$55,000
- Cedar Lane Foundation, \$50,000
- Hosanna Community House, \$50,000
- Highland Community Association, \$35,000
- Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center, \$30,000
- Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace, \$28,500
- Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, \$25,000
- Rockfield Foundation, \$25,000

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Harford County doubles its workforce training grant for area businesses

By Maria Morales
The Aegis • Last Updated: Oct 04, 2023 at 10:24 am

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Harford County has doubled the amount it will reimburse businesses that invest in employee training to boost productivity.

Starting this month, Harford’s Workforce Technical Training Grant Program will provide up to \$2,000 per trained employee, and up to \$10,000 per company annually for qualified businesses in any industry, according to a county news

https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/harford/aegis/cng-ag-harford-workforce-development-training-grant-20231002-i4jrrwme3jdojhwznjivz2hdra-st...

1/8

release. The maximum grant amounts have been doubled from previous years to encourage participation, following a recommendation of the Harford County Economic Development Advisory Board, the release said.

“In today’s high-tech world, employee training is critical for businesses to stay competitive,” County Executive Bob Cassilly said. “Our grant program helps companies pay for technical training and helps employees improve their skills to qualify for well-paying jobs. These funds are an investment in our economy and our community.”

The Harford County Office of Economic Development hosts a webinar the second Tuesday of each month to review the application process and allow business owners to ask questions. The next webinar is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10. The deadline for this round of applications is 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20. The next round of applications will be reviewed in May 2024.

TODAY'S TOP VIDEOS

Top Videos: - Jury Selected for Sam Bankman-Fried Trial



Top Videos: - Jury Selected for Sam Bankman-Fried Trial

A jury has been selected for the fraud trial of FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Bloomberg's Sonali Basak reports from federal court in New York. Like this video? Subscribe to Bloomberg Technology on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrM7B7SL_g1edFOnmj-5DKg Watch the latest full episodes of "Bloomberg Technology" with Emily Chang here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFAX25ZLrPGRzflK5d-YIWfsoloCETAE> Get the latest in tech from Sillic



Jury Selected for Sam Bankman-Fried Trial
Business | 3:15



Aston Martin CEO Stroll Says Andretti 'Far From Entering Formula One'
Business | 1:56



Just the Beginning of AI: Fertik
Business | 7:26



Market Sentiment Moving Closer to Neutral: Beschloss
Business | 5:17



Study Identifies Germ 'Hot Spots'
Technology | 1:03



'Only Murders in the Building' Renewed for Season 4
Arts and entertainment | 1:02



Who Could Be the Next House Speaker?
Business | 3:26



TPW's Pelosky Doesn't Expect Ten-Year Yield to Hit 5%
Business | 5:20



Pimco's Clarida Says Fed Might Be Done With Hiking Rates
Business | 3:20

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At [harfordcountymd.gov/1285/Workforce-Development-Training-Grant](https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/1285/Workforce-Development-Training-Grant).



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For more information, contact Bonnie Barresi, business development associate, at bebarresi@harfordcountymd.gov or 410-638-3338.

Originally Published: Oct 02, 2023 at 6:25 pm

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Harford Mutual Insurance Group Announces Merger Plan with ClearPath Mutual



NEWS PROVIDED BY

Harford Mutual Insurance Group →

Mar 02, 2023, 18:14 ET

BEL AIR, Md., March 2, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Harford Mutual Insurance Group, a Ward's 50® top performing commercial property and casualty insurance company headquartered in Maryland, announces its plan to merge into the Group, ClearPath Mutual Insurance Company, a monoline workers' compensation carrier in Louisville, Kentucky.

"We are constantly seeking opportunities that complement our strategic goals and provide our policyholders and independent agents with the products and services they need," says Steve Linkous, President & CEO of Harford Mutual Insurance Group (HMIG). "ClearPath Mutual perfectly complements our product line offering while expediting our plans for geographic diversification. We look forward to welcoming ClearPath's employees, agents, and policyholders into HMIG as we fulfill our mutual vision of being a carrier of choice."

ClearPath Mutual, formerly KESA of Kentucky for over 40 years, was created in 2018 and currently provides monoline workers' compensation coverage in Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Through an independent agency plant and relationships with local chambers of commerce and associations, ClearPath has steadily grown and writes over

\$52 million in direct written premium across nearly 7,000 policies. ClearPath will continue to operate under its company name, and the office in Louisville, Kentucky will remain in place and serve as HMIG's Midwest Regional Office.

"Since 2018, the mission of the ClearPath board and leadership has been to chart a path to sustainable success. We are financially strong and committed to the communities we serve," says Jeff Borkowski, President & CEO of ClearPath Mutual. "This merger into Harford Mutual Insurance Group will provide us with the scalable infrastructure and regional reach to meet our strategic goals of providing community-first workers' compensation coverage to our policyholders."

The transaction is expected to close once customary reviews and approvals are received.

About Harford Mutual Insurance Group

Harford Mutual Insurance Group, founded in 1842 in Harford County, Maryland, provides commercial property and casualty insurance products and services to a regional market. Harford Mutual is a Ward's 50® top performing insurance company that ended 2022 with \$327 million in direct written premium sold through nearly 450 independent agents in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Harford Mutual contributed nearly \$490,000 in community support in 2022. Harford Mutual is rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best, the leading credit rating organization dedicated to serving the global insurance industry. For more information, visit www.HarfordMutual.com.

For more information, visit <https://www.harfordmutual.com/better-together-announcement/>

CLEARPATH MEDIA CONTACT:

Hilary Alvey

HAlvey@clearpathmutual.com

502-315-4245



HARFORD MUTUAL CONTACT:

Stacey A. Rebbert

AVP, Marketing & Corporate Communications

443-640-2348

SRebbert@hm1842.com

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From the Baltimore Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2023/09/25/cool-digs-harford-retirement-planners-old-house.html>

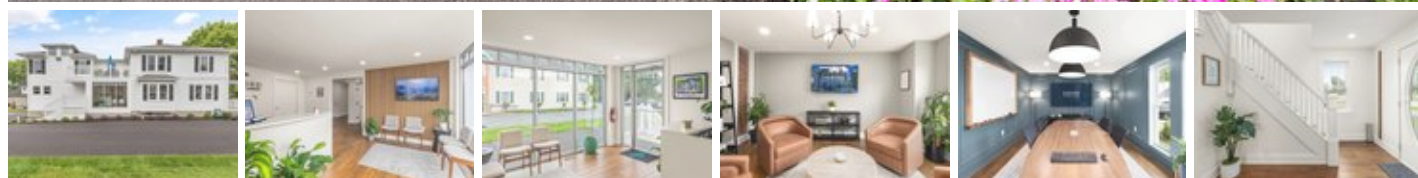
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Career & Workplace

Cool Digs: Bel Air retirement planner makes century-old house its home



VIEW SLIDESHOW
8 photos



The 1925 building was a "catalogue home": a manufacturer sent the pieces, and the homeowner assembled the building himself.

By [Joseph Ilardi](#) – Digital Producer, Baltimore Business Journal

Sep 25, 2023

Cool Digs features new and recently renovated offices and workplaces across Greater Baltimore. Think your company is a fit? Email jilardi@bizjournals.com to apply.

After moving his retirement planning practice from Towson, Bel Air native Joe Conroy was looking for his company's "forever home," and he found it on Main Street, just miles from where he grew up.

His firm, Harford Retirement Planners, moved into a historic house on South Main Street in May – on the town's Fourth of July parade route, Conroy emphasized – after more than a year of renovations and additions to the structure. The house was originally a "catalog home" that was assembled in 1925 by the owner with an IKEA-style kit and instructions.

Conroy told the Baltimore Business Journal that the new office, with its original flooring, homey floor plan and repurposed two-by-fours from the historic structure, resembles his business strategy.

"We don't want marble floors, mahogany desks or three-piece suits. We serve Main Street, not Wall Street," he said.

With the move and triple the space the firm had before, Harford Retirement Planners added two interns, which is how Conroy got his start in financial planning. Though the space is just a little more than 3,000 square feet, Conroy envisions the firm will continue to grow to 12 people in the coming years. The future, for Conroy, is just as important as the history built into the house's original brick chimney and wooden joists, much of which are still standing.

"The goal is that this firm lives beyond me. We took a 100-year-old house and hopefully built an addition that'll last another 100."

Click through the gallery above to take a look inside.

What were the guiding principles behind the design of the new space?

Our firm's brand is serving everyday people on Main Street and giving back to the community that supports us. Part of our brand is blending old world work ethic and traditions with new technologies and advancements. The best of both worlds. This office is a perfect example of blending the best of old and new together.

What colors and styles are used in the design?

The original house is a "Four Square" catalog home, which was very common in the 1920s when it was built. We kept the original windows, the wood siding and exposed brick chimney. When we built the addition we used the same roof angles, siding features and window designs to seamlessly blend in the new with the old.

Describe the workspaces themselves. Why was this the right choice for the company?

The second floor of the building is all workspaces for our team. Everyone has an individual office. We chose privacy over an open design workplace because we spend a lot of time on the phones and talking about our clients' private matters. We had every interior wall insulated as well as the exterior to increase sound deadening and privacy.

Does the office have artwork? Describe the approach to decorating.

We have filled the walls with pictures, awards and plaques from our local community. We aim to be a pillar of the local community and proudly display some of the recognition we have received.

THE DIGS:

- **Address:** 510 S. Main St., Bel Air
- **Office size:** 3,250 square feet
- **Top local executive:** Joe Conroy, owner
- **Employees on site:** Four, plus two interns
- **Designer:** Clark Design Group Architects (Elkton)
- **Contractor:** Bay Country Associates (Elkton)
- **Office management:** Self-managed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 11, 2023

Harford County Public Schools Announces Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) to start at Joppatowne High School

Applications available beginning January 17

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is pleased to announce Joppatowne High School has been approved by the Department of the Army to establish a U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program, effective February 1, 2023. Students throughout the county will be able to apply to join JROTC at Joppatowne High. Applications will be available Tuesday, January 17, 2023, through Friday, February 10, 2023, on hcps.org and in all middle school counseling offices.

In May 2016, the Board of Education of Harford County approved the submission of the JROTC application and the establishment of the program at Joppatowne High School. Strong support was provided from the Military Officers Association of America; Susquehanna Chapter; and numerous local, state, and federal leaders for instituting a program at Joppatowne High. The school is a comprehensive, diverse, suburban high school enrolling more than 800 students in grades 9-12. Joppatowne High was the first school in the nation to offer a high school curriculum program for Homeland Security. The Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Program is a signature curriculum that is affiliated with internships and instruction from area colleges and civil defense agencies. JROTC is an excellent addition to the program.

Harford County is the proud home of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). APG is the largest employer in the county and is a critical US Army research, development, test, and evaluation installation. In 2017, APG and the surrounding community celebrated the 100th anniversary of APG as a national military garrison. This year, Harford County celebrates a 250-year anniversary. Launching the JROTC program in Harford County is a great addition and way to continue to celebrate Harford County's legacy.

###

Karen Holt elected president of the Association of Defense Communities



Karen Holt was elected president of the Association of Defense Communities in an ADC member meeting March 6 at the Defense Communities National Summit in Arlington, Virginia. | Courtesy photo

Washington, D.C. – Karen Holt was elected president of the Association of Defense Communities in an ADC member meeting March 6 at the Defense Communities National Summit in Arlington, Virginia.

"It's an honor to represent such a dynamic group of members committed to the success of our nation's defense communities and to lead an organization approaching 50 years of education, partnership and resiliency—both inside and outside the gates—to become 'one community,'" said Holt. "It is my commitment as president to emulate the continued mission of ADC in its ability to positively affect military communities big and small across our great nation and serve as the preeminent defense organization supporting all branches of our armed services."

Holt is currently director at the Harford County, Maryland Office of Economic Development. She has spent the past 17 years advocating for her local installation, Aberdeen Proving Ground, at the local and national level, overseeing the creation of a consortium during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round and securing \$11 million in federal grants for her region. Previously a director and vice president of ADC, Holt has represented

defense communities across the country on issues ranging from military recruitment to investments in innovation and education.

Holt takes over for Bob Ross, who is executive director of the Connecticut Office of Military Affairs.

About the Association of Defense Communities

ADC is the connection point for communities, states, the military and industry on community-military issues and installation management to enhance knowledge and best practices. With nearly 300 communities, states, regions and affiliated industry organizations as members, ADC represents every major defense community and state in the country. Visit defensecommunities.org to learn more.



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HARFORD MAGAZINE

Ladew Topiary Gardens' Butterfly House leaves visitors aflutter

By M
Balti





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Expand



Sara Borowy the butterfly house coordinator at Ladew Topiary Gardens. The butterfly house will be host to over 20 species of butterflies. Staff and volunteers offer guided tours of the butterfly house and explain the the life cycles of the butterfly. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

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Right about now, the super generation of Monarch butterflies that hatched earlier this

bing

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Sex? Forgeddaboudit. Ditto for laying the eggs that will hatch into the next generation. Who has the time?

No, right now, the super generation monarchs fluttering around the plants in Ladew's Butterfly House have one thing on their minds and one thing only — feeding their faces. They're bulking up in preparation for the annual 3,000-mile trek that will take them from southern Harford County to the oyamel fir tree forests west of Mexico City.

Of course, "bulking up" is a relative term. Even at their most beefy, these critters won't weigh much more than a paper clip, or roughly one-sixth the weight of a ruby-throated hummingbird, the other winged species famous for migrating to Mexico.

"I like to think of butterflies as the gateway bug," said Sara Borowy, coordinator of Ladew's Butterfly House, which opened in 2014.

"Everyone loves how beautiful they are when they're flying around. But that's just a portion of their lives. Once people begin to understand that, maybe they won't get quite so upset when caterpillars chew up their gardens. Maybe people will start to get curious about other insects, like beetles."



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On Sept. 9, Ladew will hold a special family program on butterfly migration that will explore these creatures' fascinating lives in fuller detail. Visitors can observe entomologists capture butterflies with nets and tag the insects with tiny stickers, which helps scientists track their movements. They will learn about which late-blooming plants will help feed the super generation monarchs on their two-month trek to Latin America.



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Monarch butterfly perched on a purple cone flower at the Ladew Topiary Gardens butterfly house. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

And, they'll get to wave farewell as the Ladew staff releases the butterflies from the mesh confines of the Butterfly House, and they begin their long journey south.

Don't Throw Away Your Keurig! (Do This Instead) [🔗](#)

The Keurig machine seemed like a dream come true until I started to notice the coffee had a strange taste to it.

By [Angelino's Coffee](#)

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Borowy never gets over the mystery of it all.

Why, she wonders, do most monarchs live for just five weeks while the super generation monarchs born in late summer live for up to eight months? Why does one generation make it all the way south, mate and then die, while it takes two or three generations to return to Maryland in the spring?

“How do they know?” she asks. “How do they know that this is their destination when they’ve never been here before?”

Visitors to the 22-acre topiary garden just north of the Baltimore County line may find themselves pondering that and other questions about the relationship betw

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The gardens are a result of the singular vision of Harvey Ladew, an early 20th century heir to a leather manufacturing fortune. In 1929, Ladew left his native Long Island, New York, and bought a rundown 250-acre farm in Monkton, according to Emily Emerick, the topiary garden's executive director. At the time, Harford County was prime fox-hunting territory, a sport for which Ladew had a passion.



Ladew Topiary Gardens Butterfly House will host over 20 species of butterflies. Staff and volunteers offer guided tours of the butterfly house and explain the the life cycles of the butterfly. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

The farmhouse lacked both running water and electricity, while the lands surrounding it were mostly flat — effectively a blank palette for an artist on the verge of finding his calling. Over the next four decades, Ladew transformed his surroundings bit by bit, doing most of the hard work of the landscaping himself.

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Ladew converted a portion of the grounds into 15 garden “rooms,” that include about 100 topiary. He added fountains and statues, a Grecian-style temple and a pond filled with water lilies.

Among other spaces, there’s a Victorian garden, a croquet court, a yellow garden, a rose garden and the Garden of Adam and Eve — in which a statue of Adam slyly hides an apple behind his back even before Eve offers him the forbidden fruit. A visitor favorite is the topiary of a fox being chased by a parcel of hounds, as a horse and rider bound over a shrubbery fence.

“Ladew created the grounds himself with very little help,” Emerick said.



Staff and volunteers offer guided tours of the Butterfly House, which hosts over 20 species of butterflies at Ladew Topiary Gardens. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

“A local merchant helped him dig the great bowl,” she said, referring to the

sweet

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mos

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In 1925, only half of homes in the U.S. were wired for electricity according to the [National Park Service](#). The sun dictated when people woke and when they slept. Once-thriving communities became ghost towns for lack of rain. Nature could seem capricious and cruel, and human beings were at its mercy.

Topiary appealed to early 20th century gardeners because it seemed to promise that this unruly force could be tamed and controlled with a can-do attitude and a little human ingenuity.

A century later, that perception has shifted dramatically. The debate in 2023 focuses less on bringing nature to heel and more on the havoc that human intervention is wreaking on the environment, and how that negative impact can be reversed.

Both perspectives are represented at Ladew.



Abby
Ladew

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Today, visitors can marvel at human inventiveness by visiting the 15 outdoor topiary rooms. Then, they can immerse themselves in the lessons that nature teaches by walking along the 1.25-mile nature walk that includes a wetland forest and a bird blind. They can sharpen their observational skills at the Butterfly House and get up close and personal with 20 species of native butterflies and moths, taking note of their evolution from eggs to caterpillars to chrysalis to adults with iridescent, stained-glass wings.

“We try to give our visitors the full experience of nature,” Emerick said, “from carefully cultivated formal gardens that are about order and structure and geometry to a watershed stream and a quarry and pollinators like butterflies where our guests can observe the cycle of life.”

Years of close observation have taught Borowy to recognize the signs that an individual monarch butterfly is nearing the end of its time on Earth. The vibrant colors fade, the wings begin to look torn and raggedy. Seeing a little body lying still on the ground gives her a pang, but she’s become accustomed to it.

“Insects pass through the cycle from birth to death in a matter of weeks,” she said. “It’s a cycle, a system, and death is part of it.”

After years of working with insects, Borowy said she has begun to internalize lessons about mortality, about the way growth inevitably is followed by decay, and how that in its turn becomes the raw material that fosters new life.

“When you start to see how interconnected everything is, how it all works together, it’s humbling,” she said. “You start to realize what your actual place in the world is.

“Not everything revolves around us.”

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A male black swallowtail butterfly lands on a plant at Ladew Topiary Gardens Butterfly House. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

Events at Ladew Topiary Gardens

Come Inside: Join Ladew on Aug. 25 between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ‘Come Inside’ — a Manor House Open House at Ladew when guests can stroll through the 18th century home at no additional cost. The House is filled with English antiques and fox hunting memorabilia, and the oval library is listed as one of the “most beautiful rooms in America.”

2023 Art in our Gardens

Annual Art Show & Sale: Ladew founder, Harvey Ladew, was an amateur painter and sculptor with a keen appreciation of art in many forms. In his spirit, over the years, Ladew Gardens has welcomed local, national and internationally

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Eco-friendly lawn service in Harford County uses only electric equipment

Updated: 6:10 PM EDT Apr 18, 2023

Infinite Scroll Enabled



Breana Ross   

Reporter

BEL AIR, Md. — A lawn-care business in Harford County is doing what it can to make the work cleaner and greener, making the planet healthier one lawn at a time.

The tools people use to keep their yards neat and green are not always good for keeping the air clean. The Environmental Protection Agency said using a gas lawn mower for an hour pollutes our air just as much as driving a car 45 miles.



Advertisement

Sean Creel's love for lawn care started in his own yard, playing around with electric equipment. Now, he has turned it into a business, Luminary Lawns, that uses organic fertilizers and all-electric equipment in each yard he grooms.

"We are trying to make a beautiful lawn. At the same time, we are doing it in an environmentally friendly way," Creel said. "We actually power a good amount of the batteries with solar panels on the roof of the trailer, so we've got 700 watts of power up there. So, we are generating power from this throughout the day as we are going around."

Creel said the all-electric model is a step toward cutting down on the harmful effects lawn care has on the environment. Luminary Lawns has even been at the forefront of creating its own

electric equipment.

"Traditional lawn care equipment is very dirty. The dirty secret of the green industry is that it's not very green," Creel said.

Garden equipment engines account for about 5% of the nation's air pollution. The emissions impact both people's health and the environment.

"Using all the electric equipment, we're removing those emissions from the air through our organic practices with fertilization. We're trying to minimize any impact to the waterways as well," Creel said.

It's an example Creel said he hopes more people follow to take steps toward a healthier planet, one lawn at a time.

"We've got one Earth, we've got to protect it," Creel said.

For more information on how to keep up lawns in an eco-friendly way, visit the following [website](#). Luminary Lawns also hosts a [podcast](#) on all things electric, called "Electric Lawn."

Climate-sustainable gardening resources

- [8 tips to practice climate-smart gardening](#) (Maryland Department of Agriculture)
- [Climate-resilient gardening](#) | [Sustainable gardening](#) (University of Maryland Extension)



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MAGIC secured a federal Build to Scale grant nearing \$275K. Here's the plan

Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory's Graham Dodge envisions the grant putting a national spotlight on the collaborative efforts of some immediate and nearby county tech sectors.

Words by:



[Alanah Nichole Davis](#), [@reporteralanah](#)

Edited by:



[Julie Zeglen](#)

Nov 16, 2023 1:57pm



Graham Dodge. (Courtesy Graham Dodge)

Shortly after Baltimore's [EDA Tech Hubs designation win](#), Maryland's innovation community is getting another federal boost.

Joining [Delaware](#) and [Pittsburgh](#), last week, the [Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory \(MAGIC\)](#) in Westminster [announced](#) its inclusion in the 10th cohort of the federal [Build to Scale](#) program grants.

Build to Scale is an annual initiative by the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration focused on fostering tech-based economic development. The grants associated with the program aim to boost job opportunities and entrepreneurial ecosystems, particularly in agtech, bioscience, manufacturing and healthtech industries.

Along with its Build To Scale subrecipients the [Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. \(FITCI\)](#) and the [Harford County Office of Economic Development \(HCOED\)](#), MAGIC is presently in the "Ignite" tier of Build to Scale's [Venture Challenge](#) for planning the [Grow Rural Opportunity in Maryland](#) project, aka GRO MD.

The grant, totaling \$274,498, is part of the \$53 million distributed by the EDA to 60 recipients across various sectors and regions.

In a phone interview with Technical.ly this week, MAGIC Executive Director [Graham Dodge](#) discussed the pre-announcement anticipation, noting that MAGIC was aware of being in consideration for the grant due to the extensive “diligence questions” posed by the EDA.

Hearing they’d gotten the grant, Dodge said, “was thrilling and exciting, and it makes me really excited for Carroll County, Frederick and Harford County in terms of the partnerships that we’ll be developing through this grant.”

MAGIC’s project aims to identify cross-sector collaborations, focusing on biotech, autonomous vehicles and defense systems. With a required local funding match of \$283,033, grant funds will be used for planning and research studies over a two-year period.

Dodge was previously a mentor for FITCI and said alongside HCOED, they were put back into touch by a significant regional information connector.

“It was through an introduction from [Carroll County Public Library](#) regarding this specific opportunity that put us in touch with FITCI, initially to discuss how we could work together on that particular grant,” he said. “So I can thank Carroll County Public Libraries, actually, for their role in identifying MAGIC as a potential partner in this particular grant opportunity and sort of matchmaking us with FITCI.”

Dodge added that this effort might align with the Baltimore Tech Hubs designation, specifically boosting biotech in Frederick, and contribute to a broader support of the Baltimore tech ecosystem through research and collaboration.

Companies: [MAGIC](#) / [U.S. Department of Commerce](#) / [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#)
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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

MCB Real Estate, partners pay \$80.7M for vacant Harford County warehouse



A rendering of the soon-to-be rebranded Ace Logistics Center in Aberdeen. The facility was developed as Tower Logistics Center in 2021 by Merritt Properties.

MCB REAL ESTATE

IN THIS ARTICLE

CRE Brokerages

Topic

CRE Developers

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Gus Hajimihal

Person

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By Melody Simmons
Senior Reporter, Baltimore Business Journal

Jun 6, 2023

Updated Jun 7, 2023, 8:10am EDT

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An 860,000-square-foot warehouse in Aberdeen was sold for just over \$80.7 million to a partnership led by Baltimore's MCB Real Estate.

The Tower Logistics Center has been vacant since it was developed in 2021 by Merritt Properties and BentallGreenOak. It soon will be rebranded as the Ace Logistics Center and will hold the first suburban expansion of Canton-based Ace Logistics, which will move into the Harford County facility beginning this month.

Ace will be the sole tenant in the warehouse that sits at 1225 S. Philadelphia Road.

Ace Logistics is a partner with MCB in the warehouse sale along with Artemis Real Estate Partners, based in Washington, D.C. The deal is the latest in the rural Harford County industrial market that has aggressively grown over the past decade alongside a boost in e-commerce.

"The building is brand new with all of the space and

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The moratorium aims to allow a pause in industrial projects in the suburban county, which some residents say has become overrun with warehouses as e-commerce expands. The moratorium is currently set to lift in late July but has the potential to be extended for another three months to allow the County Council to review and possibly change the zoning code.

Among the flashpoints for warehouse development in Harford is a plan by Hanover-based Chesapeake Real Estate Group, or CREG, to build a huge e-commerce warehouse park on the Perryman peninsula. The proposal has been met with aggressive pushback from Perryman residents who are suing Harford County and the developer. CREG has filed a lawsuit against Harford County in the matter as well.

Hajimilhas said the new Ace Logistics Center will allow the 20-year-old company to grow in Greater Baltimore. The firm weathered shut-downs during the pandemic because most of its goods were considered essential, which allowed it to remain open and even expand, he said.

Ace currently owns and leases 1.4 million square feet of warehouse space and has an additional six storage yards near the Port of Baltimore. The company has 125 employees and is based on Holabird Avenue near several Amazon warehouses. About 75% of its business is with international clients who ship goods like food, spices, plywood and lumber, minerals and metals through the port.

The Aberdeen logistics center site was developed with four drive-in truck docks and 40-foot warehouse ceiling heights. A 310-space parking lot flanks the facility, which is located

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MCB is also building a massive warehouse complex in Hagerstown and is getting ready to launch a redo of Harborplace downtown once it acquires the landmark out of receivership. Other projects by MCB include Yard 56 in Greektown, Northwood Commons near Morgan State University and Madison Park North on North Avenue. "This is an exciting opportunity for MCB to invest in this quality industrial property and to support the expansion of Ace Logistics to Harford County," Trails said in a statement on Monday.

JLL brokers Benjamin T. Meisels and Peter Hajimihalis, son of Alec Hajimihalis, represented the buyers in the sale deal and Ace Logistics in the lease.

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Harford County halts warehouse projects for 90 days



Report: Baltimore industrial market grew by over 26.5M s.f. since 2017



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MAKING SENSE OF DEFENSE

DOING BUSINESS WITH APG

PREPARING TO CONTRACT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

AGENDA

11:00 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Karen Holt

Director, Office of Economic Development

MODERATOR

Larry Muzzelo

Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development

11:15 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS FROM OUR PARTNERS

Amber Blake

Assistant Director,

APG Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)

Ryan Del Gallo

Senior Business Consultant,

Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

12:00 p.m.

PEER RESOURCE PANEL

Martha Mitchem

*Acting Executive Director ACC-APG,
Army Contracting Command*

Clark Dutterer

*Vice President of Business Development
and CTO, SURVICE Engineering*

Dondre Lawson

CEO, Emerald Technical Solutions

Tamera Rush

President and CEO, TENAX Technologies

Patrick Mullin

Senior Program Manager, QED Systems, LLC



MEET THE PARTNERS

AMBER BLAKE

Assistant Director of the Office of Small Business Programs at Aberdeen Proving Ground (OSBP-APG)

Ms. Amber Blake leads OSBP-APG's collaboration with Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG) and Communications-Electronics Command's (CECOM) to maximize small business participation across Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (C5ISR) requirements in support of readiness for American Soldiers.

RYAN DEL GALLO

Senior Business Consultant with the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Mid-Atlantic Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

Ryan has accumulated over 1,200 start-up and growth-stage clients, obtaining over \$50 million in financing. Outside of the SBDC and VBOC, Ryan is a serial entrepreneur, international business plan writer, and Professor of business and technology.

MEET THE PANEL

MARTHA MITCHEM

Acting Executive Director ACC-APG, Army Contracting Command

As Acting Executive Director, Ms. Martha Mitchem manages and leads a geographically dispersed contracting center responsible for enabling Army readiness and modernization. She is Level III certified in Contracting with more than 36 years of experience, and holds secondary career certifications in four additional career categories including Program Management, Information Technology, Facilities Engineering, and Life Cycle Logistics.

CLARK DUTTERER

Vice President of Business Development and CTO, SURVICE Engineering

Mr. Clark Dutterer is the CTO & Vice President of Business Development (BD) at SURVICE Engineering. A 2005 graduate of the University of Baltimore with a degree in Business Administration/Marketing, Mr. Dutterer has been with SURVICE since 2005 and a part of the APG community since being stationed at APG-EA in 1998 as a U.S. Army Enlisted Soldier.

DONDRE LAWSON

CEO, Emerald Technical Solutions

Dondre Lawson is a U.S. Army veteran and the CEO of Emerald Technical Solutions, a leading provider of IT solutions and services. With over a decade of experience in the technology industry, Lawson has leveraged his military background and leadership skills to build a successful company that values integrity, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

TAMERA RUSH

President and CEO, TENAX Technologies

Tamera Rush is the founder and CEO of TENAX Technologies. Since the inception of TENAX, Ms. Rush has been laser focused on creating a culture for employee advancement and retention. Ms. Rush has worked collaboratively at APG since 1997. Ms. Rush served as Principal Investigator for numerous large-scale research projects in areas such as engineering, biochemistry, and weapons testing.

PATRICK MULLIN

Senior Program Manager, QED Systems, LLC

Patrick Mullin has been working in the APG Defense Community for over 25 years. He is currently a Sr. Program Manager of multiple contracts for QED Systems, LLC – a small business that does over \$40M per year of work with the Army. Patrick's area of expertise is managing software development and sustainment contracts as well as system engineering and technical assistance efforts. His current customers include Program Manager Tactical Radios, HQ Department of the Army, Program Executive Office Soldier, and the Army C5ISR Center.



THE FUTURE FOR FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTORS

AGENDA

7:30 a.m.

**DOORS OPEN
BREAKFAST & NETWORKING**

8:00 a.m.

WELCOME REMARKS

Bob Cassilly

Harford County Executive

MODERATOR

Larry Muzzelo

Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development

8:15 a.m.

PANEL OF EXPERTS

Mr. DeMarcus Walker

*Staff Member, Majority Staff, U.S. Senate
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship*

Mr. Antonio Doss

*Director of Strategic Planning and Economic
Development, U.S. Small Business Administration*

Ms. Danielle Moyer

*Executive Director, Army Contracting Command -
Aberdeen Proving Ground*

9:00 a.m.

Q&A WITH THE AUDIENCE

9:40 a.m.

CLOSING

Panelist Remarks





HARFORD COUNTY
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Robert G. Cassilly, County Executive

WELCOME

MEET THE PRIMES

BELOW YOU WILL FIND YOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY.

7:45	Doors Open
8:00 – 8:15	Check-In / Networking
8:15 – 8:45	
8:45 – 8:55	<i>Break</i>
8:55 – 9:25	
9:25 – 9:35	<i>Break</i>
9:35 – 10:05	
10:05 – 10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15 – 10:45	
10:45 – 10:55	<i>Break</i>
10:55 – 11:25	
11:25 – 11:35	<i>Break</i>
11:35 – 12:05	
12:05 – 1:00	Wrap-Up Lunch

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Pessin Katz Law is committed to a bright future in Harford County

By: Special to The Daily Record Katie Turner ☉ March 2, 2023



Eric McLauchlin, member of Pessin Katz (PK) Law, is leading the firm's expansion into Harford County as it opens a new location in Belcamp. (Submitted photo)

Eric McLauchlin, member of Pessin Katz (PK) Law, is optimistic about the future of Harford County, and excited to lead the firm's expansion with their new location in Belcamp.

"Personally, and as a firm, we believe in the growth of Harford County," said McLauchlin. "Not only in the growth of the population, but growth in the sophistication of the businesses that are making Harford County their home. Companies with national level skills are coming to Harford County, and we are able to serve them with the level of expertise that they expect, on a local level."

McLauchlin has been practicing law for 27 years in Harford County, and he was recently tapped to head the expansion of PK Law as lead attorney at their new Belcamp location. The 35-year-old law firm, which started in 1988 as a small estate planning practice, has grown to the seventh-largest firm in the Baltimore region specializing in wealth preservation, corporate law, real estate, labor, education, employment, and litigation.

The new Belcamp office is located in the complex that was once Bata Shoe Factory, which has transitioned from an industrial center to a modern mix of businesses ranging from government contractors to tourism. McLauchlin described the evolution of the area as representative of the transformation of Harford County overall.

"It's a really smart development model that combines sustainability with growth of the business community," McLauchlin said. "Harford County is fiscally strong and open for business. There is a fertile business ecosystem here that is ripe for companies to start, relocate, or grow. Because Belcamp is so accessible it is a natural center for that growth."

McLauchlin said that with a housing affordability index that is above the national average, a highly educated population, and major employers like Aberdeen Proving Ground and the hospital system, Harford County is an

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"This is not just an experiment, it is an expansion. We are committed to this community and we are proving it by establishing an anchor here," he added.

Nicole Ames, chief business development officer for the firm, explained that with the new space the firm expects to attract new attorneys as well as provide a new home for existing attorneys from Columbia or Towson, where PK Law's other offices are located.

Drake Zaharris, managing director, also believes that the opportunity to work with and be mentored by McLauchlin will attract new attorneys.

"His reputation as a leader in the community will help us build our presence in Harford County," said Zaharris.

In addition to his law practice, McLauchlin is dedicated to serving the community through numerous charitable organizations including the Harford Community College Foundation Board, Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Addiction Connections Resources Inc., the Community Foundation for Harford County, the Salisbury University Foundation and Army Alliance.

Ames explains that the Belcamp office will offer more than legal services to clients.

"We will be hosting educational programs and events to bring businesses together, creating a hub of activity that allows for greater connections among those based in this area and the surrounding region," said Ames.

McLauchlin added that there is much to be gained through in-person engagement with the community.

"The opportunity to interact with colleagues in the office creates stronger relationships, and that impacts the entire culture of the firm. With remote work there is a tendency to become untethered, and we want to have a space that connects people and allows them to grow and thrive," he said.

Zaharris reflected on the firm's growth.

"Five years ago, we asked ourselves what we wanted to be for the Harford County business community," he said.

"Too often, businesses are looking to Baltimore or Towson for support, yet we know that there is tremendous talent at the local level. We want to redirect those businesses to resources that are close to home. With our team in Belcamp, we are confident that we will be able to serve the needs of Harford County businesses."



The new PK Law Belcamp office is located in the complex that was once Bata Shoe Factory, which has transitioned from an industrial center to a modern mix of businesses ranging from government contractors to tourism. (Submitted photo)

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MARYLAND

Russian-designed tanks roll toward Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland to aid Ukraine, boost U.S. intelligence

By Hayes Gardner

Baltimore Sun • Jun 12, 2023 at 5:00 am



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A Russian-designed T-90 tank was spotted in Louisiana in April as it headed towards the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Northeast Maryland. (courtesy of Cody Sellers)

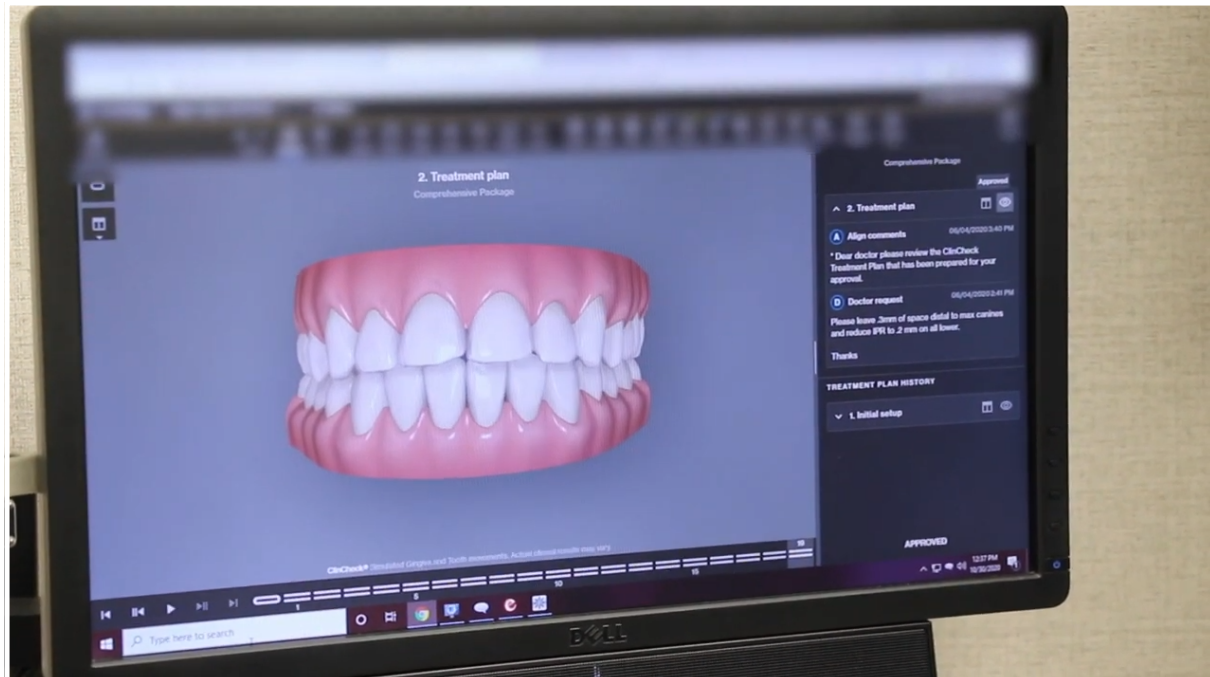
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One Russian-designed tank was noticed in April during the two-day stint it spent at a Louisiana truck stop that doubles as a casino. The other was spotted at a Utah gas station in May.

Both behemoths were headed to the same place: Aberdeen, Maryland.

AD



As the United States and other NATO countries support Ukraine in its war against Russia, a military post in the Northeast Maryland city of 17,000 could prove to be a valuable resource. A T-72 and a T-90 — both Soviet-era tanks weighing at least 90,000 pounds each — were recently trucked from faraway states and along interstate highways to Aberdeen Proving Ground, a U.S. Army testing and research site.

Tanks have been critical in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which started last year, and Ukraine's allies have sent the country **230 tanks**. Among the **\$76 billion** in total aid (military and otherwise) that the U.S. has given are **31 M1 Abrams tanks**.

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Now, the U.S. is lending the services of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a 72,000-acre post on the Chesapeake Bay that is the country's top weapons testing site and the state's **sixth-largest employer**. Established in 1917 as the U.S. entered World War I, the proving ground is the oldest of its kind. Over the last century, it has studied a range of weapons, from small arms to bombs and tanks to chemical and biological warfare.

The Department of Defense described the T-90's arrival at Aberdeen as "part of our ongoing commitment to provide Ukraine the capabilities it needs to counter Russian aggression."

The U.S. already had access to Russian tanks built during the Soviet-era and studied **such weaponry as recently as last year**. But the two tanks now on U.S. soil could provide essential, updated knowledge of Russia's fleet, as well as supply ideas for how Ukraine can improve its tanks, many of which are **T-72s**.

Igor Novikov, a former adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, **tweeted in April that a "trophy" Russian T-90 was on its way to Maryland** as a "small thank-you gift" to the U.S., but it's unclear precisely how the U.S. obtained the T-72. Ukraine or an allied country

likely shipped it to the U.S., where there are advanced resources, like those at Aberdeen, for researching tanks.



A Russian-designed T-90 tank was spotted in Louisiana in April as it headed toward Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County. (Cody Sellers)

While it is not unusual, experts say, that the U.S. would study the weapons systems of rival nations, the advent of the tanks underscores the importance of gathering intelligence during warfare and Aberdeen's key role in doing so.

There are myriad reasons to study enemy technology, and an understanding of a foe's abilities is invaluable on the battlefield. Analyzing how far and accurately a tank's gun can fire is important, of course, but so are scores of other details: Knowing a tank's fuel economy, for example, is helpful in figuring out how far a tank can travel before refueling.

Michael E. O'Hanlon, a senior fellow and director of research in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, said if Russia had modernized a tank by adding improved armor or a stronger engine or sensors that ward off missiles, to name a few possible modifications, the souped-up tanks would provide insights beyond what the U.S. learned from aging tanks that haven't seen combat in decades.

"All of that information would be very tactically useful if you were figuring out what to send the Ukrainians and also how to train the Ukrainians on the use of proper anti-armor

weapons,” he told The Baltimore Sun.



Doug Wise, who spent 20 years in the military and 30 years with the Central Intelligence Agency, likened studying a modernized tank versus an old one to examining an iPhone 14 instead of an iPhone 6. In a way, they’re the same phone — or tank, in this case — but they have a “radically different design,” said Wise, who also served as deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Updated information could help the U.S. better understand the abilities of Russia’s weaponry. That benefits Ukraine, but is also a boon for the U.S., which collects intelligence about potential adversaries.

“Nobody likes to have their technology fall into the other guys’ hands,” O’Hanlon said.

The T-90 first was spotted in the U.S. in April when the truck hauling it broke down in Louisiana. The truck dropped the 30-foot tank off — without any tarp or canvas concealing it — and, with its load lightened, drove away to be repaired. Two days later, it returned, picked

up the tank, and continued to Aberdeen. The tank's sighting popped up on social media, then was reported by [The War Zone](#), a military news website.

"I walked out there and, lo and behold, there's a tank on a big ol' trailer in my back parking lot," said Cody Sellers, the store manager at Peto's Travel Center and Casino on Interstate 10 in Roanoke, Louisiana.

The phone at Peto's rang for days as word spread and curious visitors hoped to get a look at the mammoth machine parked among the gas pumps. One person left a Google review with photos of the tank saying: "Food is so good that even Russian came over with their T90." Sue Gough, a spokesperson for the Department of Defense, confirmed a T-90 tank was en route to Aberdeen when "the truck transporting it suffered a mechanical issue."

"The tank's explosive reactive armor was inert, it was not armed or carrying any dangerous material, and at no point posed a risk to the public. This is part of our ongoing commitment to provide Ukraine the capabilities it needs to counter Russian aggression," she said. "For security reasons, we will not comment further on this matter."



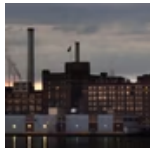
In May, a Russian-designed T-72 was spotted at a gas station in Utah on its way to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County. (Courtesy of Dave Trojan)

A month later, in May, a different Russian-designed tank popped up at a U.S. gas station.

Dave Trojan is a 21-year Navy veteran who now spends time as an “aviation archaeologist” and he had been digging through old airplane crash sites when he stopped for gas at a Pilot station near the Nevada-Utah line. He was aware of the recent T-90 sighting and he promptly recognized this tank — sitting atop a truck trailer, under a tarp but with its gun protruding — as being a T-72, a predecessor to the T-90.

“I knew right away that it was a Russian tank,” he said.

Trojan quickly snapped photographs of the tank and shared the images with Tankers, a social media group.



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“I worked in the government for 25 years, so I just know that the government does a lot of things that they don’t talk about and so when you find stuff out ... I just think it needs to get out there so people can know about it,” Trojan said.

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A Russian-designed T-90 tank was spotted in Louisiana in April as it headed towards the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Northeast Maryland. (courtesy of Cody Sellers)

The **Nevada Automotive Test Center** — a private evaluation facility for commercial and military vehicles — confirmed in a statement that the T-72 was headed from its site to Aberdeen. The tank was not armed nor “carrying any dangerous material and at no point posed a risk to the public,” the test center said, adding that it was sent to Aberdeen to meet the Department of Defense’s “test and training requirements.” The center declined to comment further for security reasons.

How exactly the tanks will be examined and studied remains unknown and federal intelligence agencies have, unsurprisingly, not been eager to share information. The CIA declined to comment and the DIA did not respond to a request for comment.

It’s likely the U.S. is seeking to identify the capabilities of the tanks (particularly the T-90, the more modern of the two) to impart that intelligence to Ukraine, experts say. The U.S. could also be searching for ways to improve the T-72 to provide intelligence that would boost Ukraine’s own fleet.

“It’s distinctly possible that we’re trying to figure out how to make that T-72 better because it may still be one of the most important kinds of tanks for the Ukrainians to operate,” O’Hanlon said.

Wise said at Aberdeen, experts can pull apart a tank, reconstruct it, see how it functions, test its armor and study any number of minute details. There are “near infinite ways” to glean important intelligence and there isn’t a better place to do so than Aberdeen.

“They know weapon systems,” Wise said. “That is one place that is unparalleled in expertise in both U.S.-developed weapons, as well as foreign weapons.”



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The Aegis

HARFORD COUNTY

Susquehanna Workforce Network holding job fair at Ripken Stadium for defense, technology, intelligence positions

By Jason Fontelieu

The Aegis • Published: Nov 02, 2023 at 2:32 pm



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The Susquehanna Workforce Network is holding a defense, technology and intelligence job fair at the Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen on Friday.

The event, held in partnership with Harford County's Office of Economic Development, will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Openings are available for both cleared and uncleared positions.

"We want to create a platform that empowers businesses to attract skilled workforce from the defense, technology, and intelligence fields," Susquehanna Workforce Network's executive director Kimberly Justus said in a news release.

Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly commended the network for helping strengthen the local economy in a Susquehanna Workforce Network news release.

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“My administration is eager to connect businesses in this vital economic sector with skilled workers and help prospective employees find well-paying jobs,” Cassilly said in the release.

Registration for the event is free. More information is available online at www.swnetwork.org.

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Former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan backs out of Harvard fellowships over school’s ‘dangerous anti-Semitism’

Former Maryland governor Larry Hogan has withdrawn from two Harvard fellowships over what he calls the "dangerous anti-Semitism" the university has allowed since Hamas' Oct. 7th attack on Israel.

Baltimore Sun

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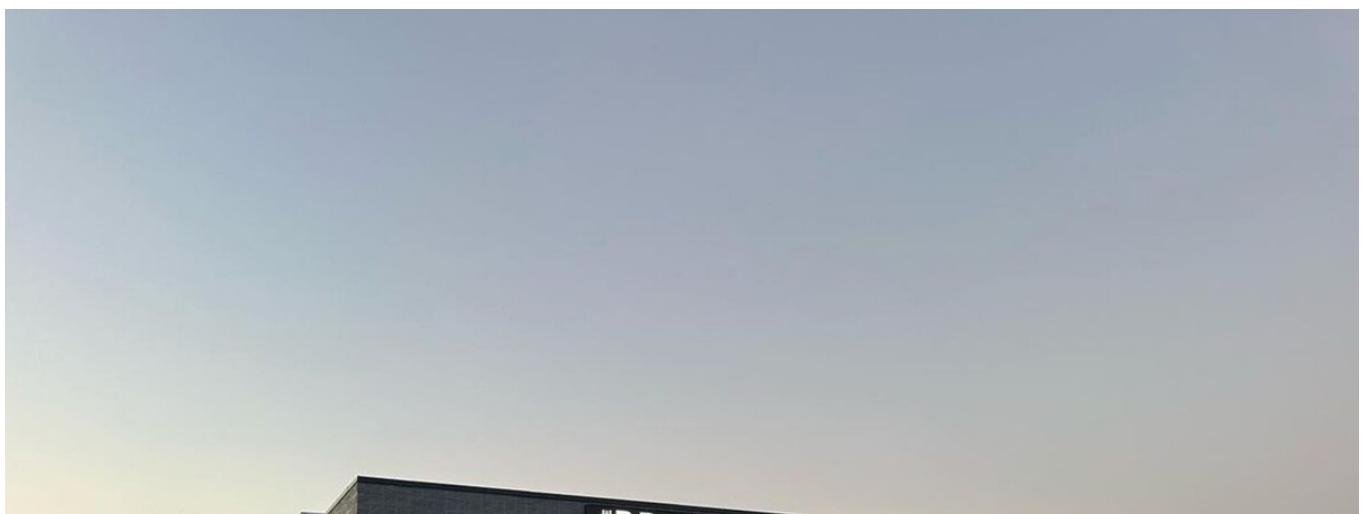
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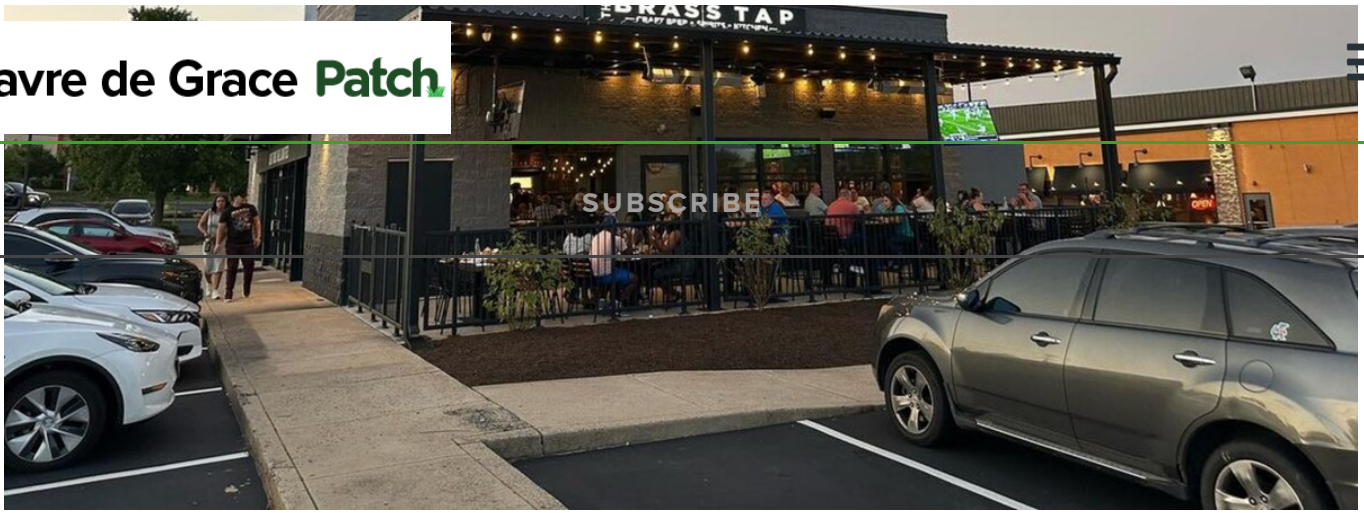
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The Brass Tap Expands To Harford County With New Belcamp Location



[Van Fisher](#) Editor



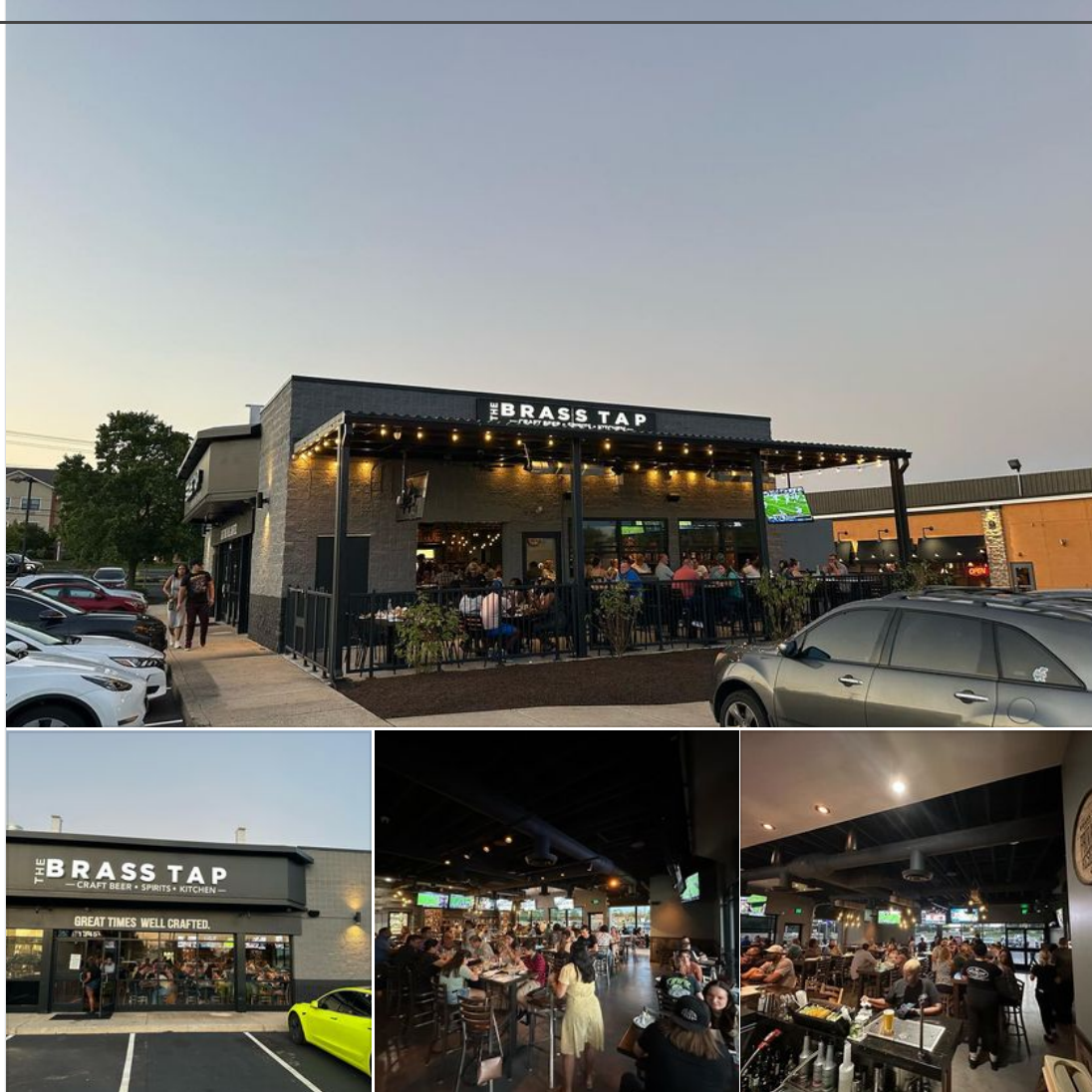


(Photo Credit: The Brass Tap - Belcamp/ Facebook)

HARFORD COUNTY - The Brass Tap, a popular beer bar and eatery, has opened its newest location in Harford County.

Sharing some images from our VIP night! See you guys tomorrow as we open our doors to everyone at 11am!

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The establishment, located near the Belcamp exit off I-95, opened its doors at 11:00 a.m. on Monday.

The Florida-based craft beer bar is known for partnering with area breweries to offer a variety of local beers. The Brass Tap currently operates locations at Towson Town Center and on Mount Royal Avenue in Baltimore City.

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Business & Tech

The Lean Kitchen Company Opens In Bel Air With Healthy Meals

Jason and Katie Davis have opened The Lean Kitchen Company in Bel Air, offering healthy, fresh and conveniently prepared meals.

 Kristin Danley-Greiner, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, Oct 23, 2023 at 5:26 pm ET

Reply (1)



The Lean Kitchen Company officially opened Oct. 14 at 536 Baltimore Pike with the options of in-store pickup or delivery. There are 40 stores located across the U.S. with the Bel Air store being the first on the East Coast. (Photo submitted)

BEL AIR, MD — With a goal of helping Harford County residents gain easy access to healthy and convenient meals, Katie and Jason Davis decided to open The Lean Kitchen Company in Bel Air.

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They officially opened their business Oct. 14 at 536 Baltimore Pike with the options of in-store pickup or delivery. There are 40 stores located across the U.S. with the Bel Air store being the first on the East Coast. The closest one happens to be eight hours away, Katie Davis said.

"We were looking to start a new business and this concept was appealing because nutrition and fitness are very important to us. We feel that meal prep is something more people would be interested in if there was an element of convenience. Additionally, there is not a similar concept in this area, so we feel that people will be excited to try it out," she said.

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After the height of the pandemic, Davis and her husband realized they needed to focus more on developing healthier habits.

"And that starts with nutrition," she said. "This is nutrition made easy. Each meal features balanced macros with the nutrition facts right on the label. Ordering from Lean Kitchen takes the guesswork out of eating healthy and the online ordering and delivery option is the ultimate convenience. Our goal is to prove nutritious can be delicious."

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Currently, Jason Davis owns Route 24 Ale House in Bel Air and Katie works as a project manager for a corporate education company.

"We both intend to stay at our jobs while also working at Lean Kitchen with the help of our amazing staff," Katie Davis said.

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Fitness happens to be important to the couple, who enjoys participating in local races and belong to a CrossFit gym in Abingdon.

"Jason has done several long-distance runs, including a few marathons and two 50Ks. Most recently, we participated in the Baltimore 10-miler in June. We love hiking with our dogs, Mack and Macy, and enjoy taking them to the Ma & Pa Trail, Gunpowder and other local spots. We even ran a 5K with our dogs in 2020," Katie Davis said.

The Lean Kitchen Company uses an offsite commissary kitchen in Aberdeen where employees cook all of their meals fresh and then take them to the storefront in Bel Air on Saturday mornings where customers can purchase them fresh out of the refrigerators. Customers can order the meals online by Thursday evening for the following week. Meals can be picked up the store or delivered to their home.

"Our meals are made locally and never frozen," she said. "Another option is for individuals to stop by the store and pick out meals from the refrigerators. We also sell supplements at the storefront, such as protein powders, multi-vitamins, and pre-workout, as well as energy drinks, packaged snacks, apparel and more."

Some of the more popular menu options include a chicken bacon ranch wrap, bang bang shrimp tacos, meatball mac and cheese, and honey garlic chicken and asparagus. We also have breakfast and dessert items, including overnight oats and Reeses protein donuts, and snacks, like our muscle bites that are so delicious, you would never guess they are actually good for you," Davis Katie said.

To view menu items, additional products and order online, visit <https://leankitchenbelairmd.bottle.com>.

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The Aegis

HARFORD COUNTY

Town of Bel Air hands out its annual awards

By John Coffren

The Aegis • Published: Nov 13, 2023 at 7:38 pm



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Looney's Pub was awarded the 2023 Business of the Year award at the Bel Air Annual Awards event on Oct. 26 at the Bel Air Armory. Other awards were handed out. The event was hosted by the Town of Bel Air and the Bel Air Economic and Community Development Commission.

Located at 312 South Main Street, Looney's Pub was selected based on their involvement in local activities, giving back to the community, and contributions to the overall economy and culture of Bel Air. Owner William Larney accepted the award given by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

The Archer-Bull Award, named after prominent 19th century Bel Air architect George Archer and master builder Jacob Bull, was presented by the Bel Air Economic and Community Development Commission to Michael, Bernie and Nick Ruocco and Mike Arnold, for the adaptive reuse of 331 Baltimore Pike. The modern retail center houses eight businesses.

The project received the award for overall design excellence, compatibility and economic impact. The architectural firm of Architectural Design Works, Inc. was acknowledged for its design of the building and CG Builders was recognized for its construction work.

TODAY'S TOP VIDEOS

Up Next - Top Videos: - Three Men of Palestinian Descent Shot in Vermont

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Margaret S. “Peg” Lucas was named Citizen of the Year by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners. This award recognizes a citizen for their commitment to the betterment of Bel Air and for creating a positive impact.

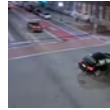
Lucas has volunteered in many capacities in the community for over 40 years, including 30 years as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission. She is also a member of the Cultural Arts Commission, and the Appearance and Beautification Committee.

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HARFORD COUNTY

Viral sensation Boards by Dana offers variety of charcuterie board options to the tastebuds of the Harford community

By Jason Fontelieu

The Aegis • Mar 01, 2023 at 2:32 pm



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FEEDBACK



Boards by Dana charcuterie can create a variety of different boards to help make your event or party a success from grazing tables to small cups and everywhere in between. (courtesy Dana Berbenich/Baltimore Sun Media)

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When Dana Berbenich first moved to Harford County from New York in 2018, she didn't know many people. Not long after that, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

It wasn't until she opened her charcuterie board business, Boards by Dana, that she became intertwined in the Harford community.

"It was incredibly special to see how the community welcomed me with open arms," Berbenich, 35, said.

Around March 2021, Berbenich quit her job in human resources for a job in sales, which gave her more flexibility to explore some of her interests, including creating charcuterie boards.

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By [Residences at Vantage Point](#)

While she said the prospect of opening her own business was “terrifying,” doing so helped her feel more balanced with the newfound space to explore her creative side.

Boards by Dana offers a variety of charcuterie boards, ranging in size to serve two to 20 people. For larger parties of at least 30, grazing tables are available to be created at an event venue.

She also offers both private and public classes on creating the ideal charcuterie board.

When creating a charcuterie board, she starts by placing bowls or jars on the board, followed by the cheeses – at least three – of varying flavors and textures.

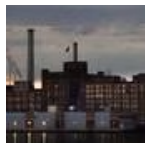
Then, Berbenich works to create “rivers and roses” of whatever meats she’s using. After the meat, she fills in the board with bulkier fruits, both fresh and dried, such as grapes, blackberries and apricots, and finishes the board off with smaller fruits and garnishes, like rosemary, sage and edible flowers.

All the while, she works to maintain a balanced board aesthetic; a self-proclaimed foodie, she works to create options for different flavor combinations. For example, she said aged cheddar cheese pairs well with candied pecans, as does brie cheese with strawberries.

“Charcuterie really just connects everybody,” Berbenich said. “I think good food brings people together, but there’s something special about charcuterie. You put it down on the table, and there’s instant conversation around it.”

While creating a board can be a creative process, Berbenich says it can be intimidating to some.

“There’s really no wrong way to make a charcuterie board,” she said.



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Not only has her business helped her connect with others in Harford’s local business community, she’s also been able to connect with other charcuterie board artisans online. Her Instagram videos of creating her boards regularly get tens of thousands of views, one even as high as 7.8 million views.

The same goes for TikTok, where one of her most popular videos received almost 10 million views. Both her Instagram and TikTok accounts have over 100,000 followers.

“People really like to see videos of the process, how I put the board together,” Berbenich said. “Those are the videos that get more attention.”

While she doesn’t offer mail ordering yet, she’s built quite the social media portfolio.

Berbenich’s goals for this year involve growing her business, which made \$115,000 in sales last year. She’s looking to partner more with local farmers for her board ingredients and to open her own storefront, and she recently hired her first employee to help with admin work.

“I just feel so lucky because it’s the first time in my life that I’m doing something that I’m truly passionate about,” Berbenich said.

Orders can be made at her website, boardsbydana.com.



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Viral TikTok video sails Maryland CEO's app into new wave of success

0:00 / 2:44



By: [Kendall Green](#)

Posted at 7:32 PM, Jan 19, 2023 and last updated 2023-01-20 02:29:53-05

His goal for years, was to promote his boater navigation app and now he's navigating a whole new wave of success.

The success is all thanks to a viral TikTok post by his daughter Megan that's new now moving through millions of phone screens and hearts.

"It's a whole different playing field after this past weekend," said Jeff Foulk, the CEO of Argo, a navigation app.

He spent years trying to crack code to attract new users to the app he created years ago.

"It's a little be like Waze, Yelp and Facebook or a social platform all thrown into one but very much boater centric," Foulk shared.



The app was a golden idea that he worked hard to perfect hoping word of mouth would do the trick, but his biggest cheerleader stepped in from the sideline and hit a home run.

"My daughter posted that video and the overwhelming support we got was just incredible," Foulk shared.

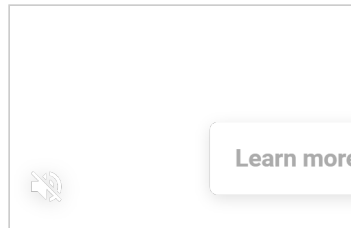
"He didn't know I took the video. I showed him at 100 likes and he was like okay, I showed him at 1000 likes and he was like okay. Then it just kept going," Foulk's daughter Megan recalled.

The numbers exploded until they looked up millions viewed the video among thousand who shared and commented on it.

"It was the views but when it started translating to downloads and emails, it wasn't a million, it was several million," Foulk explained.

The CEO, then, had a good problem on his hands.

season. We weren't ready for Tic Tok to send in millions and millions of people all at one time," he said.



17.5 million views later, the app has hit number 1 for navigation in the Apple app store, doubled in downloads and has more than 15,000 5-star reviews all in just 4 days.

"I hope my dad can take a moment and just feel really proud of himself," said Megan Foulk.

He's taking that moment in now, but it's a spark to what he hopes will fuel a movement from right here in Maryland that sets sail world-wide.

"I never thought I would get every boater, but if I got every boater in this Marina using the Argo app, I would be absolutely thrilled," he said.

Captain Foulk and his family hopes more people will download the free app and try out their premium version that offers extended features for \$20/year.



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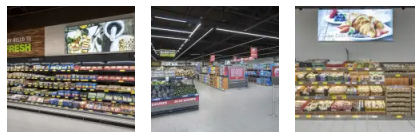
Welcome To The Neighborhood: Aldi Opens Fourth Location In Harford County



Zak Failla 12/08/2022 1:52 p.m.



Aldi has opened its fourth Harford County location. Photo Credit: ALDI



After a lengthy wait, Aldi has officially opened its fourth location in Harford County as the retail giant continues to expand its offerings in the region.

The Constant Friendship Shopping Center in Abingdon welcomed the supermarket to the neighborhood with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Emmorton Road near Route 24 on Thursday, Dec. 8.

“An Aldi near you is opening on (Dec 8),” officials posted on the company’s website. “The savings in Abingdon are getting bigger. Come into Aldi and get your favorite groceries for your home at incredibly low prices. From fresh produce to organic foods, we’ve got it all for less, every day.”

Now open, the store takes the spot of longtime retailer Gabe’s, which closed last year and is now replaced by Aldi and the new Hobby Lobby.

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By **Zenni**

Officials said that the first 100 customers got a gift bag filled with traditional Aldi fan favorites and other items. Some lucky shoppers were even entered to win a \$500 gift card.

According to some shoppers who were there for opening day, the store was packed with customers, but had ample space to accommodate the crowd, though at times there were lines out the door.

Aldi currently has 62 locations across Maryland, including four in Harford County:

- Aldi 3430 at 3430 Emmorton Road in Abingdon;
- Aldi 1312 at 12312 Business Center Way in Edgewood;
- Aldi 746 at 746 South Philadelphia Blvd.;
- Aldi 599 at 599 Baltimore Pike in Bel Air.

The Abingdon location will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

According to store officials, with more than 2,200 stores in 38 states, Aldi is on track to become the third-largest grocery retailer by the end of 2022, behind Walmart, and Kroger, and just ahead of Albertsons.

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HARFORD MAGAZINE

With soccer, basketball, pickleball and a ninja course, Airbound Sports & Entertainment is 'full of fun'

By Al
Baltii

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Ruby Snow makes her way across the bars on the Ninja Warrior course as Giuseppe Ercole, left, his brother, Luca and JaMarcus Coates, right, all watch. Airbound Sports and Entertainment, a new sports venue with an Ultimate Ninja Warrior course and a camp for kids in Forest Hill. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

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On a Thursday morning in July, JaMarcus Coates, 10, bounced off four-angled yellow bars and yelled.

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At Airbound Sports & Entertainment, the ninja course — a colorful obstacle arena — is a huge draw for kids, according to Judy Gee, who opened the Forest Hill sports facility in the spring. Tony Ashley, who works as a camp counselor at Airbound, called it the main attraction.

“Some of the kids, they just go running off the deck and dive into the pit,” Ashley, 58, said. “If you get older kids, they like to try the challenge” of successfully completing the course.

But Airbound isn’t only for youngsters.

“It doesn’t matter if your child is three, or you’re 30 years old,” said Ashley, who also coaches football at St. Vincent Pallotti High School, in Laurel.



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Airbound Sports and Entertainment, a new sports venue with an Ultimate Ninja Warrior course and a camp for kids. It was opened in the spring of this year by Judith "Judy" Gee in Forest Hill. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

Gee said she designed the indoor facility for people of all ages to have fun. In addition to the ninja course, there's a soccer field; a basketball court that doubles as a surface for pickleball; inflatable bouncy houses; and bubble balls where kids can strap themselves inside, roll around and crash into one another.

Gee, a Georgetown University alumna, formerly worked as the director of a now-closed White Marsh trampoline facility, which inspired her to start her own business.

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By [Angelino's Coffee](#)

“I always wanted to be an entrepreneur,” Gee, 61, said. “It was scary at first ... trying to go out on your own” — but the Forest Hill community has welcomed her and Airbound, she added.

Gee based parts of the ninja course, like the climbing ropes that dangle into the pit, on her boot camp experience in the Army; starting in the late 1980’s, she served four years active duty and four years reserve. Gee later worked as a deputy in Suffolk, Virginia and attended police academies in Washington, D.C. and Prince George’s County.

Coates, her godson, also gave her feedback as she was designing Airbound.

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Airbound, which she officially launched in May, is open in the summer every day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and in the winter from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., every day except Tuesdays. One hour of play is \$11.95.

The day camp is \$215.25 per week or \$60 for a single day and \$30 for a half day.

During the camp, kids play soccer, basketball and dodge ball, test their strength and agility on the ninja course and have time for arts and crafts, Ashley said.



Luca Ercole, 8, left and JaMarcus Coates, 10, play with the bubble balls at the Airbound Sports and Entertainment, a new sports venue in Forest Hill. (Lloyd Fox/Baltimore Sun)

“When they leave, they’re tired, but they don’t want to go home,” he said.

It’s a place where friendships are forged as children bounce and dribble and climb

“All
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Food & Lifestyle

Indoor golf venue to open in Harford County, with three more Maryland locations in pipeline



Image: X-Golf

X-Golf, an indoor golf simulator venue, opens a new location in Bel Air.

X-GOLF



By [Morgan Simpson](#) – Reporter , Baltimore Business Journal
Nov 15, 2023

 Listen to this article 3 min

A national indoor golf simulator venue will open a Harford County location this week, with three more Maryland locations to come next year.

California-based X-Golf will open its Bel Air location the evening of Nov. 17. The indoor golf company, which already has a location in Pasadena, is poised to add three more locations throughout the state early next year, in Annapolis, Eldersburg and Frederick.

The X-Golf in Bel Air, locally owned by franchisee Justin Bongiorno, occupies a 5,000-square-foot space at 5 Bel Air South Parkway and features six golfing bays containing simulators with around 14 TVs throughout the venue.

X-Golf caters to both avid golfers and novices and offers lessons from professional golfers, tournaments, junior clinics for young golfers, golfing leagues and the ability to try out and buy new golf clubs.

Bongiorno said the indoor golf simulator experience is intended to be a supplement for outdoor golf in inclement weather. However, even when golf is available outdoors, he added that X-Golf provides league events during the week, which typically occur at night.

Adding to the indoor golf experience, X-Golf has a full 15- to 20-seat bar and menu containing handheld or snack items like chicken wings and dips. For larger events and groups, the Bel Air location will work with various restaurants to provide food on a larger scale, Bongiorno said.

“We are basically a sports bar on the golf course for you,” said Zach Billings, the general manager and pro golfer at X-Golf Bel Air.

X-Golf’s bay spaces can be rented by the hour and don’t have to feature golf. Bongiorno said people can use the TV to watch Ravens games and other events like March Madness.

Bongiorno, who is from Harford County, found X-Golf about two years ago after he decided he wanted another revenue stream and started looking into various golf venues. He noted that a massive venue like Topgolf, [which opened a Baltimore location last year](#), cost millions to open and was out of his scope. Having been exposed to indoor golf

simulators, he “fell in love” with X-Golf’s concept. After visiting other locations around the country, he opted for a more intimate experience with his space instead of a warehouse feel, he said.

“We wanted to bring a different element to X-Golf from a franchise perspective,” he said about the six bay layout, which is smaller than some other X-Golf locations.

The Bel Air location will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and until 11 p.m. on Friday. It will open at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, with a closing time of 11 p.m. and 9 p.m., respectively.

X-Golf started in 2015 and has since opened over 80 locations throughout the country. The franchise fee for an X-Golf location is \$30,000 and the total investment with a build-out can cost around \$700,000, according to the X-Golf website.