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Harford County Farm Fair goes 'Back to Our Roots' July 22-29

Plan to enjoy the best days of summer July 22-29 at the 36th Annual Harford County Farm Fair on North Tollgate Road in Bel Air.

The event is going "Back to Our Roots" with an emphasis on 4-H/FFA exhibits, and livestock shows, agriculture and the environment, local vendors, and no carnival.

New this year is on-site parking and admission by the carload.

The Farm Fair will be open to the public every day, with varying times and admission fees to accommodate the many shows, contests, events, and entertainment. People can check the schedule of events on the website: www.farm-fair.org.

Visitors will need to come more than once to see everything that's happening!

Participants of all ages (who are not 4-H members) are encouraged to bring their community entries and show off their artistic, crafting, kitchen, and gardening talents.

Everybody can compete for ribbons and prizes in open contests, such as the Chef's Challenge, Talent and Karaoke, Farm Olympics, Literary Spelling Bee, Farm Baby Costume, Pie and Watermelon Eating, "Fresh Baked" Peach Pie Contest, and more.

Each day of the Farm Fair features a special event. The first Saturday and Sunday feature the 4-H and open horse shows and the horseshoe pitching and cornhole tournaments. Sunday is filled with music by The Mayo Family Band and the Atomic Light Orchestra (ALO) Concert, sponsored by the Pepsi Bottling Company of Havre de Grace.

Monday features the Harford County Chef's Challenge, with Chef Zack of The Local and Chef Bryan of 111 Main in the professional competition and a team from the Harford Technical High School Culinary Arts program headlining the amateur competition.

Tuesday features the Tal-

ent and Karaoke Contest, and Wednesday's events include the Harford County Public Library Literary Spelling Bee and the Draft Horse Pulling Demonstration.

On Thursday the 4-H Fashion Revue and the Antique Tractor Pull take place, and on Friday the Fair hosts the Lucas Oil Truck and Tractor Pull.

The second Saturday features numerous contests for all ages, the Mason Dixon Mounted Cowboy Shooting Association, and the 4-H Livestock Auction.

The fair has "horse power" each day! In addition to the horse shows on opening weekend, there will be jousting on Monday, the Muddy Creek Vaulters (gymnastics on a horse) on Tuesday, draft horse pulling on Wednesday, and the Mounted Cowboys on Saturday.

Thursday and Friday nights provide the horsepower of antique tractors and the truck and tractor pull.

Local Food vendors and beer and wine vendors will be on-site each day. Daily activities include an expanded Agricultural and Environmental Resources Barn with displays, demonstrations, and activities provided by local agencies and organizations.

Free children's activities include inflatables, face painting, button making, the Beachmont Christian Camp straw maze, Wildlife Adventures, and The Purple Trolley with gourd crafts.

Steve Wheeler, local ironworker and blacksmith, will provide daily demonstrations.

Each day includes live music on the Showmobile Stage and mechanical bull riding. Local agricultural businesses will display the latest in farm machinery, and there will be local business sponsors and vendors, too.

Visit the website www.farm-fair.org and Facebook for the complete schedule of events and to learn how to enter a competition, become a sponsor, or serve as a volunteer.

