

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

March - April 2006

Old Town Bowie Welcome Center and Interactive Children's Museum Opens!



In September 1999, the City and the Old Town Bowie Steering Committee (comprised of City staff, local officials, area residents, and the Huntington Heritage Society) published the "Master Plan for the Redevelopment of Old Town Bowie." In this document, the vision for a children's museum was stated. The report read in part, to "select and acquire a site for an interactive City Children's Museum in Old Town, preferably on the south side of the district in association with the train museum complex, to allow shared use of the activity lawn and to coordinate events. Consider a periodic program to allow children to stay at the museum while parents shop in the district."

This plan clearly envisioned the Bowie Building Association property, located next door to the Train Museum in Old Town Bowie. Originally incorporated by the State of Maryland on February 5, 1926, the Bowie Building Association served as a local savings and loan. Eighty years later, the Old Town Bowie Welcome Center ribbon cutting ceremony was held on February 5, 2006.

The red brick Georgian Revival office with a wooden arched pedimented portico served the Building Association some 35 years before the Association merged with the First Federal Savings and Loan and moved to new quarters on Ninth Street in Bowie. Having been

an antique shop in recent years, it eventually went vacant. After the building's purchase by the City, its restoration was overseen by John Brunnett of Gant Hart Brunnett Architects.

Now completed, the Building Association property is knit to the campus of the Railroad Museum. This includes landscaping and future further development as a "Railroad Park," including park bench seating, and play facilities interpreting around our rail history.

As the Old Town Welcome Center, the facility will be stocked with visitor information on Bowie, Prince George's

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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



Animal Control Reminder!

Soon many residents will be outside enjoying the warm Spring weather walking their dogs and benefiting from the exercise that activity provides. The City's Animal Control Division would like to remind pet owners the City Code requires that your dog be kept on a leash while being walked and that all pet waste be removed immediately. If your dog would benefit from more exercise, we invite you to visit the City Dog Park located on Northview Drive where your dog is permitted to run off-leash and cavort with canine friends. Every dog using the Park must display a current County animal license and rabies tag.

We would also like to remind you that during the Spring, wildlife activity will increase. You will begin to see more snakes, turtles and baby birds. If you have a wildlife question or problem we would like to offer our assistance and knowledge. Please call us at 301-809-3002.

City Council Adopts Mississippi Town Stricken by Hurricane

D'Iberville is a town of approximately 8,000 residents on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Like other communities in the storm's path, the town suffered devastating losses last August in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Approximately half of the homes in the town were severely damaged or destroyed by the storm. The town's only middle school was destroyed, as were many businesses, and a local church. D'Iberville (pronounced "Dee Eyeberville"), has made great progress since the storm, but has a long road ahead of it in terms of recovering and rebuilding the homes and lives of its residents.

The City of Bowie has been in contact with town officials and the D'Iberville High School staff about the type of help that our community may be able to provide. They would welcome the following items:

- Specified school supplies and class set of graphing calculators
- Specified books for the D'Iberville High School Library
- Sports equipment: weight training machines, batting cage, softball equipment

The town also would welcome donations of gift cards (from Lowe's or Home Depot) or cash to assist residents with repairing and rebuilding their homes.

The City of Bowie is seeking groups (i.e. clubs, schools, scout troops, houses of worship, etc.) in the Bowie area that might be interested in taking on the project of raising cash or collecting some of the requested items. Residents interested in donating new books to the D'Iberville High School Library can purchase a book from the D'Iberville High Wish List on amazon.com and have the book shipped directly to the school. For more information, please call 301-809-3032 or email ucooper@cityofbowie.org.

Get Ready for the Memorial Day Parade

Once again the City will celebrate Memorial Day weekend with a parade. This will be a patriotic tribute to America's Heroes and Life in the Bowie Tradition. The parade will be held on **Saturday, May 27, 2006** beginning at 11 a.m.

The streets will be filled with music as Bowie proudly rallies around the red, white, and blue. Show your Bowie pride! Show your patriotism! Enter your organization into the City of Bowie's Memorial Day Parade Celebration!

Marching groups, floats, service groups, antique cars and other unique entries are invited and encouraged to march. Concessions will be available at Acorn Hill Park and Sussex Lane Park during and following the parade, so bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the afternoon with your neighbors.

The final deadline for parade entries is **5 p.m. Friday, May 12, 2006**. All those interested in participating in the parade as a volunteer or participant should contact Shannon Carpenter, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or scarpen-ter@cityofbowie.org. Applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Enjoy the Fun at Bowiefest 2006!

The City's Civic Affairs Committee is busy planning Bowiefest for **Saturday, June 3, 2006**, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Festivities will include displays, entertainment, rides and refreshments. Activities will include pony rides, a moon bounce, an obstacle course, a giant slide and more. Entertainment will again be held on both the main amphitheater stage and on a smaller stage near the Boathouse and will continue throughout the day.

A wide variety of food and drink will be available for visitors to enjoy. Delicacies will include pit beef, sausages, fries, beer, hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, ice cream and much, much more.

The Business Expo, sponsored by the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, will be held in the Bowie Ice Arena and will showcase many local and regional companies. Special offers and drawings will occur, so be sure to stop in. For more information about the Business Expo, please contact Kelly Pierce with the GBCC at 301-262-0920.

The Arts and Crafts areas, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, will feature vendors from far and wide to display and sell their handicrafts. For more information about the Arts and Crafts areas or to become an Arts and Crafts vendor, please contact Pam Fleming of Soroptimist International at 301-809-3029.

Local nonprofit groups will be present with brochures and information about their programs. Environmental and civic organizations will also be on hand to share valuable information and extend an invitation to join their groups.

So gather your friends and neighbors and join us at Bowiefest 2006. For more information, contact Shannon Carpenter at 301-809-3078 or scarpen-ter@cityofbowie.org. We can't wait to see you there!

Join Youth Leadership Bowie

Entering its ninth year, the Youth Leadership Bowie program is designed to provide young people with experiential leadership opportunities while exposing them to potential career paths. Networking and relationship building will be key components of this year-long program that motivates participants to get involved in their community. The program will run from September thru May. Participants will meet one day per month for a group activity. Students who will be high school sophomores and juniors in the Fall of 2006 are invited to contact Bowie City Hall at 301-809-3014, or the Chamber of Commerce at 301-262-0920, to request an application for the program. All applications must be received by **May 18, 2006**.



Young Person's Art Gallery



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

March
 Tulip Grove
 Elementary School

April
 Yorktown
 Elementary School

Art Notes

City Hall Art Galleries The Arts Committee coordinates galleries at City Hall for Bowie artists to display their work for the community to enjoy and purchase pieces that are for sale. Stop in to see the wonderful work created by local artists! Enjoy the artwork as you come and go for meetings, bill paying and other visits to City Hall!

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, consider displaying your work at City Hall, where there are now three adult galleries and one youth gallery.

- The **Conference Room Gallery** exhibit will change in June. Artists provide one to two pieces of artwork to display for six months to one year in one of three conference rooms at City Hall.
- The **Hall Gallery** exhibits the work of individual artists, or groups of artists, for a one-month period of time.
- The new **Visions of Bowie Gallery** will open in April in the City Hall Multipurpose Room. Watch local newspapers for the opening reception date!

Young Person's Art Gallery The Bowie Arts and Education Committees invite home-schooled students and individual youngsters to exhibit in this gallery during the month of August. Anyone through the age of 18 who lives in a community with a Bowie zip code is welcome to submit their work for consideration. Artwork must fit the 12"x18" opening of the frames used for this gallery. Artwork must be delivered to City Hall by 5 p.m. on June 15, 2006.

New "Visions of Bowie" Gallery to Open The Arts Committee is very excited about this new gallery in the Multipurpose Room at City Hall. It will officially open during the month of April and will display artwork depicting people, places and things in Bowie.

During February and March, this gallery will display the work of students who participated in classes provided by the Guild of Bowie Artists during the Fall of 2005. The art classes were made possible by grants obtained by the Guild from the City Arts Committee and the Knights of Columbus, as well as support from the Senior Center and members of the Guild.

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



Art Notes

"If I Were Governor, Mayor Or Other Elected Official" Poster Contest

The Arts Committee Poster Contest is open to students in grades one through twelve. Students are encouraged to think of problems they would like to fix or programs they would like to develop if they were an elected official. Issues could involve education, the environment, transportation or recreation, among others. Ideas can range from fanciful and imaginary to more localized and realistic. Please submit 12"x18" posters using paint, colored pencil or other similar medium, in a two-dimensional design. Each poster must have the artist's name, grade, address and phone number on the back. Posters must be submitted to City Hall by 5 p.m. Monday, **May 15, 2006**. Winning posters will be displayed in the Young Person's Art Gallery during the month of July. All contest entries may be picked up at City Hall in August.

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

Bowie International Festival Save the date, **Saturday, October 7, 2006** for the Bowie International Festival at Allen Pond Park. Be a part of this fun and exciting trip around the world through music and dance, stories, games, food, crafts and children's activities. Explore and celebrate the cultural richness of our world at this exciting event.

Vendors of foods, arts and/or crafts are needed for this trip around the world! Festival attendees enjoy sampling delicious international foods and purchasing interesting products.

Cultural groups and clubs are sought to showcase traditions, clothing, artwork, food and entertainment from different cultures and countries.

Bowie International Festival Planning Committee The Committee is seeking members to help plan this trip around the world! Join with members of the City's Arts, Civic Affairs and Diversity Committees to help bring the world to Bowie. The Festival Planning Committee meets once a month, or as needed, to plan and make this great event happen. The Committee members also work the event scheduled for October 7, 2006.

If interested in participating in the International Festival or for more information about it, contact City staff, Leni Stern at lstern@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3068, or Shannon Carpenter at scarpen@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Bowie Food Pantry Needs Our Support

The Community Outreach Committee encourages everyone to help support the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund. The need for food and other assistance continues to rise and at times the food supply dwindles to a dangerously low level. Nonperishable food and tax deductible monetary donations would be greatly appreciated!

Please plan to donate. The Bowie Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund is located at Christian Community Presbyterian Church at 3120 Belair Drive. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m.

There is a collection container near the reception desk at City Hall and a collection basket at the Senior Center where you may drop nonperishable food when you stop in for a meeting.

For more information, contact the Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund at 301-262-6765, or BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com.

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.



Suzanne Bempohl

Suzanne Bempohl of Yorktown Elementary School Selected as January Teacher of the Month. Suzanne Bempohl is a second grade teacher with creativity and enthusiasm and is "masterful at managing classroom behavior." Her nomination, sent in by Judy Goldberg-Strassler and the Yorktown Awards Committee, also indicates that she presents the curriculum to the students in a way that considers their individual learning styles, so "they can take full advantage of what is being taught."

Ms. Bempohl began a "Positive Language Program with students earning chips for speaking politely. She emphasizes positive behavior,

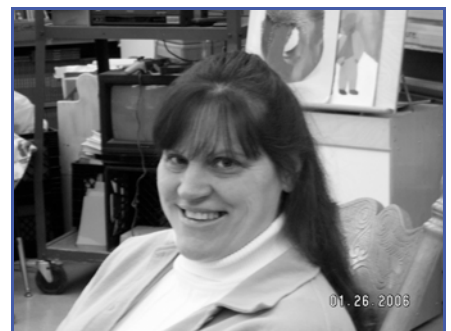
language and attitudes toward learning every day."

According to Linda Posko, Principal at Yorktown, if you walk past her class "you might find her dancing, singing, cheering, or whispering." "No matter what she is teaching, it turns into an exciting event." Ms. Bempohl "coordinates our Wildcat celebrations and our discipline Committee, our University of Maryland intern program, and is the Second Grand Team Leader." "She spreads her positive energy around Yorktown and helps make it a wonderful school."

Carol Szmajda of Yorktown Elementary School Selected as February Teacher of the Month. First grade teacher Carol Szmajda was nominated by two parents and the Yorktown Awards Committee. One of the parents, Diane Cantrell, indicates that this teacher never lost sight of her son's strengths. "She helped him channel his strong social and communication skills toward being a classroom helper and leader as opposed to a disruptor."

She is referred to as a teacher who "reaches out to all of her students, including those with special needs, and makes every child feel exceptional and part of the class." She presents the curriculum "in wonderful, motivating and creative ways, but her exceptional specialty is in her ability to make everyone want to enter her warm and loving classroom."

Ms. Posko, Principal at Yorktown, feels that there is magic worked every day in Ms. Szmajda's classroom. "She challenges students to achieve by positive encouragement and extra large doses of love and understanding."



Carol Szmajda

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Excellence in Education & Arts Scholarships for High School Seniors

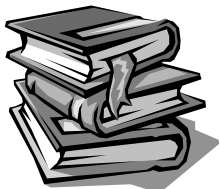
During the month of February, applications were sent to high schools attended by Bowie students, asking them to nominate high school seniors who are City residents and meet the eligibility criteria for the Education Committee's Excellence in Education and the Arts Committee Scholarships.

Students who have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 may be eligible for the Excellence in Education Scholarship. Contact guidance counselors at the school attended to express interest in being considered for nomination. To be considered for the Arts Committee Scholarship, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and plan to major in a visual or performing arts field. Arts Scholarship applications are available at high schools, on the City's website, and at City Hall.

This year, the application deadline for both scholarships is **April 5, 2006**. For additional information regarding either scholarship, please contact your high school guidance office or Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.

Students Recognized for Accomplishments

The Education Committee will hold its annual Student Recognition Reception on **March 29, 2006** at 7 p.m. Students will be recognized for successes in various areas. Principals of middle and high schools attended by Bowie students have been asked to recommend students deserving of special recognition. City Council Members and elected officials in the 23rd Legislative District have been invited to join Bowie students and their families to offer congratulations for a variety of very special accomplishments.



Share Your Gently Used Books

"Bowie Reads" is a reading project of the Bowie Education Committee. The Committee seeks donations of new and gently used books to share with the community. Books for children of all ages are the most popular, and therefore most desirable. On **Saturday, June 3, 2006** you will find the Committee under the purple tent at Bowiefest, giving out free books. They also provide information about reading to children and local reading programs. Please call 301-809-3068 or email lstern@cityofbowie.org for more information. Books to be donated may be brought to the Community Services Department at City Hall, Room 201. Thank you for sharing your books with others! Stop by and find something "new" to read at Bowiefest!

Parent Tips from the Education Committee

(Provided by the Maryland Department of Education)

- In preparing for school, five-year-olds should be aware that written words mean something; they may recognize a few letters and words; and they may pretend to read and write.
- They are able to communicate with adults and others. They are aware of the roles of the people in their families and communities. They are aware of their environment, neighborhood, and animal and plant life.
- They are comfortable with individual creativity and have an appreciation for self-expression through the arts (using clay, paint, markers, etc.).

March and April 2006 City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council Meetings

March 6 and 20, 8 p.m.

April 3 and 17, 8 p.m.

City Council Worksessions

March 13 and 27, 8 p.m.

April 10 and 24, 8 p.m. (Budget Worksessions)

Administrative Review Board

March 16, 7 p.m.

April 20, 7 p.m.

Arts Committee

March 9, 7 p.m.

April 13, 7 p.m.

Beautification & Tree Preservation Committee

March 8, 6:30 p.m.

April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Civic Affairs Committee

March 14, 7 p.m.

April 11, 7 p.m.

Community Outreach Committee

March 14, 7 p.m.

April 11, 7 p.m.

Community Recreation Committee (City Gym)

March 1, 7:30 p.m.

April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Diversity Committee

March 15, 7 p.m.

April 19, 7 p.m.

Economic Development Committee

March 8, 7:30 a.m.

April 12, 7:30 a.m.

Education Committee

March 28, 7 p.m.

April 25, 7 p.m.

Financial Advisory Committee

March 1, 8 p.m.

April 5, 8 p.m.

Information Technology Committee

March 8, 7 p.m.

April 12, 7 p.m.

International Festival Committee

March 22, 7 p.m.

April 26, 7 p.m.

The Malcolm "Skip" Popp Award

Nominations are being accepted by the Community Outreach Committee for Scouts and Scout Leaders who have performed distinguished service to Scouting and the Bowie community between January and December of 2005. Nominees must meet eligibility criteria for the Malcolm "Skip" Popp award and nominations must be received by Friday, **April 28, 2006.**

To be eligible for this award, Scouts or adult Scout Leaders must be affiliated with a troop located in the City of Bowie, which is registered with Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts, USA. Nominees must have rendered "extraordinary and distinguished community service."

Applications are available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, or at Bowie City Hall. For more information, please contact Outreach Committee liaison Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.



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

CODE CORNER

Code Corner is the Code Compliance Division's opportunity to provide information regarding some of the most frequently asked questions and/or violations. In each issue of the *Spotlight*, we try to highlight sections of the Code that might be of interest to you as a resident. The entire City Code can be accessed online at the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org. Questions can be directed to our Code Compliance office at 301-809-3008 or codeofficer@cityofbowie.org.

Did you know that...

- if you own a property in the City and you wish to rent it to another individual, you must first apply for a Rental Permit. The fee is \$70 per single-family residence. Upon application, the City will issue a temporary permit then schedule an appointment for a Code Officer to inspect the property. A permanent license will be issued once all requirements are met. (Sec. 5-9)
- portable basketball hoops, skateboard ramps and other athletic equipment are allowed in the City, however they may not be placed in the street nor in the public right-of-way. Generally, the public right-of-way is the first 11 feet from the curb. Please have your future basketball star play on the driveway, as playing in the street is dangerous. (Sec. 22-11)
- all vehicles, whether parked in your driveway, in a parking lot, or on the street must display valid registration plates. Please make sure to affix the MVA sticker to the license plate as soon as you receive it. (Sec. 14-13 and 26-3)
- all grass and weeds must be kept below eight inches in height. All trees must be trimmed to a height of nine feet above the pavement (street or sidewalk) and must be trimmed to prevent the obstruction of the view of a driver in any vehicle. (Sec. 22-18)

Please help us keep Bowie beautiful!

City Athletic Fields Open for Permitted Use March 15, 2006

Beginning March 15, 2006, City soccer fields will open for permitted use. All other City fields will open on April 1, 2006. City officials will evaluate athletic field conditions daily from March 15 to November 30, to determine playability of each field, based on its current condition. All coaches, players, and spectators are asked to check the City's Ball Field Status Line, prior to arriving at any City field for scheduled play, to verify field status (open for play/closed for play). Please follow the adjacent procedures to access the City's Ball Field Status Line.

City of Bowie Ball Field Status Line

Field status information will be updated weekdays by 4 p.m., and by 7 a.m. on weekends.

Prior to 5 p.m. weekdays:

Dial 301-262-6200.

- When automated attendant answers, **press 5** on the phone keypad.
- Then **press 2** on the phone keypad.
- Then **press 1** on the phone keypad.

After 5 p.m. weekdays, and on weekends:

Dial 301-262-6200.

- When automated attendant answers, **press 3** on the phone keypad.
- Then **press 1** on the phone keypad.

For Ranger assistance, please call 240-508-3881.

Youth & Family Services

301-809-3033

Counseling

Bowie Youth & Family Services continues to offer **counseling services** to families with children in the home who are under 18 years of age and live in the Bowie area. Many of us experience concerns within our own family that may be eased by the help of a professional. If you have concerns about your children or other family problems, please call. We have highly qualified and experienced counselors that will work with you to develop appropriate solutions.

Groups (planned for Spring)

“**My Family and Me Separation/Divorce Group** is two simultaneous groups, one is for the custodial parents, and one for their children ages 6½ - 11. The children learn to process potentially stressful life events while the parents are given valuable advice on helping their children through this stressful time. **Girls Count!** is an ongoing group for high school teen girls that is seeking new members for this fun after-school meeting. **Active Parenting of 6 – 12 year olds** is an informative group for parents that will run eight weeks. Enrollment is limited, so please call if you have an interest in any of these groups to be sure to save a space.

Prevention

The City is fortunate to have a **Prevention Coordinator** who works with the greater Bowie community to promote drug and alcohol-free activities for children and teens. We encourage the citizens of our community to participate in the **Community Prevention Network**. Your participation will help in developing a community that does outreach to all of its youth. Your input is important and welcomed. Please contact Andra Berry at 301-809-3033 or aberry@cityofbowie.org.

Teen Job Bank

Bowie teens, want some extra spending money? Call 301-809-3033 to get an application to sign up to help residents with jobs like baby-sitting, snow shoveling, lawn and yard work, housework, etc. You must be 13-17 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.

Mosquitoes are Coming!

April is the beginning of mosquito season. Residents can start fighting them now by cleaning out gutters and ridding yards of water-holding containers. Mosquitoes can breed in any water-holding container including birdbaths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. To prevent mosquito breeding in these areas, standing water should be minimized. Pet water or birdbaths should be changed regularly and gutters should be cleaned often. Don't forget the tarps you may be using to cover firewood - the little amount of water that may collect on top is just the perfect breeding spot for mosquitoes.

Please call Public Works at 301-809-2336 if you have any questions or concerns.

Mentoring Makes A Difference!

The Teen Mentoring Program will soon begin recruitment for adult volunteers to serve as mentors to students at Bowie High School in the 2006-2007 school year. This year we hope you will consider becoming a mentor to a high school student. You may be surprised to find that your contribution of time and caring significantly impacts your life, as well as the success of a local teen.

As A Mentor You Can:

- Make a big difference in the life of a teen.
- Create a valuable relationship.
- Provide support, offer encouragement.
- Share wisdom and experience.
- Help achieve goals, support school success.
- Offer guidance.
- Be a role model.

We Welcome You As A Mentor If You Are Willing To:

- Make a commitment to a teen for the academic year.
- Meet weekly with a teen.
- Apply and are interviewed.
- Participate in mentor training.
- Agree to background check and fingerprinting.

For information and to apply, see the City of Bowie website/Community Services/Youth & Family Services Bureau; email Rhonda Simon, Mentoring Coordinator at mentor@cityofbowie.org; or call Andra Berry, Prevention Coordinator at (301) 809-3033.

The Teen Mentoring Program is provided by the Community Prevention Network, under the direction of the City of Bowie Youth & Family Services Bureau and in cooperation with Bowie High School. **“Imagine an Hour that Impacts a Lifetime, Imagine Mentoring.”**

BOWIE PLAYHOUSE Presents



THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER -- 3/10 - 4/1/06

Having dined at the home of the Stanley's, Sheridan Whiteside is injured in a fall. The Stanley home is monopolized by the irascible invalid for six weeks, with penguins in the library, an octopus in the cellar, and 10,000 cockroaches in the kitchen. The antics of Whiteside and his constant visitors keep things hopping! A very funny play. By Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman.

**Performances begin at 3 p.m. on Sundays and 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.
Presented by 2nd Star Productions, 301-858-7245.**



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

Students Honor Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With "Let Freedom Ring" Poems

The Diversity Committee wishes to recognize all those who participated in the "Let Freedom Ring" Poetry Contest. This year, approximately 375 entries were received from local students. The contest was open to students in elementary, middle and high school who live in Bowie or attend school in Bowie. Finalists read their poems in January at a program honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20 were awarded in each grade category. On February 21st, the winners were honored at a City Council meeting. Congratulations to all of the winning poets.

"Let Freedom Ring" Poetry Contest Winners

Kindergarten -Third Grade Category

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade/School</u>
First Prize	Jordyn Sobers 2nd Grade, Grace Christian School
Second Prize	Byron Kerr 1st Grade, Cornerstone Christian Academy
Third Prize	Justin Okpara 1st Grade, Cornerstone Christian Academy

Fourth-Sixth Grade Category

First Prize	Joel Okpara 4th Grade, Cornerstone Christian Academy
Second Prize (tie)	Jasmine Graham 4th Grade, Yorktown Elementary School
Second Prize (tie)	Maryse Zwolak 4th Grade, Cornerstone Christian Academy
Third Prize (tie)	Marshauna Butler 4th Grade, Kenilworth Elementary School
Third Prize (tie)	Alex Cook 4th Grade, Yorktown Elementary School

Seventh-Eighth Grade Category

First Prize	Danny Baxter 7th Grade, St. Pius X Regional School
Second Prize	Wesley Richardson 7th Grade, St. Pius X Regional School
Third Prize	Tiffany Barnett 6th Grade, Benjamin Tasker Middle School

High School Category

First Prize	Louisa Noble 10th Grade, Bowie High School
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Give The Gift Of Life – Donate Blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive in Bowie

Saturday, March 11, 2006

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bowie Senior Center – 14900 Health Center Drive

For more information or to schedule a time to donate, please call the American Red Cross
at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or City Hall at 301-809-3032.

Celebrate Arbor Day on April 8th at Acorn Hill Park

The City's Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee will sponsor this year's Arbor Day Celebration with the participation of veterans groups, memorial tree recipients, City organizations, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The program will begin at 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park on Stonybrook Drive, near the Bowie Community Center. The public is invited to join in this celebration. For more information, please contact Matt Reno at 301-809-3076 or mreno@cityofbowie.org.



City Offers Pruning Workshop

The City's Beautification and 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., in Room 144 of the Bowie Senior Center on Health Center Drive. A light snack will be provided. For more information, please contact Matt Reno at 301-809-3076 or mreno@cityofbowie.org.

Register Now for Summer Skating Camps at Bowie Ice Arena 301-809-3090

Summer Skating Camps

Registration begins **March 1, 2006** for Summer Skating Camps at the Ice Arena. Activities include on-ice instruction, and on and off-ice games and crafts. Register now; space will fill quickly.

Small Skate – A half-day camp, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. during the weeks of July 17-21 and July 31-August 4, for children ages 3 - 8. The fee for Bowie residents is \$85 per week.

Summer Skate – A full-day camp, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. during the weeks of July 10, July 24 and August 14, for children ages 6 - 13. The fee for Bowie residents is \$185 per week. Before and after-care is available for an additional fee.

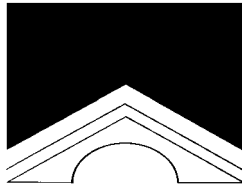
Freestyle Skate – A full-day camp, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. during the week of July 31-August 4, for skaters at the Freestyle level. Skaters will work on strength exercises, choreography, power stroking, jumps, and spins. The fee for Bowie residents is \$190 per week.

Hockey Skills – A hockey camp will be held, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. during the week of July 17-24. This camp is designed for skaters at the Alpha level and above (moving forward unassisted). Skills covered include stick and puck handling, shooting, basic game strategies, and rules of the game. Full ice hockey equipment is required.

To obtain a camp registration form, call 301-809-3090 or visit our website at www.cityofbowie.org (select Leisure Activities).

Please note: The Ice Arena will be closed during the months of May and June for annual maintenance. It will reopen in July for summer skating camps, lessons and public skating. The Blades of Bowie pro shop will remain open while the rink is closed for maintenance.

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

Colonial Revival

Tuesday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion

Belair Mansion/Robert Bowie Chapter NSDAR Second Tuesday Lecture Series. Joyce McDonald will take a look at the 20th century's adaptation of the past in clothing, furniture and buildings. Fee \$3 (FOBE/HHS Member Free).

Teddy Bear Tea

Saturday, March 18, 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion

Bring your favorite Teddy to tea! Bear lovers of all ages will enjoy a Bear Parade, delicious treats, and a tour of Belair Mansion. Reservations and advance payment required. Fee \$15 per person.

Mid-Atlantic Packard Club "Tour de Belair"

Sunday, April 9, 2 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion

Vintage Packards line the drive at Belair. Step back to the Age of Automotive Elegance! Free.

Spring Fling in Historic Old Town Bowie

Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Antiques, food, fun and games. Visit the Railroad Museum and the new Bowie Welcome Center and Interactive Children's Museum for special activities. Museum activities are free!

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.*

Old Town Bowie Welcome Center and Interactive Children's Museum

Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8606 Chestnut Avenue, 301-575-2488. *Free.*

To schedule a group tour of any of these City Museums, or for more information, 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.*

(Continued from page 1)

County, and the State of Maryland. Museum exhibits geared for grownups currently include displays of historic objects and photographs themed around the topic of how the railroad came to this area, and how a community was born 125 years ago. Children will be able to enjoy all the aspects of community life in an early 20th century railroad town. Activities will include a "banking center," general store, small telephone switchboard – just to name a few!

The Welcome Center and Interactive Children's Museum is open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. For further information, call the Museums Office at 301-809-3089.

Senior Information Fair Caregiver Focus

Saturday, March 18
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
**Open to the
Community**

The day will include free educational seminars providing valuable information about issues of interest to caregivers.

Local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies are invited to exhibit. *If interested in exhibit space, please call 301-809-2300 for more information. Space is limited.*

Caregivers Support Group

This new group for family members and friends of dementia-diagnosed individuals has been formed at the Center. The group meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.

Rosemary Allender, LCSW-C and Diane Shrader, BSW serve as co-leaders of the group. For more information, call the Center.

Senior Corner

Tea Dance Socials

Thursdays,
March 9 and 23
April 13 and 27
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.

St. Patrick's Day Party

Friday, March 17
Come enjoy lunch and entertainment. Music provided by Paddy McGraw. Fee and reservation required. Call the Center for more information.

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.

Maryland Community Band Concert

Tuesday, April 11
7 p.m.

The *Maryland Community Band*, formed in 1995 as a special outreach project of the University of Maryland School of Music, is open to all qualified wind and percussion players. The band is under the professional direction and leadership of John E. Wakefield, who recently retired as the Director of Bands and Chairman of the Wind and Percussion Division in the School of Music at the University of Maryland. The band performs throughout the State. This will be the first concert presented in the City of Bowie. The concert is free and open to all in the community.

Upcoming Events...

Teddy Bear Tea at Belair Mansion

*Saturday, March 18, 2006
4 p.m. \$15 per person*

Celebrate Arbor Day

*Saturday, April 8, 2006
10 a.m., Acorn Hill Park*

Mid-Atlantic Packard Club

"Tour de Belair"
*Sunday, April 9, 2006
2 - 4 p.m., Belair Mansion*

Spring Fling

*Sunday, April 30, 2006
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Old Town Bowie*

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

Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 19, 2006, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Two Bowie Pit Stops:

**Bowie Town Center Food Court
Old Town Bowie Fire Station, 9th Street**

Gear up for Bike to Work Day 2006! Participate and receive a free t-shirt! It is a free event full of fun, food and prizes. Join thousands of area commuters and show your support for bicycling, by taking part in a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. Register, beginning March 1, at www.waba.org or by calling 202-518-0524.

For more information, contact Frank Stevens in the City's Planning Department at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.



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2614 KENHILL DRIVE
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20715**

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