

Harford Hub Newsletter

Your source for news and events in the county.



JOHN BARCZAK
REALTOR
♦
SUMMER 2026



Signers of the Bush Declaration

Harford History - Harford County's Declaration of Independence: The Bush Declaration

As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, it's a good time to remember Harford County's contribution to American liberty: the Bush Declaration. On March 22, 1775, in response to the British blockade of Boston and ongoing taxation issues, 34 elected officials in Harford County signed this historic document at a tavern in Harford Town aka Bush. The tavern was along Philadelphia Road, just north of the present-day town of Abingdon. This declaration was one of the earliest and most forceful resolves in the colonies, unequivocally stating that the people of the newly-formed Harford County would resist British tyranny "at the risque of our lives and fortunes". It explicitly called for arming and training local militia companies and was a powerful, locally-driven commitment to self-governance and opposition to all acts of Parliament aimed at suppressing American rights. The Bush Declaration stands as a testament to the fact that the spirit of independence was alive and thriving in Harford County before the cannons of the Revolution began to roar. The Battles of Lexington and Concord would start three weeks after the signing of the Bush Declaration, signaling the beginning of the American Revolution.



Mastering Lawn Care in Central Maryland

Maintaining a healthy lawn in central Maryland requires specific care tailored to cool-season grasses. The best grass seed choices for our area are Turf-Type Tall Fescue and mixes containing Kentucky Bluegrass or Perennial Ryegrass, as they offer good drought and heat tolerance. To encourage the deep, resilient root system needed to survive our summers, homeowners should adopt a regimen of deep, infrequent watering, aiming for about 1 to 1.5 inches of water weekly that soaks the soil 6 to 8 inches down. Additionally, it's helpful to cut the grass longer (typically 3 to 4 inches in summer); the taller blades shade the soil, reducing water evaporation and suppressing weed germination. Finally, be aware of the Maryland Fertilizer Law, which dictates that fertilizer should be applied mainly in the fall, with minimal summer application, and that the use of herbicides and pesticides should be targeted, with pre-emergent herbicides used in early spring for crabgrass control.

Small Business Spotlight - The Harford County Ice Cream & Cheese Trail

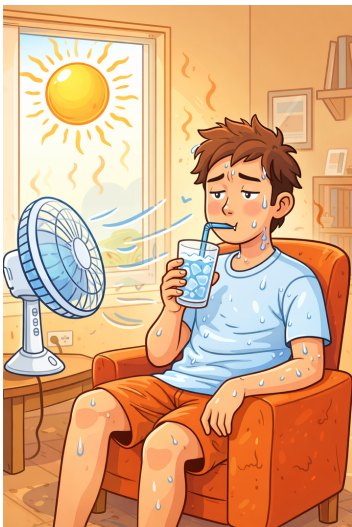
Harford County residents don't need to travel far for a scoop of homemade ice cream or a block of artisan cheese. Our area is home to a rich collection of family-run creameries that celebrate local agriculture by turning fresh, farm-raised milk into delicious treats. Getting to know these businesses is a perfect way to support our agricultural heritage while enjoying some of the freshest dairy products around!

Here's a look at the beloved creameries that define our local flavor landscape:

- **Broom's Bloom Dairy (Bel Air).** A Harford County institution, this ninth-generation farm is famous for its old-fashioned, small-batch ice cream (with well over 100 flavors rotating through the menu), homemade lunches, and farmstead cheese. It's a complete farm-to-table experience with beautiful views.
- **Keyes Creamery (Havre de Grace).** Operating from their own farm, Keyes uses milk from their grass-fed cows to craft premium ice cream and specialty cheeses, including unique flavors like Horseradish and Old Bay Cheddar. They hand-dip ice cream and offer quarts, pints, and custom ice cream cakes, making it a true dairy destination.
- **Jarrettsville Creamery & Deli (Jarrettsville).** This spot combines an old-fashioned ice cream parlor feel with a full-service deli. While they scoop from a rotating selection of their own delicious, homemade ice cream flavors, they also feature a deli counter with high-quality Boar's Head meats and cheeses for sandwiches, wraps, and savory deli salads.
- **Edgewood Creamery (Edgewood).** Known for its community focus and friendly atmosphere, Edgewood Creamery specializes in delicious, homemade ice cream made fresh daily. They feature a wide array of flavors, including unique options alongside the classics.
- **Prigel Family Creamery (Glen Arm).** Located just south of the Harford County border, Prigel is an essential stop for high-quality, grass-fed dairy. Beyond their creamy ice cream, they offer bottled whole milk, cheese, grass-fed beef, and other pasture-raised meats right from their farm shop, focusing on the health and longevity of their Jersey cow herd.



Whether you're craving a scoop of Butter Pecan, a sharp cheddar, or a savory lunch, taking a tour of our local creameries offers a delightful taste of Harford County's agricultural heart.



Stay Cool and Save Energy This Summer

To keep your home comfortable while minimizing those high summer electric bills, focus on a few key efficiency habits. Begin with your cooling system: ensure your air conditioning (A/C) unit gets a professional tune-up annually and that you replace the air filters every 1–3 months to maintain peak efficiency. Inside, check that your ceiling fans are spinning counter-clockwise to create a downdraft that pushes cool air down onto occupants, creating a wind chill effect. To prevent appliances from adding unnecessary heat, try to reduce the use of heat-generating appliances like the oven, stove, dryer, and dishwasher during the warmest parts of the day. Finally, be strategic with sunlight: always close blinds and curtains on south and west-facing windows during the day to block direct solar radiation, which significantly reduces the internal heat load on your home.

Important Dates & Things To Do

Local Car Shows



16 May: 4 Alarm Car Show, Fire Museum of MD
17 May: VW Car Show, Hopkins Farm Brewery
30 May: Passion 4 Pavement Car & Bike Show, Aberdeen Walmart
6 June: 4-H Camp Summer Car Show, Street
20 June: Cooptown Car Show, William Watters UMC, Jarrettsville

First Fridays



Bel Air: 1 May, 5 Jun, 10 Jul, 7 Aug, 4 Sept, 2 Oct
HdG: 1 May, 5 Jun, 3 Jul, 7 Aug, 4 Sept, 2 Oct

Local Events for Summer 2026

2-3 May: HdG Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival
1-9 May: Jarrettsville Lions Club Carnival
11 May: Jim Breuer - Find the Funny, STAR Ctr, HdG
19 Jun: Bel Air Summer Movie Nights - Princess & the Frog
20 Jun: Almost Queen, STAR Ctr, HdG
24-30 Jun: Sail250 Maryland & Airshow Baltimore
4 July: Bel Air Parade & Fireworks belairjuly4.org
5 July: HdG Parade, Concert & Fireworks hdgjuly4th.com
17 July: Bel Air Summer Movie Nights - Zootopia 2
18 July: The Bacon Brothers, STAR Ctr, HdG
7 Aug: The Sugar Hill Gang, STAR Ctr, HdG
21 Aug: Bel Air Summer Movie Nights - Minecraft Movie
26 Sept: Harford County Wine Festival (tickets open 1 May)

Maryland 250: A Once-in-a-Generation Celebration

In 2026, Maryland is celebrating America's 250th birthday with events happening all across the state. From historic reenactments and waterfront festivals to concerts and family-friendly activities, Maryland 250 is a great opportunity to experience our state's rich history in a hands-on way. Here in Harford County and throughout the Chesapeake region, there will be plenty of ways to join in the celebration. I encourage you to check out the Maryland 250 event calendar and plan an outing or two this year. It's a special chance to celebrate where we live and the role Maryland has played in our nation's story. mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/

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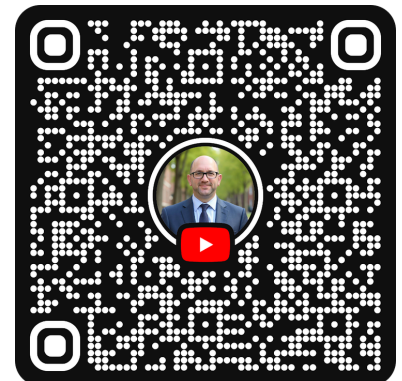
Aberdeen IronBirds – 25 Seasons in Harford Co.



Since taking the field for their inaugural season in 2002, the Aberdeen IronBirds have become a true fixture in Harford County. Now in their 25th season at Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium, the IronBirds represent more than just Minor League Baseball — they represent family traditions, summer nights under the lights, and a shared sense of community pride. If you haven't been to a game in a while, this is a great year to head back to the ballpark. Grab a hot dog, enjoy the atmosphere, and experience one of our community's long-standing hometown traditions.

Now Streaming: Maryland Real Estate, Simplified

This spring I launched my new YouTube channel, Maryland Real Estate w/ John, created specifically to simplify the home buying and selling process in Maryland. I've developed two step-by-step video series — one for buyers and one for sellers — that walk through everything from representation agreements and pricing strategy to inspections, contingencies, and what really happens between contract and closing. I also added a Contract of Sale Walkthrough series, breaking down the Maryland contract and key addenda section-by-section. My goal is the same online as it is with my clients: keep things organized, clear, and easy to understand so there are no surprises along the way. If you're thinking about making a move — or just want to better understand how the process works — scan the QR code.



My Recent Sale Spotlight

Harford County Real Estate Snapshot



SOLD

200 Decoy Drive, HdG

- Strong Open House turnout
- Multiple offers over asking price
- Favorable terms for the seller
- Under contract in a week!



Closed Sales: 247 homes were sold in March 2026, an increase of 11% from last year.

Median Sold Price: The median sale price in March 2026 was \$373,000, which is down 2% from the previous year.

Days on Market: Homes are selling after an average of 21 days on the market, compared to 14 days this time last year.

New Listings: 278 in March, up 1% from last year.

Active Listings: 420 in March, up 4% from last year.

Market Snapshot: Harford County's housing market is still leaning toward a seller's market, but it is clearly moving toward a more balanced environment. Home sales are up compared to last year, but prices have softened slightly and homes are taking longer to sell. At the same time, inventory has increased, giving buyers more options.

Looking for answers about your home's value or what's happening in the local market? Whether you're thinking of buying, selling, or simply curious about the current conditions, I'm here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any real estate questions you have—I'm always happy to provide a personalized, no-obligation consultation.

Thank you for reading!

Thinking of BUYING OR SELLING?

I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR DREAM HOME TODAY!

If you're already working with an agent, please disregard.

Hello Friends,
I'm now 8 months into my real estate journey. I have 3 transactions under my belt and processes in place to help future clients. I'm excited for what's ahead as I continue helping people put down roots and grow through homeownership. If you ever have any questions about buying or selling a home, or if you know of anyone who could use a trustworthy Realtor, please keep me in mind. I'm happy to help.
Thanks, John

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