

# Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

January - February 2007

*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*Well, 2006 is now in the book. We had some ups and downs during the year, but overall, it was another fine year for our community.*

*Sadly, we lost some old friends this year, but we also welcomed a number of new friends and new neighbors. The City continues to grow, but its core strength continues to reside in our unique sense of community. Our ability to work with each other through times of joy and times of challenge truly sets Bowie apart from many communities in the region. You may rightfully take a great deal of pride in your public spirit, your commitment to family and friends, your willingness to embrace those in need, and in your willingness to engage together for a better and stronger future.*

*As with last year, we conclude this year with some of Bowie's military families serving our nation in harm's way. We ask that as you celebrate this marvelous season, that you pause for a moment and offer a silent prayer for them, for their families, and for their safe return.*

*So, we say good-bye to 2006 and eagerly await 2007. On behalf of the entire Bowie City Council and a dedicated City Staff, we wish you all a very Happy New Year.*

*G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor*

## Submit a Nomination for the City's Hall of Honor

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize Bowie residents 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 Robert V. Setera and Malcolm "Skip" Popp, among many other outstanding individuals.

Mr. Setera spearheaded the annual Bowiefest, which is now a staple in the City's special events calendar. Volunteering in organizations from the YMCA to the Color Guard Judges Association, Mr. Setera was dedicated to community service. His contributions were an example to his neighbors, friends, and family.

Malcolm C. "Skip" Popp, was a tireless Scouting volunteer. Along with some other fathers in the community, Mr. Popp

organized the first Cub Pack at Buckingham Elementary School in 1965. His final service to the community came through a tragedy as he drowned rescuing one of his Scouts from the rough waters of the Shenandoah River's South Fork.

Once a nomination is received, forms and information are provided to the City's Community Outreach Committee for review. The Committee then sends their recommendations to the City 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 [scarpenter@cityofbowie.org](mailto:scarpenter@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3078.

Nomination forms are available on the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org). The deadline to submit nominations for the 2007 Hall of Honor inductions is **Friday, February 16, 2007** at 5 p.m. (Room 203 at City Hall).

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**



## City Committee Vacancies

Volunteers are needed for several City committees. A list of committees that have vacancies and a description of each can be found on the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org). Information on how to apply for membership can also be found on the website. For further information, contact the City Clerk at [pflaming@cityofbowie.org](mailto:pflaming@cityofbowie.org).

## Maryland Route 197 Improvements

Residents should be aware that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has begun examining the two-lane segment of Route 197, between Kenhill Drive and Maryland Route 450, for possible expansion and improvement. SHA is currently considering a "No Build" alternate, a four-lane divided alternate and a five-lane undivided alternate. In 2007, the City Council will be considering the alternates displayed at the December 12, 2006 workshop held at City Hall and holding hearings to determine the City's formal position. If you have questions about this project, please contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

## TV Crew Volunteers Needed

Students and adults can volunteer to serve on cable TV crews. No experience is necessary. Students must be at least 13 years old and have parental permission. Volunteering in the Studio is a great opportunity to meet producers in your area and build working relationships. If you would like to volunteer your free time to work in cable TV, please sign up online at <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeo7zhz/id10.html>. If you are under 18, please have a parent or guardian complete the information online.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Trees will be picked up every Wednesday in January with yardwaste. Please make sure that all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m.



## Are You Protected From A Sewage Backup?

The City uses a very thorough inspection schedule and maintenance program to safeguard against backups in its sewer system. With these preventative measures, the frequency and severity of backups are greatly reduced. However, when homeowners put grease into a garbage disposal or other household drain, over time the grease can accumulate and form a blockage anywhere in the sewer main. When that occurs, raw sewage and water can back up and flood into one or more residences near the blockage. Because these grease blockages are beyond the City's control, the City is not legally responsible for damages to a residence or its contents caused by these backups.

To protect against these situations, you need to have a special rider on your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to cover damages related to sewage backups or water damage. This optional coverage is generally very inexpensive, but you must usually request it from your insurance company. If you don't have this rider and you experience a sewage backup, you may find yourself financially liable for damages which could amount to several thousand dollars. For your own peace of mind, it is recommended that you check your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy today to ensure that you have this rider. Also, please do not dispose of grease in your household sink. Instead, pour this grease into cans and dispose of this with your household garbage.

## Education Grants Awarded

Congratulations to the winners selected to receive 2006 - 2007 Grants for Education! Twenty-one projects were selected to receive funding; 38 applications were received from fifteen schools and two individuals. This year's winners developed a variety of projects that will enhance learning opportunities for students in schools located in Bowie. The winners selected will work with their grant projects in twelve different schools. This year's winners are:

Grant Title	School
Interactive Math Days Project	Benjamin Tasker Middle School
Tigers Wellness Club	Benjamin Tasker Middle School
Watch Reading Skills Soar!	Benjamin Tasker Middle School
Parents and Teachers On the Same Page	Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center
Building the Reading Buddy Bridge	Heather Hills Elementary School
City By Design	Heather Hills Elementary School
Agriculture Products Mobile Science Lab	High Bridge Elementary School
Picture This! Augmenting Communication Skills	High Bridge Elementary School
Hawk Trail: Outdoor Education Trail	Holy Trinity Day School
Building Fluency With Readers' Theater	Kenilworth Elementary School
Future Leaders Learning About Past Leaders	Kenilworth Elementary School
Jeopardy Goes to School	Kenilworth Elementary School
Students Achieving Reading Goals (SARGE)	Kenilworth Elementary School
USA Studies Weekly	Kenilworth Elementary School
No Skills Left Behind: Target Student Math	Pointer Ridge Elementary School
Visual Technology for the Wetland	Rockledge Elementary School
10,000 Steps	St. Pius X Regional School
US First Robotics Competition	Tall Oaks High School
Art Awareness	Tulip Grove Elementary School
All Systems GO	Yorktown Elementary School
Global Getaway: Travel to the Rainforest	Yorktown Elementary School



## Young Person's Art Gallery



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

### January

High Bridge Elementary School

### February

Tulip Grove Elementary School

## Art Notes

**City Hall Art Galleries** The Arts Committee is pleased to provide local artists with an opportunity to display and sell their artwork in the City Hall Galleries. The Galleries are open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. These art spaces include works in a variety of media. The City does not charge the artist a fee or commission to display the artwork. All work exhibited is subject to the approval of the Arts Committee, for appropriateness for display in a public facility. The Galleries include:

**Young Person's Gallery** Located in the entrance foyer of City Hall, this gallery rotates monthly. It features artwork of students attending schools located in Bowie during the school year, winning posters from the Arts Committee Poster Contest in July, and individual young artists' work during the month of August.

**Visions of Bowie Gallery** Artwork showing various artists' perspectives of Bowie is displayed in this gallery, located in the Multipurpose Room. The exhibit in this gallery is changed every six months.

**Hall Gallery** Located along the main hallways of City Hall, this gallery is for adult artists in the Bowie community. Exhibits include the work of one artist or group of artists displaying their artwork for a one-month period of time.

**Conference Room Gallery** This Gallery exhibits the work of local artists in three conference rooms. Each room contains the work of several artists, exhibiting their artwork for six months. This exhibit recently changed in December.

Bowie area artists interested in displaying their work in this gallery are asked to contact the Arts Committee. As gallery space is somewhat limited, the Committee is asking that each artist submit only one or two pieces of artwork to be hung during each six-month exhibit.

*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 more information, please contact Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or [lstern@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lstern@cityofbowie.org).*

## Art Notes

**Arts Committee Grants** Applications for *Grants for the Arts* are available to artists or groups of artists, whether visual or performing arts, for projects that include an interactive arts experience for Bowie residents. The Committee is seeking projects that provide an opportunity for residents to be involved in some area of the arts. Let your imagination guide you toward new ideas for sharing arts enjoyment through drama, painting, instrumental music, pantomime or other creative experiences in the arts. Grant applications and information may be found on the City's website, [www.cityof-bowie.org](http://www.cityof-bowie.org), under Arts Committee. The application deadline is **February 16, 2007**.

**2007 Poster Contest** Each spring, the Arts Committee holds a poster contest for students in grades one through twelve. Young people residing in communities with Bowie Zip Codes and students attending schools located in Bowie are encouraged to design, create and submit posters by **May 25, 2007**. Posters selected will hang in the Young Person's Art Gallery at City Hall during the month of July.

This year, the Committee has made an early decision about the theme, hoping that young artists will begin thinking about and planning their posters. The theme for the 2007 Poster contest is: **Helping Hands in Our Community: How we help and support each other in our neighborhoods, community, country and/or the world.** Students are invited to demonstrate the many ways we provide service to others, be it volunteer, public service, or acts of kindness and compassion. Watch for more details in the next *Spotlight*, on the City's website, and in local papers.

*For more information, please contact Arts Committee Liaison Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or [lstern@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lstern@cityofbowie.org).*

## Help Elderly and Disabled Neighbors With Snow Shoveling

Possibility of snowfall! The time of year when this may be heard in the forecast is here! The Community Outreach Committee would like to remind City residents to check on neighbors who may need assistance during severe weather.

If you have neighbors who are elderly, disabled or have other health concerns, and may not be able to shovel their sidewalks, you may be able to offer assistance.

The City requires that snow and ice be removed from sidewalks within 48 hours, to provide safe walkways for children who may need to get to and from school bus stops, or anyone else needing to safely walk past your home.

Elderly and disabled residents may request a 24-hour extension by completing a waiver application.

The neighborly thing to do, for those who are able, is to assist ill or disabled neighbors with this chore.

If nearby help is unavailable, the Bowie Youth and Family Services Teen Job Bank could be a useful source. This list includes 13 to 18 year olds available to shovel snow and/or do other jobs. Call Youth and Family Services at 301-809-3033 for more information. **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 and would like to have your name included with the Teen Job Bank, to be hired for various jobs such as snow shoveling, you may pick up an application at Youth and Family Services at City Hall.



## 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, a savings bond, Chick-Fil-A coupons, and a special lunch with their principal. Thanks to the Washington Savings Bank for providing funds for the savings bonds since the program's beginning in 1999, to Chick-Fil-A for providing coupons, and to Main Street Catering for providing the lunches!

Nominations are accepted at any time. Information is available at public, private and parochial schools in Bowie, on the City's website - [www.cityofbowie.org](http://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](mailto:lstern@cityofbowie.org).



*Jessica Beamon*

**Jessica Beamon of Rockledge Elementary School is November Teacher of the Month.** Third grade teacher, Jessica Beamon, was nominated to receive this honor by parent Margaret Caminiti. She indicates that this is a teacher whose dedication to students is "above and beyond." The amount of time spent by her to make lessons fun and more interesting, certainly seems to be more than is expected. She strives to make learning exciting and challenging, while working toward having every student succeed and excel in her classroom. She recognizes her students' strengths and weaknesses and is always seeking

ways to motivate them.

Principal Pamela Landry states that Ms. Beamon works "tirelessly to meet the needs of her children." She takes a personal interest in each of her students and dedicates much time beyond the school day to prepare "engaging and motivating lessons." "She is an exceptional educator."

### **Nancy Jones of Grace Christian School Selected as December Teacher of the**

**Month.** According to first grade teacher Nancy Jones' nomination, sent in by parent Janine Dolinka, her class learns values of respect and responsibility at the very beginning of the school year. In addition, her class is preparing long-term projects, with one due each quarter. These are creative projects such as short story writing and book reports for which the students dress up like a character in the story, while making a presentation to the class. Students have thrived on these projects,

partially due to this teacher's creative approach to engaging her class in oral and written presentation skills. As a result, her students gain much confidence. "She is an exceptional teacher."

Evelyn Nunes, Principal at Grace Christian School, indicates that Ms. Jones has been a teacher in the public and private sector for twenty-seven years. This is her third year at Grace Christian. "She is loved by students and parents and is a creative and accomplished teacher."



*Nancy Jones*

## Tips from the Education Committee

Keeping in contact with your children's teachers on a regular basis is very important. Here are some thoughts for keeping those lines of communication open:

- Attach a quick note to your child's teacher, to assignments that go back to school, especially if he or she is having difficulty with that subject.
- Be sure that teachers always have up to date contact information for you and know what the best way is to contact you.
- Be sure that teachers and counselors are aware of anything that may have an effect on your child's ability to learn or concentrate, such as taking new medications, moving to a new home, a new baby at home, an illness that the child has or a serious illness of another member of the family.

## Energy Conservation Workshop Offered

The Community Outreach Committee has arranged a workshop with BGE, to assist residents in considering ways to conserve energy and keep their energy bills down. The public is invited to this informative workshop on **Thursday, January 18, 2007** at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The BGE speaker will focus on easy and inexpensive energy conservation methods, as well as Energy Assistance, billing, budget billing, and rate legislation.

An inclement weather date has been scheduled for the following Thursday, January 25, 2007. The workshop will be cancelled if there is a weather emergency situation causing power outages, or disruptions in school system schedules. (As BGE operates out of Baltimore, they will follow the Baltimore City/County School System changes, in addition to the Prince George's County School System.)

## Legislative Open Door

For seven years, the Bowie Area American Association of University Women (AAUW), the City, and the Bowie Education Committee have invited District 23 legislators, as well as the County Council representative from the Bowie Area, to meet with local community leaders and residents to discuss legislative concerns. That tradition continues with the Legislative Open Door on **Saturday, January 6, 2007** at 9 a.m. at Bowie City Hall, 2614 Kenhill Drive. Newly elected and returning officials Douglas J.J. Peters, Gerron Levi, James W. Hubbard, Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. and Ingrid M. Turner will attend.

The Legislative Open Door provides an opportunity for community residents to hear from their representatives to the State Legislature and County Council, and to express their concerns about issues that affect them and their community. During the continental breakfast, there will be a sign up sheet for those wishing to speak. Welcome and continental breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 204. At 9:30 a.m., the Panel will begin their interaction with community members in the Council Chambers.

Assistance and support from the following local organizations have made this program possible: Governor Oden Bowie Democratic Club, District 23 Team, Bowie Republican Women's Club, Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, Women's Action Coalition (WAC), Laurel Business & Professional Women's Club, and BRAVA.

The Bowie Education Committee encourages school leaders and parents to attend and express their concerns about education issues. Issues may include funding for school construction, additions and renovations, teacher training, and teacher shortages, among many other concerns.

## Plan Your 2007 Picnics

Once again, the time has come to make picnic reservations for the 2007 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 at 9 a.m. **Saturday, February 3, 2007** at City Hall (Room 204). **Nonresident** picnic reservations may be placed beginning at 9 a.m. **Monday, March 5, 2007**, 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 verifying that 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 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.

## Annual Pruning Workshop

**February 24, 2007**

The Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee will host their annual "Pruning Workshop" that teaches individuals the basic skills needed to properly prune trees and shrubs.

The program includes a PowerPoint presentation and pruning demonstration on various plants. The workshop will be held at the Bowie Senior Center on Health Center Drive, in Room 144, on **Saturday, February 24**, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A light snack and beverages will be provided. There is no cost for this workshop. For more information, please contact Matt Reno at [mreno@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mreno@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3076.

## 2007 Bike to Work Day

**Save the Date!**

**Friday, May 18, 2007**

Food, Fun, and Prizes!  
On-line Preregistration begins  
**March 1, 2007** at  
[www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org).

Time and Bowie Pit Stop  
locations will be announced.

## Keep Up With What's Happening In Bowie



Receive text messages and/or email alerts from the City of Bowie. Choose the types of alerts you'd like to receive when you register and receive the information you need to stay safe and informed about what's happening in your community. Recent alerts from the City have included warnings about impending bad weather, flooding on local streets, and traffic problems. To sign up, go to <http://alertbowie.org> or choose the Alert Bowie link from the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org).

### Public Skating Schedule

Sunday	2 - 4 p.m. *Family
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 1:45 - 3:45 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, and 9 - 11 p.m. **DJ
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 - The first Friday of every month is a Disc Jockey Session. The fee is \$7 and includes admission, skate rental and the disc jockey.

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	\$5.00
Child (under 16)	\$4.50
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 1, 2007. **Registration will be held January 18 - 27**, 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 \$75 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. Cash or check only please.

**Summer Camp registration begins March 1, 2007. Register early - space is limited!**

**\$5 Off Registration**

**Series 3 Group Lessons**

**Bowie Ice Arena**

Not valid with any other discount or offer.

Expires February 1, 2007

**2 for 1 Admission to**

**Any Public Skating Session**

**Bowie Ice Arena**

Not valid with any other discount or offer.

Expires February 28, 2007

## Bowie Youth & Family Services

**301-809-3033**

Bowie Youth & Family Services continues to serve the Bowie community with a variety of groups, informative presentations, family counseling, crisis intervention and substance abuse prevention activities. Activities include:

**Girls Count!** This group is offered on Monday afternoons for high school girls from ages 14 to 17. This group provides a safe environment for girls to learn to tap into their inner strengths. Sharing the pressures of being female in today's complex society, group members support each other as they participate in activities that are fun and meaningful. For more information, please contact Debby Shipler or Symone Colquitt at the Youth & Family Services office.

**The Teen Job Bank** is for Bowie teens between 13 and 18 years of age who are interested in helping residents with jobs like babysitting, snow shoveling, yard work, and housework. Residents looking to hire a teen should call to get names of teens in their area. For further information about the Teen Job Bank or about the other services offered, please call the office.

### 2007 Winter Lecture Series

All lectures take place at City Hall in Room 109. Advanced registration is required.

#### **Social Skills for Elementary Aged Children - Wednesday, January 31, 7 - 9 p.m.**

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, speaking out at inappropriate times, etc.

#### **Self-care and Nurturing for Moms - Wednesday, February 7, 7 - 9 p.m.**

What Mom has not wanted to spend an evening nurturing herself? Moms are invited to come learn a few skills and techniques in self-care. It will be a couple of fun hours for stressed-out moms.

#### **Teens/Preteens and Inhalants - Wednesday, February 28, 7 - 9 p.m.**

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 will inform and teach you of the dangers found in everyday products and how to recognize the signs exhibited when they are used.

#### **Staying Connected to Your Teen - Monday, February 26, 7 - 9 p.m.**

This lecture will give ideas and offer skill building to help parents learn ways to open two-way communication with their teens.

## Mentoring Makes a Difference!

The Teen Mentoring Program is recruiting adult volunteers to serve as Mentors to students at Bowie High School in the current 2006-2007 school year and in 2007-2008. 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 be interviewed.
- Participate in mentor training.
- Agree to security screen and fingerprinting.

For information and to apply, see the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org), under Community Services/Youth & Family Services Bureau, or email Rhonda Simon, Mentoring Coordinator at [mentor@cityofbowie.org](mailto: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



### NOT NOW, DARLING -- 1/26 - 2/10

A comedy by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. Directed by Bob Sams. Crouch, a partner in the fur salon of Bodley & Crouch, struggles to keep the business successful despite Bodley's womanizing.

*Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays (except 1/27) and Sundays. Presented by Bowie Community Theatre, 301-805-0219.*

### SIDE BY SIDE by SONDHEIM -- 2/16 - 3/3

Written by Steven Sondheim. Directed by Ron Wilder. Musical Director is Mac Fancher.

A review of Sondheim musical numbers.

*Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. Presented by Prince George's Little Theatre, 301-937-7458.*



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.

## Code Corner

The *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](http://www.cityofbowie.org). Questions can be directed to our Code Compliance office at 301-809-3008 or [codeofficer@cityofbowie.org](mailto:codeofficer@cityofbowie.org).

Did you know that permits from both Prince George's County and the City are required BEFORE beginning construction on:

- The widening of any driveway. You may replace or repair a driveway using exactly the same materials with exactly the same dimensions without a permit. All other modifications require a Permit. (Chapter 5)
- Any fence over 4 feet in height. There are also many restrictions on the placement of fences in front and side yards, especially on corner lots. (Chapter 26)
- Any accessory structure (shed) over 150 square feet in size. A permit is also required if you construct more than one shed in your yard. Restrictions also apply to the placement and height. (Chapter 26)
- All decks, porches and additions. The size will be limited by "lot coverage" restrictions that are different in various subdivisions. (Chapter 5)
- Swimming pools (or aquatic pools) 2 feet in depth or greater. A fence will also be required. (Chapter 5, also refer to the County Code Sec. 27)
- Any retaining wall over 2 feet. Combination fence and retaining wall structures are limited by the 6 foot fence law. (Chapter 26)

*Please avoid a fine (\$100), a delay to your project, or in a worst-case scenario having to remove an illegal structure, by obtaining the proper permits before beginning your home improvement project!*

## Cold Weather Care for Your Pets

We are well into the winter season and the Animal Control Division would like to remind pet owners that they have the following obligations:

**To provide shelter** – All animals kept out of doors for extended periods of time must have a weatherproof shelter. The animal must be able to stand to its full height and turn around. The structure must be wind and rainproof. It must have a solid floor that is raised at least 2 inches off the ground. Nonabsorbent bedding must be provided.

**To provide proper water** – The water bowl must be replenished regularly and its contents kept from freezing.

All pet owners should remember that your dog's and cat's paws are not well-protected. Prolonged exposure to cold or snow can cause frostbite.

Keep your pet warm and comfortable. Treat them as you would a friend. Remember they are often called "man's best friend"! For additional information about cold weather care for your pet, please call the City Animal Control Division at 301-809-3002.

## Achoo! It's The Flu!

With winter comes short days, biting winds and frigid temperatures. It also means the start of flu season. Some strains are worse than others; but in general, seasonal flu affects between 5 and 20% of Americans each year. Influenza, also known as the flu, is spread by droplets created when a person coughs or sneezes. There are several preventative measures you can take to reduce your risk of getting the flu:

- Check with your doctor about whether it's still advisable to get a flu shot this season.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Teach your children how to wash their hands properly and remind them often about keeping their hands clean. (*One creative suggestion for teaching children how long to wash their hands is to have them wash for the length of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday to You"*).
- Avoid those who are sick; and stay home from work when you are ill. Keep your children home when they're sick too.
- Make a concerted effort to be healthy — maintain a well-balanced diet, get enough sleep and exercise.

### Avian Flu and Pandemic Flu

In addition to seasonal flu, there is much discussion about avian (bird) flu and pandemic flu. A pandemic flu outbreak is a substantial, world-wide outbreak of a new kind of flu. Avian flu, which has killed 154 people in Southeast Asia, has the potential to become a pandemic. This is why health officials are concerned and why sometimes avian flu and pandemic flu are used interchangeably in the media. Avian flu has met some, but not all of the conditions for becoming a pandemic flu. To date, the only documented human cases of avian flu are in circumstances where people had contact or lived in close proximity to infected birds. It will pose no general health danger until it is capable of being easily transmitted from person to person.

Health experts and government officials at all levels are concerned that bird flu could become a pandemic at some point in the future. For this reason, they are taking unprecedented steps to educate the public and plan for a pandemic flu response. The County Health Department is heading up this effort locally and has provided some briefings for City staff.

Residents can learn more about avian flu and pandemics by contacting the City's Public Safety Coordinator Alan Creveling at 301-809-3079 or [acreveling@cityofbowie.org](mailto:acreveling@cityofbowie.org), the County Health Department at 301-583-3750, or by visiting one of the websites listed below.

#### U.S. Government Clearinghouse for Pandemic Flu Information

[www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

#### Prince George's County Health Department

[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/Health/flu\\_info.asp](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/Health/flu_info.asp)

## News of the City Museums



## Museum Hours of Operation

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Heritage Television Programs

**Friday, January 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;**

**Saturday/Sunday, January 6 and 7, 1 - 5 p.m.** at the Radio and Television Museum. "Stage Two Revue" (ABC, 1950) and "The Ruggles" (ABC, 1950). Free.

**"The 18th Century Garden" Second Tuesday Lecture Series Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.** at Belair Mansion. Mollie Ridout, a garden historian and curator of the William Paca Garden in Annapolis, will take a look at gardening in the past. Fee.

#### Heritage Television Programs

**Friday, January 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;**

**Saturday/Sunday, January 13 and 14, 1 - 5 p.m.** at the Radio and Television Museum. "You Asked for It" (ABC, 1950; First Episode) and "The Buster Keaton Show" (KTTV, 1950). Free.

#### "Historic Archaeology" Second Tuesday Lecture Series

**Tuesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.** at Belair Stable. Don Creveling takes a look at Maryland's past "below the surface"! Free.

#### Sweetheart Tea at Belair Mansion

**Wednesday, February 14, 4 - 6 p.m.** Enjoy a romantic candle-light tea at Belair Mansion. Reservations and advance payment required. Fee.

#### Heritage Television Programs

**Friday, February 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;**

**Saturday/Sunday, February 17 and 18, 1 - 5 p.m.** at the Radio and Television Museum. "The Faye Emerson Show" (ABC, 1951), "Mystery Theater" (ABC, 1951), and "The Adventures of Patches" (NBC/Syndicated, 1951). Free.

#### "A Look at Rosenwald Schools in Prince George's County"

##### Black History Month Lecture/Brown Bag Lunch

**Wednesday, February 21, 12 p.m.** at Old Town Bowie Welcome Center. Julius Rosenwald, the man who built Sears & Roebuck, advanced the cause of Black Education through his contribution to the construction of Rosenwald Schools. Local historian Susan Pearl will discuss the County's Rosenwald School Program and its impact on the education of County African American children through the 20th Century. Free.

**Bowie Railroad Station and Huntington Museum,** Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m.- 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 - 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, 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 information, call 301-262-2063 during open hours.*

*For information on these, or any museum program, please call 301-809-3089 or email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).*

## Senior Services Overview

The Bowie Senior Center provides a wide variety of educational and recreational programs and services that include information and assistance, transportation, and a nutrition program for seniors 55 years and older.

### New Year's Resolution: Experience the Bowie Senior Center Wellness Program and Open House

**Saturday, January 6  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Regular physical activity can help you reach and maintain a healthy active life style. Being physically active can also make you more energetic, improve your mood, and reduce the risk of developing some chronic diseases. Come and enjoy demonstrations, relaxation tips, and healthy refreshments. Call for more information.

### Prevent Falls

**Thursday, January 11  
10:30 a.m.**

Anne Arundel Medical Center will present a lecture on preventing falls. Please call to register.

# Senior Corner

## Member Appreciation Day

**Wednesday, February 14  
11 a.m.**

Bowie Senior Center sets this day aside to thank members for all their support through the year. The day will include music, refreshments, surprises and roving magicians. Registration required. Free. Must sign up for lunch separately.

## Celebrate Working Seniors Aged 55-70

**April 16 - 21**

The week will be filled with seminars, demonstrations, music and more! More information to come!

## Special Interest Groups

The Center offers support groups for the following interests: Aging Issues, NAMI Parent Support, Diabetes, Caregivers, Weight Management and Deaf Seniors.

## Nursing Service Available

A nurse, from the Prince George's County Health Department, is on duty the first Thursday of each month for blood pressure screening and health information.

## Mental Health Services

A counselor from Prince George's County Family Services, Aging Division, is available one day a month for individual free one-time-only consultations. Please call the Center for dates and times.

**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.

## City Hosts Program and Contests Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Tuesday, January 16, 2007, the City of Bowie will host a program honoring the life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme for the evening will be "Fulfilling the Dream." A central feature of the event will be poetry and essay readings by finalists in contests sponsored by the City's Diversity Committee. The public is invited to attend the program, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at City Hall.

Age appropriate contests are being sponsored for youth in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Contests are open to all students who live within the municipal limits of Bowie or attend a school in the City of Bowie. The contests are as follows: **Kindergarten – Second Grade**, "Dare to Dream" Art Contest; **Third – Eighth Grade**, "Living the Dream" Poetry Contest; and **Ninth – Twelfth Grade**, "Fulfilling the Dream" Essay Contest.

Entries must be submitted to the City Manager's Office at City Hall by 5 p.m. **Friday, January 5, 2007**. First (\$50), second (\$30) and third (\$20) place prizes will be awarded in each category. Contest rules and requirements have been sent to all schools in the City and are available on the City's website at [www.cityofbowie.org/mlkcontests.pdf](http://www.cityofbowie.org/mlkcontests.pdf). For more information, please call 301-809-3032 or email [ucooper@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ucooper@cityofbowie.org).

In addition to the January 16th program, community members are organizing an ecumenical service and a weekend of entertainment and educational activities honoring Dr. King from January 13 – 15. For more information, check local papers or contact Joan Christian at 301-218-8470.

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