



The Bel Air Bond

January 2009

Volume IX, Issue 1

They have designs on Harford



Paul Edmeades & Mark Stromdahl

As long-time Harford County residents and architects, Paul Edmeades and Mark Stromdahl have seen - and designed - many changes in Bel Air and surrounding communities.

Edmeades & Stromdahl, Ltd., located at 11 N. Main St., specializes in public buildings, such as schools, libraries, community centers, churches, retail centers and public safety training structures. Their local portfolio dots the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, and outlying counties. This includes: Main Street's Spenceola Center, Stockson Printing Company, and Peoples Bank as well as Harford Day School's Multi-purpose and Middle School buildings. The firm is also responsible for the design of libraries in Whiteford, Jarrettsville, and Norrisville.

Currently, Edmeades & Stromdahl is working on the design of the new Churchville Library & Activity Center, Harford

County Emergency Operations Center and an expansion to the Christ our King Presbyterian Church.

The firm also garners regional and national attention for planning and designing fire training facilities, which include buildings that are repeatedly set on fire and extinguished. Local examples are in Howard County, and Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute facilities on the upper and lower Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland.

Currently, Edmeades and Stromdahl are watching, along with many other County residents, as their design of the Fallston Activity Center comes to life. Projects that serve senior citizens and children under the same roof call for a unique design, they say.

"It's different than a single-user facility," Mark Stromdahl says of the 30,000-square-foot activity center that will serve seniors during the day and offer programs for youth and recreational leagues in the evenings. An entrance commons will serve as a mingling space. From there, the seniors will have classrooms, a library, conference rooms and a computer center. Both young and old will share gymnasium space (with an outside entrance) as programs dictate.

"One of the main elements of design is the balance of different needs and requirements," says Mark. At the Fallston Activity Center, "there is a careful separation and integration at work."

Edmeades & Stromdahl's planning and design work extends throughout the state and into the East Coast. They believe the key to developing a successful project is through a comprehensive understanding of each client's vision. "Every place is unique," says Paul. "Our job is to tap into that uniqueness, to really understand it and to design to that."