

Snow blankets Harford; suit filed over store

Bel Air residents opposed Safeway on Hays property

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From The Aegis, Thursday,
Dec. 24, 1959:

Many Harford County residents were looking forward to a white Christmas 50 years ago this week.

Though it was hardly a blizzard, snow fell across the county on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 22, blanketing the ground, roads and trees. A picturesque snow scene was photographed in the vicinity of the old mill race off Moores Mill Road near Bel Air and appeared on the front page of *The Aegis*.

Five property owners along South Main Street in Bel Air filed suit in Harford County Circuit Court 50 years ago this week, trying to ensure the town's attempts to rezone the Hays property at Baltimore Pike and Main would be thwarted.

The old Kenmore Inn property and the Hays property were to be the site of a Safeway supermarket that some residents opposed. The town had recently rezoned the Hays property for commercial use, but the suit contended the action did not pass legal muster.

The Harford County Board of County Commissioners unveiled its 1960 road improvement program 50 years ago this week. In all, 14.85 miles of county-owned roads were due to be paved or otherwise upgraded in the coming year.

Among the roads affected were Wheel, Tollgate, Laurel Bush, Maxa, Gilbert, Prospect Mill, Reckord and Franklinville.

A Houcks Mill Road family was likely to be homeless for Christmas after a fire destroyed their rented dwelling. It took Jarrettsville firefighters four hours to control the blaze, which burned from the home's basement to the attic. A defective chimney or fireplace was suspected.

It was another tough week for Quincy Edwards, owner of Edwards Motor Company in Bel Air, where there was a \$10,000 fire in the shop area the previous week.

50
YEARS AGO

This time, a burglar broke into the building through a small hole in a garage window. Once inside, the burglary took \$15 and the keys to a Thunderbird which was driven off the lot.

A short time later, a set of license plates was stolen from another vehicle in the Bel Air area. No trace of the car had been found.

The Harford County Liquor Dispensary on Wall Street behind the courthouse in Bel Air was apparently staying put after the liquor board and the county commissioners rejected several other potential locations in town as being too expensive. Town officials had expressed a preference for the dispensary staying put. The commissioners did agree to lease space at 5 W. Courtland St., likely to be the new home of the Magistrate's Court, which was due to move out of the courthouse to make room for a new record keeping system.

For the Jones family of Hickory and their seven-month-old son, Michael, it was going to be a joyous Christmas after Michael successfully underwent surgery for a serious heart ailment. The boy required blood transfusions that were made possible by donations from many neighbors and friends of the family. The surgery, which permitted Michael to experience his first Christmas, was performed by Dr. R.A. Cowley at University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore. Michael was the youngest person to survive the procedure at the hospital.

Dozens of Harford County businesses took out an ad in this week's edition of *The Aegis* announcing they would be closed on Saturday, Dec. 26, for the benefit of their employees and their families. At the movies in Harford County Christmas weekend 1959 were "The Jayhawkers," starring Jeff Chandler and Fess Parker, at the Bel Air Theater, and "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter," starring Jayne Mansfield and Tom Ewell, at the Bel Air Drive-in.



Luckily, many of Santa's stops were well marked by his helpers before the snow expected over the weekend.

There's just somethin' about the

weather

The forecast:

The National Weather Service forecast for today (Wednesday) calls for mostly sunny skies, with a high near 32. Tonight will be partly cloudy, with a low around 13. Thursday (Christmas Eve) will be partly cloudy, with a 30 percent chance of snow and a high near 30.

The record high on Dec. 23 was 66 degrees in 1981.

The record low on Dec. 23 was 17 degrees in 1969.

The average high for Dec. 23 is 44 degrees.

	Highs	Lows	Precip.
Dec. 13	46	35	0.73
Dec. 14	51	40	0.00
Dec. 15	59	46	0.00
Dec. 16	46	35	0.00
Dec. 17	38	27	0.00
Dec. 18	37	26	0.00

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Football enthusiasts gathered on Saturday, November 21st at Cedarlane Regional Park in Bel Air to showcase their gridiron skills and raise over \$30,000 for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and individuals with developmental disabilities.

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Event video now on YouTube:
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