



Harford County Public Schools

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harford Book Festival Announces 2008 Schedule of Events

The Harford Book Festival, formerly known as the Bel Air Book Festival, has officially announced its 2008 schedule of events. Appearances have been scheduled at a number of community events this year. These include:

- 45th Annual Havre de Grace Art Show August 16th-17th
- Bel Air Festival for the Arts September 21st
- Darlington Apple Festival October 4th
- Swanfest at Swan Harbor Farms October 12th

'Specs,' the Harford Book Festival mascot, will also be making surprise appearances at a number of community events, fairs and festivals.

The Harford Book Festival was established in 2003 as an initiative to promote literacy and the joy of reading. The Highlands School and the Bel Air Arts Commission were the initiating organizers. In 2004 and 2006, the Harford Book Festival held a one day event at Shamrock Park in Bel Air.

In an effort to be more visible around the county, the organization decided this year to exhibit at several local community events around the county. "We wanted to take our mission and message to other areas of the county, not just Bel Air," commented Lynne Degen, Assistant to the Director of the Harford County Public Library and a member of the Harford Book Festival steering committee. "We have a wonderful coalition of organizations on the committee who are all county-wide organizations and it made sense for us to expand our message and reach."

Back in April 2008 the Harford Book Festival kicked off its event schedule with a full day of activities for children and adults at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Bel Air. The day long celebration featured guest authors, children's activities, book signings and even live music by the Harford Community College Jazz Combo. A special appearance was made by County Executive David Craig and Melinda Craig. Mr. Craig and his wife were on hand for the official ribbon cutting as well as several prize drawings and a reading to the children. There were prizes given out all day and a percentage of the proceeds from designated books sales were given to the organization by Barnes & Noble. Over \$900 was raised from the day. In addition, it gave the Harford Book Festival the opportunity to explain their mission to customers and to encourage patrons to come out and visit the Book Festival at the upcoming events.

The list of organizations and businesses involved in the Harford Book Festival planning include, Harford County Public Library, Harford Community College, Harford County Public Schools, Harford County Cultural Arts Board, The Highlands School, Center for the Arts, the Bel Air Arts Commission, Barnes & Noble, Harford County Government Department of Community Services, The Town of Bel Air and Harford Family News newspaper (formerly Kids & Family News).

Please be sure to check out the Harford Book Festival at one of these events scheduled August through October this year. To contact the Harford Book Festival, you can visit their website at www.harfordbookfestival.com or email info@harfordbookfestival.com.

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