

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

January - February 2006

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It seems the years now move faster than they did in earlier times. That certainly was the case in 2005.

As usual, we had some very happy times in 2005, but sadly, we had some difficult moments as well. While we laughed and cheered at some of our great City celebrations, we also shed some tears for dear friends that left us this year.

During this past year we proudly recognized and honored a number of our military and foreign service neighbors that were called to the defense of liberty around the world, and sadly, we consoled some of those same friends and neighbors that lost loved ones in that service to our country.

It is fitting and proper at this special time of the year when these losses are particularly difficult for everyone, to recall these brave souls and their families and keep them in our prayers, as we continue to wish God's blessings on those still in harm's way. May all our sons and daughters return home safely and soon.

So, we to say good-bye to 2005 as we eagerly await 2006. On behalf of the entire City Council and a dedicated City Staff, we wish all a Happy New Year.

G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor

New Year's Resolutions

The beginning of a new calendar year is a great time to change your life and improve your health. If you are like the majority of promise-makers, at least one of your resolutions has to do with health and fitness. Sure, last year's resolutions didn't make it past the fifth of January, but possibly this year will be different. The following is a list of tips that might help you reach your goals with your health and fitness in 2006.

- Choose an obtainable goal. Don't try to do everything at once. Set some realistic goals.
- Make a plan. Write it down. Be specific about what you want to change and how you are going to do it. Stick it on the fridge, or some place where you know you will see it every-day.
- Tell friends and family members what you want to do and ask for their support. Ask them to gently remind you when you start thinking negatively.
- Remember to reward yourself when you have stuck with your plan. The reward should not be related directly to your goal. If

your goal is to lose weight, don't reward yourself with a pizza. Make your reward something personal. Maybe a new outfit.

- Last but not least, forgive yourself. We are not perfect, so it's unreasonable to think we won't slip with our goals. When we do, don't be too hard on yourself and don't give up. One mistake isn't the end of the world (or the end of your resolution). Keep at it. You'll be glad you did.

On average, about 20% of us keep our New Year's resolutions. Most of the failures are related to health and fitness. By following the tips above, you'll be better equipped to fall into the successful 20% category.

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The *Bowie Spotlight* is published by the City of Bowie six times a year. It is delivered to all postal carrier routes containing City of Bowie addresses.

Comments or questions regarding the content or form of the newsletter should be directed to the Public Information Office at 301-809-3040.

The City's TTY number is 301-262-5013.

For alternative versions of the newsletter, please contact the City's Public Information Office.

City of Bowie
2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, MD 20715

David J. Deutsch,
City Manager
301-809-3030



Inhalant Abuse Substances Are Commonly Found At Home

The recent death of a Bowie High School student has thrust the abuse of readily available and legal household cleaners and solvents into the discussion of substance abuse in our community. The deliberate inhalation of fumes, vapors or gases from common household products is no less dangerous than abusing drugs or alcohol. Brain, liver, and kidney damage, as well as death, can all be the result of abusing inhalants.

Unfortunately, there are factors that make the abuse of inhalants prevalent among drug-curious preteens and teens. Three of these factors are:

1. The products used to produce the inhalant high are readily available in every home. Some of these products are: correction fluid, computer keyboard cleaners, propane, butane, glue, marking pens, spray paint, dusting spray, hair spray and whipped cream.
2. There is a presumption of safety about these products because they are part of the ordinary household landscape.
3. The actual act of abusing the intoxicant (through "huffing" or "bagging") is easily concealed from parental or guardian eyes. Most parents will not question why their child has computer cleaner in their room or carries a lot of marking pens. Generally, there are not a lot of outward signs on the abuser's body that the abuse has taken place, thus making it difficult for even an observant parent to know that something may be wrong.

The City's Youth and Family Services Division will conduct a lecture regarding this issue on **February 9, 2006** at 7 p.m. at City Hall (see announcement on Page 13). Should you have any questions, please contact the Youth and Family Services Office at 301-809-3033, the City's Public Safety Officer at 301-809-3079, or visit the following website, www.inhalant.org.

"Keeping the Dream Alive"

City Celebrates the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. January 17, 2006

The City will host an event on **Tuesday, January 17, 2006** at 7 p.m., celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One of the features of the celebration will be poetry written by students in our community for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Poetry Contest.

The poem content must reflect or celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 who live in Bowie or attend a school in the City. Poems must be no longer than fourteen (14) lines and conform to the acrostic style (where the first letter of each line sequentially spells out the poem title). All poems must have the title: "**Let Freedom Ring.**" Entries must be submitted by **Friday, January 6, 2006**, to the City Manager's Office at Bowie City Hall, and must be accompanied by the Poetry Contest Entry Form which can be downloaded from www.cityofbowie.org/news/mlkcontest.pdf. Entries will be judged on the basis of originality, creativity, and adherence to the theme, acrostic structure, and line limits. First prize in each category is \$50. Second prize is \$30 and third prize is \$20. The four contest categories are grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

Contest participants are invited to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Program and Reception at City Hall on January 17, 2006 at 7 p.m. Contest finalists will be invited to read their entries at that time. Winning entries will be displayed at City Hall.

The public is invited to attend the reception. For more information, visit the City's website or call 301-809-3032.

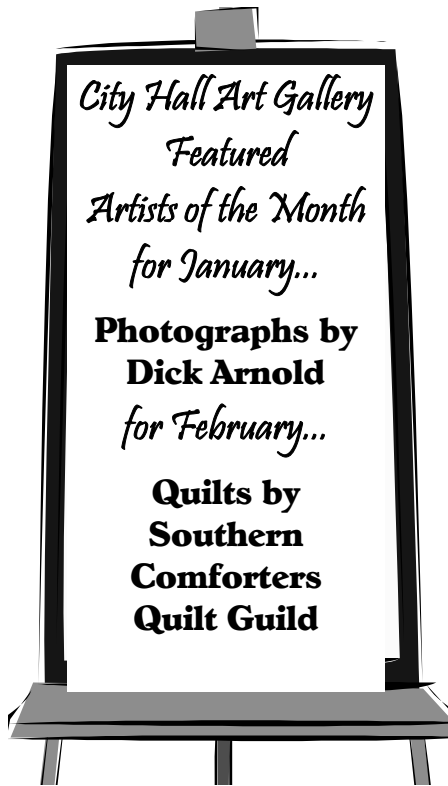
Important Snow Information

Winter is on the way and with it unfortunately comes snow and ice. The City Code informs residents of their responsibilities and addresses many situations that occur. The following synopsis may be helpful:

- ALL streets, posted or not, within the City limits are snow emergency routes.
- A snow emergency occurs when snow accumulates to a depth of two inches.
- When a snow emergency occurs all vehicles must be removed from the street to permit curb-to-curb plowing, salting and/or sanding.
- During this emergency vehicles should be parked in driveways or may be parked temporarily on the grass.
- Vehicles must be returned to the street after plowing has occurred.
- Failure to comply may result in vehicles being ticketed or towed.
- Sidewalks must be cleared of all snow and ice. City Code requires that this be done within 48 hours of the end of a snow event.

Main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. Please be assured that plowing, salting and sanding will continue until all streets are cleared or properly treated.

To report hazardous snow or ice conditions within the City during regular business hours, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344. On weekends and after 4 p.m. on weekdays, please call City Hall at 301-262-6200.



Young Person's Art Gallery



This gallery at City Hall features the artwork of school-aged children. The featured artists are:

January

Pointer Ridge Elementary
School

February

Grace Christian School



Art Notes

City Hall Conference Room Gallery Exhibits New Artwork The Conference Rooms have a new look! The change of the artwork in the Conference Room Gallery in December brought back the work of artists who have exhibited before, along with the addition of some new and impressive pieces. Stop in to see the gallery, which includes the work of a number of different artists in three City Hall Conference Rooms - Rooms 5, 111 and 204.

City Hall is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. and on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Please stop in to see this wonderful exhibit, with the understanding that the exhibit may be viewed when the Conference Rooms are not in use. If you are an artist who lives in the City, in a community with a Bowie Zip Code, or are a member of a Bowie-based art group and would like information about showing your work in any of the galleries, please contact us at City Hall.

Arts Grants The Arts Committee offers Arts Grants providing opportunities for Bowie residents (children or adults) to be involved in arts activities. Let your imagination be your guide! Grants are available to individuals or organizations that have a plan for providing community members with an arts experience. Develop your creative ideas into a new and enjoyable arts project that involves Bowie residents. Help make Bowie an arts destination, with your activity. Applications must be received by Friday, February 17. See the article, "Opening of New Visions of Bowie Gallery," on Page 5 of this newsletter for an example of one of last year's Arts Grants projects.

The Arts Grants application is available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

For information about these Arts Committee items, please contact Committee Liaison Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.

Opening of New "Visions of Bowie" Gallery

The new "Visions of Bowie" Gallery, in the Multipurpose Room at City Hall, will open during the month of February with a display of artwork created by students who participated in classes recently provided by the Guild of Bowie Artists. Following this exhibit, the gallery will house works of art created by various artists that depict scenes in and around Bowie.

If you are an artist who lives in a community with a Bowie Zip Code, and have painted or taken photos of scenes, activities, historic buildings, etc. in Bowie that you would be interested in displaying in this gallery, please contact the Arts Committee.

The Guild of Bowie Artists obtained an Arts Grant from the City of Bowie and the Arts Committee last year, through which they provided arts classes for students attending Benjamin Tasker Middle School. Students participated in demonstrations with various mediums last spring and were invited to sign up for follow-up classes this past fall. The classes included pencil drawing, pastels, watercolors and acrylics.

Students were given the option of having their work displayed at City Hall in the new Bowie Gallery. Their work will be on exhibit during the months of February and March 2006 (specific dates TBD).

The Arts Committee would like to thank the Guild of Bowie Artists for dedicating much time and effort to this project. Gina Reininger did research, sought discounts, and additional donations from suppliers of arts materials in order to purchase the necessary supplies. President of the Guild, Tom Kirby, and other Guild Members assisted with planning and teaching the classes. Overall, they provided a wonderful opportunity for local youth to participate in classes to further their interest and experience in the arts.

For more information, contact the Arts Committee liaison Leni Stern at lstern@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3068.

Parent Tips From the Education Committee

Preschoolers are very curious, often asking "Why?" "Ready at Five," an early learning partnership with the US Department of Education, Freddie Mac and others suggest the following activities for preschool-aged children on their "Activity Calendar" found at www.readyatfive.org:

- Have the child help with things like making Jell-O, (being careful with the hot water), so that the child can see the changes and is encouraged to ask about them.
- Identify colors among things they see around the house every day.

These activities make everyday experiences into learning activities. The first is an activity that gives a child an opportunity to question and learn from everyday experiences. Identifying colors among things they see around the house, or finding objects that are the same color as something they are wearing, or a favorite toy, helps with skills such as sorting, comparing and identifying things that are alike and different.

New Paraprofessional Award Program

The Education Committee has developed a new award to recognize the efforts of the paraprofessionals who work with teachers and students in local schools.

An Education Paraprofessional, for the purpose of this award, is an aide or other person who is not trained or hired as a teacher, but who works directly with children in a classroom or small group setting within a school. Paraprofessionals work closely with teachers to implement plans for students, to improve their learning opportunities. Their dedication to their work with students is often the key to providing successful learning experiences.

Teachers and/or principals may nominate paraprofessionals for this award. The person selected will be awarded a certificate of recognition from the City and gift certificates for dinner at the Bowie Glory Days restaurant.

The Education Committee would like to thank Glory Days restaurant for partnering with them to offer coupons for this year's recipients.



Lifelong Learning Begins at Birth

The Bowie Education Committee will hold a Forum on Early Learning on **Wednesday, January 25, 2006** at City Hall in the Multipurpose Room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Educators, day care providers, parents, grandparents, and anyone else who spends time with children from birth through kindergarten will find this program worthwhile.

This Forum will offer tips and techniques for making fun learning experiences out of everyday activities. There will be two speakers with expertise in this area. Myra Katz, Early Childhood Specialist for the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, is back by popular demand to cover the topic "Early Literacy is an Everyday Thing." Her presentation will include selecting age appropriate books for young children, and other related topics. Lynn Baldwin, an Early Childhood Educator for 30 years, who coordinates childcare programs for M-NCPPC, will present "Everyday Math and Science Experiences."

For more information, please contact Education Committee Liaison Leni Stern at lstern@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3068. *A snow date has been scheduled for February 7, 2006.*

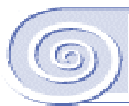
Teen Interview Skills

**What should you expect when you sit down for an interview?
What is expected of you?**

This forum is geared toward high school students preparing for interviews. Whether for part-time or summer jobs, colleges or scholarships, everyone faces interviews at some time. For teens, this may happen numerous times over several years.

Scheduled for **February 15 at 7 p.m.** in the Multipurpose Room at City Hall, this forum should take the mystery out of the interview process. It will prepare students for the questions that will be asked, attire that is acceptable, and address overall presentation and preparation for interviews. Mock interviews as well as tips to assist you in the process will be included.

For more information, please contact Education Committee Liaison Leni Stern at lstern@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3068. *A snow date has been scheduled for March 2, 2006.*



Teachers of the Month



This program was developed several years ago as a way to recognize the wonderful teachers educating Bowie students. This program gives City residents, parents, students, teachers and other school staff, the opportunity to say "Thank You" to a special teacher. Teachers selected are recognized by the City Council and are presented with a certificate and a savings bond. Thanks to the Washington Savings Bank for providing funds for the savings bonds since the program's beginning in 1999!

While nominations are accepted at any time, teachers are selected for the months of September through June. Nomination forms are available at schools in Bowie, on the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org (select Committees, then Education Committee), or at City Hall. For more information, contact Education Committee Liaison Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.



Ms. Margaret Derocher

Margaret Derocher of Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center Selected as December Teacher of the Month

Margaret Derocher, an Infants & Toddler Early Intervention/ Special Education Teacher at Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center, is well-loved by everyone. She is a "wealth of professional knowledge" who has gained expertise through vast experiences in the Bowie area.

Her expertise, according to Carol Beswick, another teacher and a Speech Therapist who nominated her, is in "working with children with extreme behavioral and communication needs." Many children who are considered "very difficult," "thrive under her watch." "She is creative and innovative in terms of tapping into what motivates and encourages her particular students."

Ms. Derocher also mentors new teachers, providing teacher training to many university students. "They too have thrived under her tutelage." They benefit from her nurturing and guidance, as she teaches others to be successful and to "love what she loves doing." She also trains parents, creates working relationships with parents and assists them

to "learn to maximize their children's learning by enhancing their personal routines therapeutically."

Ms. Elyse Hurley, Principal at Chapel Forge, indicates that the first thing she "discovered" about Margaret was "her wonderful sense of humor." The second thing was "her vast knowledge of children and child development." "Margaret has a great rapport with parents," and has been a mentor "to new teachers and even seasoned teachers, giving them valuable support and skills so they can move ahead and be successful." She is "one of the finest teachers we have at Chapel Forge and truly deserving of the Teacher of the Month Award."

City Scholarships

During the month of February, the Excellence in Education and Arts Scholarship application forms will be available. These scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors who meet certain criteria. Deadlines will be set for sometime during the month of April. Watch local newspapers and the next issue of the *Spotlight*, as well as the City's website for more information.

Education Grants Awarded!

Congratulations to the winners selected to receive **2005 - 2006 Grants for Education!** Almost \$44,000 was requested in 54 grant applications from 14 different public and private schools and groups. A variety of creative projects that enhance the learning experiences of students were proposed. The Education Committee chose 20 proposals to receive grants totaling a little under \$15,000. This year's winners are:

2005 - 2006 Grants for Education Awards

Grant Title	School	Award
Circle of Friends	Benjamin Tasker Middle School	\$100.00
Analysis of Biotic & Abiotic Characteristics	Bowie High School	\$1,000.00
Vocational Training Activity Kits	Bowie High School	\$1,000.00
Assistive Technology Toolkits	Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center	\$1,000.00
Hands-On Learning Assistive Technology	High Bridge Elementary School	\$980.00
Culture Kid	Kenilworth Elementary School	\$813.60
Do You Hear What I Hear?	Kenilworth Elementary School	\$600.00
Do You See What I See?	Kenilworth Elementary School	\$999.99
Great Books for Great Readers	Kenilworth Elementary School	\$1,000.00
Patterns and Shapes All Around	Kenilworth Elementary School	\$680.00
It's Not Easy Being Green	Rockledge Elementary School	\$786.69
Leap Into Phonemic Awareness	Rockledge Elementary School	\$675.00
Choose Me! Choose Me!	Saint Pius X Regional School	\$264.79
In the Zone	Saint Pius X Regional School	\$859.11
When is a Star More Than a Star?	Saint Pius X Regional School	\$681.20
Enhanced Acoustical Treatment	Samuel Ogle Middle School	\$819.96
Science Club	Tulip Grove Elementary School	\$760.00
Getting the Big Picture	Whitehall Elementary School	\$309.00
Caldecott Lunch Book Club	Yorktown Elementary School	\$999.68
Rainbow Butterflies	Yorktown Elementary School	\$632.00
Total		\$14,961.02



City Offers Pruning Workshop

The City's Beautification & Tree Preservation Committee invites you to attend their annual Pruning Workshop. This **free** workshop is intended to teach individuals the basic skills needed to properly prune trees and shrubs. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation and pruning demonstration on various plants. It will be held **Saturday, March 4, 2006, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** at the Bowie Senior Center on Health Center Drive, in Room 144. A light snack and beverages will be provided.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas trees will be picked up every Wednesday in January with yard waste. Please make sure that all lights and decorations are removed from the tree.



Street Lights Out?

To report problems with street lights (i.e. outage, day burner, knockdown), contact the City's Public Works Office between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 301-809-2344 or jtayman@cityofbowie.org. Please provide the address nearest the pole and the pole number (found about five feet up the pole) when you place the call.

City's Hall of Honor is Accepting Nominations

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize those citizens of Bowie who have made "major and lasting contributions" to the City. The first inductees were honored in 1994.

A nominee to the Hall of Honor must:

- be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline.
- have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie.
- have been a resident of the City of Bowie either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death.

Past inductees include Thelma Brady Gasch, a "native of Belair." Mrs. Gasch's father worked at the Belair Stables when the Woodward's owned the home. When the Stable Museum was established, Mrs. Gasch generously donated the furnishings used in the home where she grew up. Her contribution helped to maintain the heritage and history of Bowie. Another inductee, Chester Kreitzer, was the first Mayor of Bowie. Mr. Kreitzer was the President of the three-member Council and helped to form the structure of local government that Bowie works under today, serving as interim Mayor during the transition period. Declining to run for re-election, Mr. Kreitzer became the Director of Public Works and held the post for 21 years.

Once a nomination is received, forms and information are passed on to the City's Community Outreach Committee for review. The Committee then sends their recommendations on to Council for final approval. Once an honoree is approved, a reception is held in the inductee's honor, and a plaque is hung in the front lobby of City Hall.

For more information on the Hall of Honor, please contact Shannon Carpenter, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or email scarpenter@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org. The deadline to receive nominations for the 2006 Hall of Honor inductions is Friday, **February 17, 2006** at 5 p.m. in Room 203 at City Hall.

BOWIE PLAYHOUSE Presents



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN -- 2/10 - 2/25/05

A skilled combination of humor and mystery, it extends the typical who-dun-it to a who, how and when will it be done? By Jack Weinstock and Billy Gilbert. Directed by Dan Kavanaugh.

Performances begin at 2 p.m. on Sundays and 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Presented by Bowie Community Theatre, 301-805-0219.



The Bowie Playhouse is located on Route 3 South in Whitemarsh Park. For information about the performances or to purchase tickets, please call the theater company at the telephone number listed above.

January and February 2006 City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council Meetings

January 3 and 17, 8 p.m.
February 6 and 21, 8 p.m.

City Council Worksessions

January 9 and 23, 8 p.m.
February 13 and 27, 8 p.m.

Administrative Review Board

January 19, 7 p.m.
February 16, 7 p.m.

Arts Committee

January 12, 7 p.m.
February 9, 7 p.m.

Beautification & Tree Preservation Committee

February 8, 6:30 p.m.

Civic Affairs Committee

January 10, 7 p.m.
February 14, 7 p.m.

Community Outreach Committee

January 10, 7 p.m.
February 14, 7 p.m.

Community Recreation Committee (City Gym)

January 4, 7:30 p.m.
February 1, 7:30 p.m.

Diversity Committee

January 18, 7 p.m.
February 15, 7 p.m.

Economic Development Committee

January 11, 7:30 a.m.
February 8, 7:30 a.m.

Education Committee

January 24, 7 p.m.
February 28, 7 p.m.

Financial Advisory Committee

January 4, 8 p.m.
February 1, 8 p.m.

Information Technology Committee

January 11, 7 p.m.
February 8, 7 p.m.

International Festival Committee

January 5, 7 p.m.

**The public is invited and encouraged to attend all City Council and
Committee meetings. Unless otherwise noted, all
meetings take place at City Hall.**

Snow Shoveling ... A Friendly Reminder

Winter is here! The City of Bowie requires that snow and ice be removed from sidewalks within 48 hours of snowfall to provide safe walkways for everyone. A 24-hour extension may be acquired by elderly or disabled residents by completing an extension application available from the City's Department of Community Services.

Everyone is encouraged to locate a person to do snow removal now! Do now wait until it snows.

The Community Outreach Committee offers the following suggestions for overcoming difficulties with dealing with snowy weather:

- Be neighborly. Please help those who are unable to shovel their sidewalks during bad weather. Shovel sidewalks for the elderly, disabled and those with other health concerns.
- Contact Bowie Youth and Family Services at 301-809-3033 to ask about the Teen Job Bank. The Job Bank is a list of teens between the ages of 13 and 18 years old who are willing and able to shovel snow.

Please note: Teens on the list are not prescreened, and costs and other details must be worked out between the resident and the teen.

If you are a teen who would like to sign up to shovel sidewalks or to do other chores to assist residents, please call Youth and Family Services at 301-809-3033.

Public Skating Schedule

Sunday	2 - 4 p.m. *Family Session
Monday	9 - 11 a.m., 12 - 2 p.m. and 2:15 - 4:15 p.m.
Tuesday	9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.
Wednesday	9 - 11 a.m. and 1:15 - 3:15 p.m.
Thursday	9 - 11 a.m. , 12 - 2 p.m. and 2:15 - 4:15 p.m.
Friday	9 - 11 a.m., 12 - 2 p.m., 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. *Family Session and 9 - 11 p.m. **DJ Session
Saturday	1 - 3 p.m.

*Family Session - During these sessions, admission for up to five (5) family members is \$12 plus skate rental.

**DJ Session - A disc jockey plays music during this session. The session is \$7 and includes admission, skate rental and the DJ.

Schedule is subject to change without notice (especially around the holidays); please call 301-809-3090 or 301-262-6200 to verify days and times.

Admission Rates:

Adult	\$4.75
Child (under 16)	\$4.25
Skate Rental	\$2.50

Bowie residents may purchase resident discount passes. Applications are available in the brochure rack at the Ice Arena.

Bowie Ice Arena

301-809-3090



Series 3 Group Lessons Offered

Series 3 Group Lessons will begin February 2, 2006. **Registration will be held January 26 - 31** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Registration must be made in person by a parent or legal guardian.

Classes are offered for children as young as 18 months of age through adults. The fee for a seven-week series of lessons is \$70 for Bowie residents and includes: seven ½-hour lessons, skate rental during the lesson, and a seven-admission public session pass. Space is limited, so register early.

**Free Skate Rental
With Paid Admission**

Bowie Ice Arena

Not Valid for DJ Session
Expires February 28, 2006

Homeowners Association Update

The City is currently updating its Homeowners Association list. If your Homeowners Association or Management Company is not currently listed and should be included, or if it has changed and information needs to be updated, please contact Marianne Baird in the Planning Department at 301-809-3047 or mbaird@cityofbowie.org.

Teens and Volunteer Adults Enjoy the Benefits of Mentoring

All youth have the potential to succeed in life and contribute to society. However, not all young people get the support they need to thrive.

When a task force from the *Carnegie Corporation* asked a group of young people what they wanted most in their free time, the majority answered, "long talks with trusting and trustworthy adults who know a lot about the world and who like young people."

If you reflect on your own youth, the answer from this survey probably won't come as a surprise. You may remember someone from your own life that served as a mentor, someone you could trust and turn to for support and encouragement, someone who made you feel special.

Mentoring is the presence of caring individuals who, along with parents or guardians, provide young people with support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples. Mentoring can and does help young people succeed, no matter what their circumstances!

The Teen Mentoring Program (TMP) at Bowie High School seeks to match students with a caring adult volunteer mentor for the duration of the academic year. Mentors and teens meet weekly during the school day, both voluntarily participate and contribute to the success of the program.

Mentoring works. The TMP invites caring adults to apply to be Mentors if you are willing to:

- Make a commitment to a teen for the school year.
- Meet weekly with a teen.
- Agree to an interview and security screening.
- Attend initial mentor training and occasional follow-up training.

Students at Bowie High School can apply at school through the Guidance Office or the nurse, or call Andra Berry, Prevention Coordinator at Bowie Youth & Family Services, at 301-809-3033.

Come Out For A Town Hall Meeting

January 12, 2006

In an effort to reach out and involve the entire community in the fight against crime, please join County Councilman Doug Peters, State's Attorney Glenn Ivey, and Prince George's County Police Chief Melvin High for a Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Bowie City Council. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 2006 from 7 - 9 p.m.** at Bowie City Hall.

For additional information, please contact Rhonda Dallas, Special Assistant, State's Attorney's Office at 301-952-2704, or Roxanne Calloway, Administrative Assistant, Councilman Peters' Office at 301-952-3094.

Youth & Family Services...Invites Parents to Our Winter Lecture Series

The series involves a commitment of only one evening. Come and get to know a bit more about Youth Services, and get some ideas to take home and use as additions to your repertoire of parenting and coping skills. Come to one or all of the lectures. Registration is required. Call 301-809-3033 to register or with any questions you may have.

Lectures (7 - 9 p.m.)

January 23 – “Staying Connected to Your Teen” - This lecture will give ideas and offer skill building to help parents learn ways to open two-way communication with their teens.

February 1 – This lecture will be on one of our more popular topics, **“Social Skills for Elementary Aged Children”**. It will be a fast-moving fun evening of learning ways to help your youngster navigate the difficulties in making friends, staying connected with other kids and speaking out at inappropriate times.

February 9 – Substance abuse by teens and preteens is a real problem that can only be combated by actively involved parents who know what to look for and how to address the issue. Recent news has highlighted the use of inhalants as a growing and lethal problem. The lecture on **“Teens/Preteens and Inhalants”** will inform and teach you of the dangers found in everyday products and how to recognize the signs exhibited when they are used.

February 22 – Finally, what Mom has not wanted to spend an evening in nurturing herself? Moms are invited to come learn a few skills and techniques at the lecture entitled, **“Self-care and Nurturing for Moms”**. It will be a couple of fun hours for stressed-out Moms.

Winter Groups Offered

Active Parenting of Teens starts January 31 – A popular seven-week group for parents that focuses on learning practical skills and learning new ways to approach the complicated teen years. Fee: \$40.

Caring for Others/Caring for Ourselves begins in January – Enjoy eight weeks of sharing with other women: learning skills to nurture ourselves as we continue to give to those we love. Fee: \$40.

Girls Count! (Teens) will begin in January – High school teen girls share ideas about everyday issues and learn about making important choices and decisions. An eight-week fun after-school group with snacks. Fee: \$40.

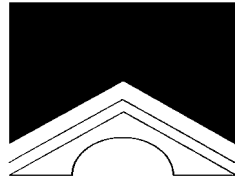
My Family and Me: Separation and Divorce Group begins in March – Two simultaneous groups, seven weeks – one for one of the parents, the other for the children ages 6½ – 10. Exploration of stressful life events using games, crafts, discussion for the kids and helping parents learn about active listening and problem-solving techniques. Fee: \$40.

Call 301-809-3033 to get on the waiting list for the upcoming groups.

Teen Job Bank

Bowie teens, want some extra spending money? Call 301-809-3033 to get an application to sign up to help citizens with jobs like baby-sitting, snow shoveling, lawn and yard work, housework, etc. You must be 13-18 years old to sign up. **Bowie residents, need help?** Call 301-809-3033 to get names of teens who are willing to help you for a fee.

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

Shadow Patriots

Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion

Belair Mansion/Robert Bowie Chapter NSDAR Second Tuesday Lecture Series at Belair Mansion. Lucia St. Clair Robson, author of *Mary's Land*, a tale of 17th century Maryland, will explore a woman's Revolutionary War experience as told in her latest novel, *Shadow Patriots*. Fee.

Sweetheart Tea at Belair Mansion

Sunday, February 12, 4 p.m.

Enjoy a special candlelight tea at the Mansion! Reservations and advance payment are required. Fee.

**Walter Bowie: Rebel Ranger and Spy
Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion**

Enjoy a discussion by Earl Eisenhart about a local resident's role in "relaying information" during the War between the States. Fee.

For information about any of these events, please contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Museum Hours of Operation

Bowie Railroad Station and

Huntington Museum, Wednesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 11th Street and Chestnut Avenue, Old Town Bowie. *Free.*

Belair Stable Museum, Wednesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 2835 Belair Drive. *Free.*

Belair Mansion, Wednesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. *Free.*

Radio and Television Museum,

Fridays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m., 2608 Mitchellville Road. *Free. To contact this Museum, call 301-390-1020.*

To schedule a group tour of any of these City Museum sites, or for more information, please call 301-809-3089.

The Prince George's Genealogical Library,

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (first Wednesday of the month 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.), and last Saturday of each month, 1 - 5 p.m., Tulip Grove Drive. *Free. For more information, call 301-262-2063 during open hours.*

Legislative Open Door

State Senator Leo Green and the AAUW, Bowie Area Branch, with the assistance of the Bowie Education Committee, announce the 2006 Legislative Open Door. It is scheduled for **Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 9 a.m.** at City Hall.

This is an opportunity for community members to meet legislators, and to hear about and express your concerns for the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis. Enjoy continental breakfast with State Senator Leo Green and Delegates Conroy, Holmes and Hubbard, as well as representatives of the County Council. And take this opportunity to share your ideas.

For more information, please contact Education Committee Liaison Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.

Tea Dance Socials

**Thursdays,
January 12 and 26
February 9 and 23
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Come and enjoy ballroom and line dance music. Bring an item for the community refreshment table or pay \$2 at the door.

Computer Classes

Registration is open for the computer classes that begin January 9 and run through March 3. Classes offered include: Beginners I, Beginners II, Genealogy, Email and Internet, Microsoft Word and Website Development.

Caregivers Support Group

This new support group for family members and friends of dementia diagnosed individuals is being formed at the Center. The group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. beginning **January 10**. Rosemary Allender, LCSW-C, and Diane Shrader, BSW, will serve as co-leaders of the group. For more information, please call the Center at 301-809-2300.

Senior Corner

Prince George's Community College at Bowie Senior Center Spring Class Registration

**Tuesday, January 17
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

PGCC SAGE Spring classes are scheduled to begin the week of February 13. Classes are open to seniors, 60 and over. A \$50 registration fee allows a student to register for as many courses as he/she wishes. Class listings and registration forms are now available at the Center.

**Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive,
301-809-2300**

Hours of operation are
Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;
Tuesday and Thursday,
8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.;
and Saturday,
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Congressman Hoyer and Staff To Visit Center

**Friday, January 13
1:30 - 3 p.m.**

Representatives from Congressman Steny Hoyer's office will visit the Center to inform the senior population on how the office can assist with a variety of problems including Social Security and veterans benefits. Congressman Hoyer will stop in between 1:30 and 2 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast

**Tuesday, February 28
8:30 - 10 a.m.**

Reservations and advance payment by February 24. Tickets available at Center. Cost: \$5 for City resident and \$6 for nonresident.

Mardi Gras

**Tuesday, February 28
6 p.m.**

Dinner with entertainment provided by the *Starvation Army Band*. Fee and reservations required.

Upcoming Events...

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 16, 2006
City Offices Closed
No Refuse or Recycling
Collection

Education Forum

Wednesday, January 25, 2006
7 p.m., Multipurpose Room,
Bowie City Hall

Presidents Day

Monday, February 20, 2006
City Offices Closed
No Refuse or Recycling
Collection

Alternative versions of this newsletter are available
upon request. Call the City Public Information
Office at 301-809-3032 or
TTY/TDD 301-262-5013

Plan Your 2006 Picnics

Once again, the time has come to make picnic reservations for the 2006 season. The City's Recreation Office has reserved priority days when only City residents will be permitted to reserve picnic sites at Allen Pond and Whitemarsh Parks.

In order to make this process more convenient for City residents, this permit process will open on **Saturday, February 4, 2006** at 9 a.m. at City Hall in Room 204. Nonresident picnic permits will begin on **Wednesday, March 1, 2006** at 9 a.m., and will be issued through the Recreation Office in Room 203 at City Hall.

The following items are required when placing a picnic reservation:

1. Picture ID (driver's license, etc.) with printed address indicating the applicant resides within the incorporated limits of the City of Bowie; or a picture ID and either a current voter registration card or a recent utility bill verifying residency within the incorporated limits of the City of Bowie.
2. Full payment in the form of cash or check made payable to the City of Bowie. All checks must contain an address that is within the City's incorporated limits.

All reservations are on a first come, first served basis. Each adult may only make one reservation at a time. You are encouraged to arrive early to ensure that you obtain the day and site you prefer. However, please have an alternate date in the event your preferred date is unavailable. For more information, please contact the Recreation Office at 301-809-3011.

CITY OF BOWIE
2614 KENHILL DRIVE
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20715

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Permit No. 5362**

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