



# NEWS RELEASE

1221-A Brass Mill Road 21017 • HCPLonline.org  
410-273-5600, 410-575-6761 • Fax: 410-273-5606

**CONTACT:** Leslie Greenly Smith  
Marketing & Communications Director  
**PHONE:** 410-273-5707  
**EMAIL:** smithl@hcplonline.org

*For Immediate Release*

## **Harford County Public Library Hosts Literary Spelling Bee at 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Harford County Farm Fair**

*Annual event attracted 50 participants from kindergarten to adults*

**Belcamp, Md., August 9, 2025** -- Harford County Public Library's Literary Spelling Bee attracted 50 participants of all ages on July 23 at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Harford County Farm Fair. Competitions were held in seven age categories, from kindergarten to adults, and the winners received ribbons provided by the Farm Fair. All participants received free books and other giveaway items from the Library.

This year marks the 28<sup>th</sup> year Harford County Public Library has hosted the Literary Spelling Bee, and nearly 200 people attended. Several families had multiple children as well as parents participate in this annual summertime competition.

"The Annual Literary Spelling Bee is an exciting combination of spelling, learning and the Library. It is such a thrill each year to see the enthusiasm of the participants as they take the floor and eagerly await each new word to be spelled. The Library holds many events each summer, and this is one of my favorites," said Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Public Library.

The top three Literary Spelling Bee winners in each category were:

- Up to Kindergarten: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Addy Ryan; no 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners
- Entering Grades 1-2: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Laney Lail; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Benjamin Palad; 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie), Austin Thompson and Aardarsh Krishna
- Entering Grades 3-4: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Rithin Diwakar; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Grace Holloway; no 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner
- Entering Grades 5-6: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Watson Fargus; 2<sup>nd</sup> place Aaron Lightfoot; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Rylee Brown

- Entering Grades 7-8: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Brooke Turek; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Elyse Taliercio; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Timothy Taliercio
- Entering Grades 9-12: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Adrian Pitt; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Sydney Urand; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Sarah Urand
- Adults: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Leah Amin; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Timothy Fargus; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Chelsea Carr

Photos from the event may be found on the Library's Facebook page at [facebook.com/HCPLonline](https://facebook.com/HCPLonline).

Charles Ross, senior director of human resources for Harford County Public Library, was the MC of the spelling bee. Judges were Mary Hastler, the Library's CEO; Carol Wright, chair of the Library's Board of Trustees; Carolyn Lambdin, a member of the Library's Board of Trustees and Foundation Board, and her husband, Joe; Laurie Slizewski, a Library Foundation Board member emeritus, and her husband, Steve; and Leslie Greenly Smith, marketing & communications director for the Library. Many Harford County Public Library staff members coordinated the event.

Harford County Public Library operates 11 branches located throughout Harford County offering access to ideas that inform, entertain and inspire. Last year the Library interacted with its residents more than 12 million times – borrowing free materials, visiting branches and the website, using free WiFi, and attending classes and events. In 2024 Harford County Public Library received the Maryland Library Association Excellence in Marketing Award for graphic excellence for the second time. [For more information, visit HCPLonline.org.](https://www.hcplonline.org)

***-END-***