

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

November - December 2008

Bowie Playhouse Reopens

A new lobby, over twice the size of the original, awaits theater patrons when the Bowie Playhouse reopens in November. The Playhouse has been dark since June for much needed renovations.

The Bowie Playhouse, formerly known as the "Theater in the Woods," was built in the 1970s. Over time, the theater many called "a gem" began to show its age and required some renovations, including a new roof, a handicap-accessible restroom, and a greatly-expanded lobby area. The City, owner of the Bowie Playhouse, has spent over \$500,000 on the facility and is anticipating its grand reopening. The three resident theater groups – Bowie Community Theatre, 2nd Star Productions, and Prince George's Little Theatre – are also looking forward to being able to stage their plays at the Playhouse once again.

While renovations were ongoing, all three theater companies presented their fall productions in Bowie City Hall's Multipurpose Room. Now, it's time for the curtain to reopen at the Bowie Playhouse, Bowie's own state-of-the-art theater.



Holiday Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 7

The City invites you to join your neighbors at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, December 7, 2008. The program begins at **7 p.m.** at City Hall, 2614 Kenhill Drive. Bundle up for caroling outdoors, followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus atop the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck. Indoors following Santa's arrival, enjoy entertainment in the Multipurpose Room, children's crafts, and visit with Santa. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Takes A Green Step Forward With Expanded Recycling

As part of our ongoing effort to go greener, the City is pleased to announce that it has vastly expanded its list of acceptable recyclable materials. Residents have a great opportunity to recycle most plastic household items, and thereby enhance our environment, by simply placing the items in their recycling containers beginning immediately.

While the complete list is posted on the City's website, some new items accepted for recycling include:

- All plastic containers, including wide-mouth plastic containers, such as peanut butter, yogurt, and margarine/butter tubs.
- Rigid plastics, such as milk/soda crates, laundry baskets, coolers, flowerpots, cups, toys and empty plastic garbage/recycling bins.
- Milk and juice cartons (plastic and cardboard).
- Plastic bags and plastic wrap. Put bags in a single bag, tie and place in your recycling bin.
- Frozen food containers and aluminum food containers.
- Empty aerosol cans.

In summary, just about any clean plastic item, except vinyl siding, PVC pipe, paint containers and bottles containing hazardous materials, will be recycled. For more information about the expanded recycling list, visit www.cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-2344.

Trapping Animals

The **Bowie Spotlight** is published by the City of Bowie six times a year. It is delivered to all postal carrier routes containing 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. Deusch,
City Manager
301-809-3030



Animals are an important part of our environment. However, sometimes an animal becomes ill or becomes an unacceptable nuisance. When this occurs, Bowie residents are able to contact the City's Animal Control Division and borrow humane traps to assist in the removal and relocation of the animal.

When a nuisance animal is something other than a domestic animal (dog, cat, ferret, bird, etc.), groundhog, opossum or squirrel, residents must first call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Services Division to obtain a permit number before contacting the City's Animal Control Division. Permits are available to trap skunks, raccoons, foxes or snakes by calling Wildlife Services toll free at 1-877-463-6497. Permit processors are available Monday - Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

No permit is needed for trapping domestic animals, groundhogs, opossums or squirrels. No permit is needed for trapping animals who are inside a residence. Once a resident has obtained a permit number (if required), they should contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 to inquire about trap availability and the procedures that must be followed.

When beaver problems occur on private property, residents should call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who will assess the situation and determine if trapping is an appropriate response. DNR will then assist residents by providing information about how to contact a licensed professional. DNR can be reached by calling 410-260-8547. The City cannot trap beaver on private property. If damage is caused by a beaver on government-owned property in the City, such as in parks or stormwater management areas, please contact the City's Parks and Grounds Department at 301-809-2353 for assistance.



Keep Pets Happy in Winter

As the thermometer dips, please take a few moments to read the following tips to help keep your pets happy this winter:

- Keep pets indoors when temperatures are below freezing.
- Pets that are kept outdoors for an extended period of time should have access to shelter that provides protection from inclement weather conditions such as wind, snow and rain.
- Refresh outside water bowls frequently. Be sure pets always have access to fresh, unfrozen water.

Also, remember that your pet's paws are not well protected. Prolonged exposure to cold or snow can cause frostbite. Keep you pet warm and comfortable. For additional information, please call the City's Animal Control Division at 301-809-3002.

Launching the Bowie Business Incubator

You already know that Bowie is a great place to live. In August 2008, the City Council contracted with an expert incubator program management company to continue to develop a business incubation program to make Bowie an even better place to build an entrepreneurial business.

Business incubation is the process of nurturing new companies. Bowie's business incubation program will offer two of the things that small, entrepreneurial businesses need most -- business mentoring services combined with office space on a flexible lease basis. Client companies in the Bowie Business Incubator can be residents and lease space in the incubator; or they can be affiliate members who use services and facilities, but are not physically based in the incubator. Using the findings of an Incubator Feasibility Study completed by ANGLE Technology for the City of Bowie in 2007, the Department of Planning and Economic Development is now working with ANGLE to implement the project.

The 2007 study found that a business incubation program was feasible and the role of a business incubation program in the City could be:

- To accelerate the growth of the existing knowledge-based, professional service firms in the City, some of which are minority-owned, many of which are currently home-based businesses, and increase the economic impact of these enterprises on the business base of Bowie.
- To meet the development need of a broad group of small and entrepreneurial enterprises which could be built around the expertise and technology of federal organizations and laboratories new to Bowie, including NASA, NSA and APL.
- To help attract new, growth-oriented entrepreneurial businesses to the City of Bowie.

Target client companies for the Bowie Business Incubator will be small, growth-oriented professional services or technology companies. The ANGLE team is currently working to create the Board of Directors for the project. ANGLE also will fully define the application process and specific business services that will be offered, identify office space for the business incubator in the City, and assemble the funding package and sponsors for the incubator. The anticipated launch date for the Bowie Business Incubator is fall of 2009.

If you are a company that would like to participate in the Bowie Business Incubator, or if you would like to receive email updates on the Incubator program, please contact the City's Incubator Program Manager, Lisa Smith of ANGLE Technology, at lisa.smith@angletec.com or 301-524-5654.

Homeowners Associations

The City maintains a list of contact information for local homeowners associations on the City's website. The list is used to share important information with your community about planned developments, transportation improvements, and other issues. Help us keep the list current by notifying the Planning Department when your officers and management companies change.

Please visit the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, to see if your community information is correct. Any corrections or updates to the information should be provided to Marianne Baird at mbaird@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3047.

Code Corner ... Winter Weather Regulations

Winter is around the corner and with it comes special safety concerns. Please assist the City by following the City Code requirements related to snow removal. Your cooperation will provide a safer environment for those who use our walkways and streets to travel to school, work and other places.

Parking restrictions during a “Snow Emergency”. When the accumulation of snow and ice on the City streets reaches two (2) inches or more, a “Snow Emergency” is declared. Sec. 14-18.

- Parking of vehicles on the streets of the City is prohibited during “snow emergencies”.
- Vehicles parked or left on the streets which obstruct traffic or interfere with the clearance of snow or ice may be towed. **Please note. A vehicle is subject to impoundment, without notice, when the vehicle is impeding or likely to impede the normal flow of vehicular (especially fire department or emergency apparatus) or pedestrian traffic. Sec. 14-10 (o) and 14-15 (a) (1) If the accumulation of snow and ice during a snow emergency occurs after 10 p.m., no vehicle will be towed until after 8 a.m. the following day (except for vehicles referenced in Sec. 14-15).*
- The snow emergency remains in effect until the snow and ice accumulation has been cleared.

Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways. Sec. 14-22.

- Every owner or lessor of residential and commercial property fronting or abutting a paved sidewalk or driveway, which forms a part of the public right-of-way, shall remove or cause to be removed or cleared away, any snow and ice from said sidewalk or driveway.
- The snow and ice shall be removed from the sidewalks and driveways in the public right-of-way within forty-eight (48) hours after the cessation of any falling snow, sleet, or freezing rain. **Please note. The City Manager may waive the provisions of Sec. 14-22, for those residential property owners or occupants, because of the totality of their circumstances (age, disability, etc.) they are unable to comply within the forty-eight (48) hours. The waiver does not preclude the necessity and requirement the sidewalks and driveways must be cleared of snow and/or ice. Please call the Community Services Department at 301-809-3008 to register for this waiver.*

The Code Compliance Office encourages all residents to pay special attention to those sidewalks and driveways in close proximity to our schools. We want to ensure the safety and welfare of our school children, as they walk to and from home or school, by keeping the sidewalks and driveways clear. Please don't force our school children and other pedestrians onto the roadways because of an obstructed sidewalk or driveway near your home.

For more information about the City Code, please see the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org and select *City Code* at the top of the page. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Code Compliance Division at 301-809-3008.

Electronics Recycling, Shredding and Household Hazardous Waste Event

Residents can safely dispose of household hazardous waste, shred personal documents and recycle electronics on **Saturday, November 1, 2008** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Prince George's Stadium (home of the Bowie Baysox). For details about accepted materials, refer to the September *Spotlight*, the City's website, local newspapers, or call 301-809-2344. Informational flyers are also available at City buildings, the Bowie Branch Library, and local community centers.

Sponsored by the City of Bowie in cooperation with Prince George's County.



Young Person's Art Gallery



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

November
Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center

December
Bowie High School

Art Notes

Whether it's affirming young artists through its Young Person's Art Gallery or providing different gallery venues for other artists, the City offers a number of opportunities for local artists to exhibit their work. There are four galleries, all located at City Hall. Two of the galleries change monthly while the other two rotate every six months. Here's a snapshot of these galleries:

The *Young Person's Art Gallery* exhibits the work of students in eligible schools located in the City. Local art teachers in the schools gather their student's artwork and the teacher works with members of the City's Arts Committee to frame the artwork and hang it in the gallery. The schools' artwork changes monthly. One of the exciting things about this gallery is the opportunity for the schools to hold a reception at City Hall. At the reception, the young artists receive a certificate and a congratulatory handshake from the Mayor or a member of the City Council.

The *Conference Room Gallery* and the *Visions of Bowie Gallery* are two galleries that include the work of many artists. Local artists can showcase their artwork in the Conference Room Gallery. This gallery is open to artists who reside in a community with a Bowie Zip Code and is located in conference rooms 111 and 204 at City Hall. Exhibits change in December and June. The Visions of Bowie Gallery, located in the Multipurpose Room at City Hall, is a gallery that showcases artwork that depicts places and things about Bowie. Local artists who have created their own "vision" of Bowie are invited to submit their work for consideration. This gallery also changes twice yearly, but in mid-October and mid-April.

The *City Hall Gallery* showcases the work of local adult artists in the community. This gallery rotates on a monthly basis showcasing individual artists and artist groups like the Guild of Bowie Artists. Artists who have a Bowie Zip Code are eligible to show their work.

All galleries are open to the public when not in use for meetings. The gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. To find out more about the galleries or how to exhibit, contact Annette Esterheld, Arts Specialist, at 301-575-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

Teachers of the Month

This program was developed several years ago as a way to recognize the wonderful teachers educating Bowie students. City residents, parents, students, teachers and other school staff are provided with 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 \$100 savings bond provided by BB&T Bank, and a special lunch with their principal, courtesy of Main Street Caterers.

Teachers at these schools are eligible: Bowie and Tall Oaks High Schools; Benjamin Tasker and Samuel Ogle Middle Schools; St. Pius X Regional, Grace Christian, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Holy Trinity (lower campus); Heather Hills, High Bridge, Kenilworth, Northview, Pointer Ridge, Rockledge, Tulip Grove, Whitehall and Yorktown Elementary Schools; Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center and C. Elizabeth Rieg Special Center.

Nominations are accepted at any time. Information is available at the above schools, on the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org (select Committees, then Education Committee), or at City Hall. For more information, contact Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.

Beth Obear, Media Specialist at Kenilworth Elementary School, is the September Teacher of the Month.

Kenilworth Elementary School is very proud of Ms. Obear, a teacher who "has always stood out" as a favorite of parents and students. In fact, as she is always involved in so many school activities, it is difficult to keep up with all that she is doing, according to her nominator, Cheyenne Wilson, parent and PTA officer (Immediate Past President).

Ms. Obear has a strong commitment to encouraging reading and teaching reading skills. She encourages students to work at their highest level, and "discover new interests." She is not only the coordinator of the internal WKES TV station, with daily announcements about all activities and clubs, but also handles all information technology issues in the building.

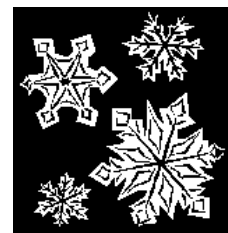
To accomplish all that is needed at the school, Ms. Obear seeks support and funding from the school PTA and other available sources, and assists other school staff in applying for grants through the County and City of Bowie. In addition, she assists with many extracurricular activities, from reading events to providing audiovisual support for various school activities. She established the Kenilworth Destination Imagination Team, and coordinates the annual school Book Fair.

Mr. Chris Mills, Principal at Kenilworth Elementary School refers to Ms. Obear as the "consummate player." "While her title is media specialist, her role in school-wide improvement efforts impacts all aspects of daily life at Kenilworth. Her dedication to the school and her students is inspiring and highly

commendable. She routinely extends her skills and talents to parents and students beyond the school day through Write-a-Book workshops and extracurricular activities like Destination Imagination."

Her nomination states that Ms. Obear is one of those people who "makes things happen," and supports "any worthy effort brought to her attention."

Kenilworth is fortunate to have Ms. Obear as a member of their team.



Bowie Youth and Family Services

301-809-3033

Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) is one of the State of Maryland's 20 Youth Services Bureaus and has been serving the City of Bowie since 1973. BYFS offers counseling for families with children living in the home who are under the age of 18. Groups are offered periodically for those who want guidance with parenting skills; social skills for young children; helping their children cope while their parents are going through divorce or separation; and an ongoing group for high school girls.

Family counseling services are provided free to residents within the corporate limits of the City of Bowie, and on a sliding fee scale to those in Prince George's County residing outside these boundaries. No medical assistance or insurance is accepted. BYFS staff is composed of master's level clinicians with extensive training in family counseling. Families are encouraged to call to make an appointment. An initial intake will be done either by phone or in person. Call **301-809-3033** for more information and to be put on our callback list for services.

Teen Job Bank Needs Workers Winter is fast approaching. More teens are needed to shovel snow. There are not enough teens signed on to accommodate everyone who will need help with this arduous task. If you know a teen interested in signing up for occasional work, including housework, babysitting, leaf raking, yard work and, of course, snow shoveling, please check the Youth & Family Services page on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org. Applications can be downloaded and mailed to the office. It's a great way for a teen to earn a few extra dollars. Bowie residents who need help may call **301-809-3033**, or visit the website to obtain information about this service.

Thanks for Donations

A great big THANK YOU for donations to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund. Food, paper products (paper towels, tissues), baby items (disposable diapers, wipes), and toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) are in great need all year long. School supplies are needed in the summer and fall, as well as the middle of the school year (December- January). Your assistance really does make a big difference in people's lives! Donations are very much appreciated by those being assisted, as well as the Community Outreach Committee, sponsor of the concert collections, and those working with the Food Pantry.

Please continue to keep the shelves stocked by regularly donating needed items. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated as well! The demand continues to rise, with more and more people in need of assistance and tapping all available resources. The Pantry is located at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church, 3120 Belair Drive. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. There are also collection containers near the reception desk in City Hall and in the lobby of the Senior Center, where you may drop nonperishable food, paper goods and personal items.

For more information, visit the website at www.Bowiefoodpantry.org or contact the Pantry at 301-262-6765 or BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com.

Bowie Ice Arena

301-809-3090



Birthday Parties On Ice Have your next birthday party on ice at the Bowie Ice Arena. Party package includes admission, skate rental, pizza, soda and the private party room for a two-hour public session. The fee for City of Bowie residents is \$150 for up to 10 people. Dates book quickly, so please call the Ice Arena to check availability.

Series 2 Group Lessons Begin December 4, 2008 Registration will be held November 20-30, from 10 a.m. – 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 series includes seven half-hour lessons, skate rental during the lessons, and a seven-admission public session pass. The fee for Bowie residents is \$85. Space is limited, so register early. Private lessons are also available. Please call the Ice Arena for further information.

Leaf Collection Begins November 3

The City's leaf collection service kicks off November 3. Each residential neighborhood will have two collection dates. Residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of their grass for pickup by the City crews. Collection will take place from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the schedule on Page 9.

Crews will work rain or shine. However, in the event of snow or ice storms, leaf collection will be temporarily suspended, as the trucks and crews will be redeployed to salt or plow City streets.

Some sections of the City are listed on two consecutive days. Due to expected volume, these sections may take more than one day to complete. The leaves must be raked to the curb by 7 a.m. on the first scheduled date. The second day is built into the schedule to allow extra time if it is needed. Crews will visit areas not completed on the first scheduled day.

For up-to-date information, please call 301-262-6200 and select the prompt for the Leaf Collection Hotline.

For more information, call 301-809-2344.

\$1 Off Admission

Any Public Skating Session

Bowie Ice Arena

Expires 12/15/08

Not valid during DJ session or with any other discount or offer.

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., 1 - 3 p.m. and 3:15 - 4:45 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 - Admission for up to five (5) family members is \$12 plus skate rental.

DJ Session - Every Friday night is a Disc Jockey Session. The fee is \$8 and includes admission, skate rental and the disc jockey.

Admission Rates:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Adult | \$5.00 |
| Child (under 16) | \$4.50 |
| Skate Rental | \$2.75 |

\$5 Off Series 2

Group Lesson

Registration

Bowie Ice Arena

Expires 11/30/08

Not valid with any other discount or offer.

ONE COUPON
PER FAMILY

2008 Leaf Collection Schedule

| Section | First Leaf Collection Date | | Second Leaf Collection Date | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| AMBER MEADOWS | Thurs. | 11/20 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| ASHLEIGH | Wed. | 11/5 | Mon. | 11/24 |
| BELAIR GREENS | Mon. | 11/3 | Tues. | 11/25 |
| BELAIR TOWN I | Wed. | 11/12 | Tues. | 12/2 |
| BELAIR TOWN II | Wed. | 11/12 | Tues. | 12/2 |
| BUCKINGHAM | Mon. | 11/3 | Wed. | 11/26 |
| CHAPEL FORGE | Tues. | 11/4 | Tues. | 11/25 |
| COLLINGTON MANOR | Wed. | 11/5 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| COLLINGTON STATION | Wed. | 11/5 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| COVINGTON MANOR | Thurs. | 11/20 | Thurs. | 12/18 |
| DERBYSHIRE | Mon. | 11/3 | Wed. | 11/26 |
| DEVONSHIRE | Thurs. | 11/20 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| ENFIELD (excluding townhomes) | Thurs. | 11/13 | Wed. | 12/3 |
| FAIRVIEW | Wed. | 11/5 | Wed. | 12/17 |
| FOXHILL* | Tues. | 11/18 | Mon. | 12/8 (& 12/9) |
| GLEN ALLEN | Wed. | 11/19 | Thurs. | 12/18 |
| GRADYS WALK | Mon. | 11/3 | Mon. | 12/8 |
| GROVEHURST | Thurs. | 11/20 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| HARVEY MANOR | Tues. | 11/4 | Tues. | 11/25 |
| HEATHER HILLS | Thurs. | 11/20 | Tues. | 12/16 |
| HIGHBRIDGE PARK | Wed. | 11/5 | Wed. | 12/17 |
| HUNTINGTON* | Tues. | 11/4 (& 11/5) | Mon. | 11/24 (& 11/25) |
| HUNTINGTON CREST | Tues. | 11/4 | Tues. | 11/25 |
| IDLEWILD | Thurs. | 11/13 | Mon. | 12/8 |
| KENILWORTH | Mon. | 11/17 | Wed. | 12/10 |
| LONGLEAF | Mon. | 11/3 | Wed. | 11/26 |
| LONG RIDGE* | Mon. | 11/17 | Wed. | 12/10 (& 12/11) |
| MEADOWBROOK* | Wed. | 11/12 (& 11/13) | Wed. | 12/3 |
| MITCHELLVILLE EAST | Wed. | 11/19 | Thurs. | 12/18 |
| NORTHRIDGE | Wed. | 11/26 | Wed. | 12/17 |
| NORTHVIEW | Thurs. | 11/13 | Tues. | 12/16 |
| OAKTREE | Wed. | 11/5 | Thurs. | 12/11 |
| OLD CHAPEL | Mon. | 11/3 | Wed. | 11/26 |
| OLD CHAPEL ESTATES | Mon. | 11/3 | Wed. | 11/26 |
| OLD STAGE | Mon. | 11/24 | Thurs. | 12/18 |
| OVERBROOK* | Mon. | 11/10 (& 11/12) | Tues. | 12/2 |
| POINTER RIDGE | Thurs. | 11/6 | Thurs. | 12/4 |
| ROCKLEDGE | Mon. | 11/10 | Mon. | 12/1 |
| ROLLING HILLS | Wed. | 11/5 | Wed. | 12/17 |
| SADDLEBROOK | Wed. | 11/12 | Mon. | 12/1 |
| SADDLEBROOK WEST | Wed. | 11/12 | Mon. | 12/1 |
| SOMERSET | Wed. | 11/19 | Tues. | 12/9 |
| STEWART'S LANDING | Mon. | 11/3 | Wed. | 11/26 |
| TALL OAKS | Mon. | 11/24 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| TERNBERRY | Wed. | 11/5 | Mon. | 12/15 |
| TULIP GROVE* | Tues. | 11/18 (& 11/19) | Mon. | 12/8 |
| VICTORIA HEIGHTS | Thurs. | 11/13 | Thurs. | 12/11 |
| WESTVIEW | Wed. | 11/5 | Thurs. | 12/18 |
| WHITEHALL | Tues. | 11/4 | Mon. | 12/1 |
| WOODMORE HIGHLANDS | Wed. | 11/5 | Wed. | 12/17 |
| YORKTOWN | Mon. | 11/10 | Tues. | 12/2 |

*Leaves must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on the first scheduled date.
The second date is only for those areas not visited on the first date.

Greetings from the Environmental Programs Planner and the City Forester

We are busy completing the Bowie Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) as part of our fall work program. The purpose of the UFMP is to develop a plan of how and where to increase the number of trees on private and public land in Bowie. The City has currently budgeted the planting of 150-200 street and park trees mainly to replace dead, dying, or damaged trees. In addition, BGE plans to replace all of the 100 city-owned trees that were recently removed from Buckingham Park to improve power reliability.

Beginning in 2007, BGE implemented a Tree Reimbursement Program that helps replace privately owned trees that were removed from maintained power line areas to resolve power reliability issues. Bowie customers who purchase and plant shorter understory trees will be reimbursed a maximum of \$100 per tree. As of the end of August, BGE reported that only 11 Bowie customers had taken advantage of this program. For a list of the "right trees" for the program, please see BGE's website at www.bge.com. For more general information about the program, see the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/news/announce/BGE_Reimb_info.pdf.

So remember to think globally and act locally in the days leading up to Thanksgiving by planting a tree in your yard before the first frost sets in. Planting trees will help increase the tree canopy coverage making Bowie a greener place to live. For more information on the benefits of increasing the City's tree canopy coverage, please visit the Bowie Green Pages at www.cityofbowie.org.

Elizabeth Chaisson, Senior Planner (echaisson@cityofbowie.org)
Rick Kellner, Community Forester (rkellner@cityofbowie.org)

Celebrate a Bowie Holiday!

The holiday season is certainly a time of year that has a "historical place" in Bowie. Belair Mansion's 18th century residents toasted Christmas, New Year's and Twelfth Night. Celebration was the order of the day. Through the 19th century, in spite of the hard times during and after the Civil War, the holiday season was a respite from shortages in food and clothing, and concerns for loved ones far away, enduring the hardships of war.

Today, in modern Bowie, we celebrate our holidays in wonderfully diverse ways - Christmas trees, menorahs, tables piled with feasts, gifts, family and friends, both near and far. While the method of celebration might have changed since the 18th century, the spirit remains the same!

Celebrate a Bowie holiday this year. Visit a City museum for a sample of holiday traditions, join Santa for caroling at the tree lighting, shop for a special gift in Old Bowie's antique shops and boutiques, take a ride through the City and be delighted by the holiday decorating displays. Make this a hometown holiday!

Christmas Trees

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. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m.



The City of Bowie
Presents the 27th Annual
HOLIDAY HOUSE
DECORATING CONTEST



HOME DECORATING ENTRY FORM (Form may be reproduced)

DECORATING CATEGORY

CIRCLE ONE: COLONIAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 8.
BOWIE CITY HALL, ROOM 203
2614 KENHILL DRIVE, BOWIE, MD 20715
ATTN: HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

**HOLIDAY HOUSE
DECORATING CONTEST**

Judging Categories and Criteria

Entrants will designate either house or townhouse, then select one of three categories:

***Traditional** (colored or white lights, children's fantasies, Santa Claus and friends, etc.)

***Religious** (of any denomination)

***Colonial** (candles in the windows, greenery, white lights, the Williamsburg look.)

Entries will be judged on the following:

- **Creativity**
- **Appearance**
- **Effort**

Contest Rules:

- Home must be located within the Bowie City limits. (Please check with us if you're not sure.)
- Contest is limited to what can be seen from the street side of the house at night.
- People or live animals are not allowed as part of the display.
- All participants are requested to keep their houses decorated through December 31st so the community may view and enjoy them.
- Entry deadline is Monday, December 8, 2008 at 5 p.m.
- **Judging is on Wednesday, December 10, during the hours of 6 to 11 p.m.** (Participants: please turn on displays by 6 p.m. so that the judges may evaluate each entry accordingly.)
- Winners will be notified on December 12.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Prizes will be awarded at the Holiday Awards Reception on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. All contest entrants are invited to attend.

For additional information, please call City Hall at 301-809-3011.

Top Gardens Honored

The lovely yard of Todd Kear captured the top award as *2008 Distinguished Yard* at the 13th Annual City of Bowie Beautification Awards, held September 25 at the Bowie Senior Center. The City extends its thanks and appreciation to all the nominees, whose hard work and creativity have helped make Bowie a more beautiful and pleasant place to live, and to the sponsors who provided prizes and decorations for the program. This year's sponsors were the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club, Frank's Garden Center and Patuxent Nursery. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients identified to the right.

| Winners | Award |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Todd Kear | <i>2008 Distinguished Yard Award</i> |
| Donna Bayes | <i>All-Star Garden</i> |
| Linda Carman | <i>All-Star Garden</i> |
| Scott and Cheri Ogilvie | <i>All-Star Garden</i> |
| Diana Twomey | <i>All-Star Garden</i> |
| William West IV | <i>All-Star Garden</i> |
| Virginia Smith | <i>Distinguished Back Yard</i> |
| Sunoco Gas Station, MD Route 450 | <i>Distinguished Business</i> |
| David Dolney | <i>Distinguished Front Yard</i> |
| Dorothy Campbell | <i>Distinguished Side Yard</i> |
| Tulip Grove Elementary School | <i>Distinguished School</i> |
| Heather Dunahoo | <i>Distinguished Townhouse</i> |
| John Bednarczyk | <i>2-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Kristine Ferriera | <i>2-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Jim and Ginna Galentine | <i>2-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Patricia Lopes | <i>2-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Dorothy and Ed Bice | <i>3-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Marlene Boylan | <i>3-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Claire Coleman | <i>3-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Randal Mars | <i>3-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Edmund and Janet St. Jean | <i>3-Star Maintenance</i> |
| Richard Wilson | <i>3-Star Maintenance</i> |

The Role of City Boards, Committees and Commissions

Have you ever wondered about how the City Council is able to accomplish all that it does? Well, one very valuable source of support comes from a group of civic-minded individuals, many of whom are experts in their fields, who serve on City boards, committees and commissions. These volunteer citizen bodies advise the Council and help implement the laws and policies that the Council establishes.

City boards, committees and commissions provide their members with the opportunity to play a role in how the City operates and enable them to help shape the future of our community. At the same time, members learn more about our City and provide valuable service to fellow residents.

Currently, there are 17 City boards, committees and commissions. Members are appointed by the City Council to serve a two-year term, and may be reappointed for additional terms. These bodies concern everything from elections and diversity to economic development and our City's heritage. Each body has a specific purpose and function. They meet periodically, usually once a month.

As of early October, there were more than 25 committee vacancies. So, there are lots of opportunities available! If you would like to learn more about the different City committees, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org and select *City Committees* at the top of the page.

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk at pflaming@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Digital TV Is Coming ... Are You Ready?

If you are using an analog TV set with an antenna or rabbit ears to receive free over-the-air programming, your television may not work after **February 17, 2009**. On that date television stations nationwide must switch from the old method of transmitting TV signals, known as analog television, to digital television. The U.S. Congress has instructed the FCC to mandate the change and, on this date, broadcasters will be required to convert all of their programming to a digital format (DTV). As a result, some residents will need to make changes to some of their older TV equipment.

In order to continue watching your old TV after February 17, 2009, you will need to purchase a set-top box to convert the digital signal back to an analog signal. With the set-top box, you will be able to continue with the same type of signal reception equipment that you're currently using (antenna or rabbit ears). You'll be able to display the digital broadcasts, but not necessarily in their full, original digital quality.

These new set-top boxes are available and are estimated to cost between \$40 and \$70 each. To help consumers with the digital transition, the Federal Government established the "Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program". The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is administering this program. Every U.S. household is eligible to receive up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. The coupons can be used for the converter boxes sold at participating consumer electronics retailers. The coupons must be used at the time of purchase and are only good for 90 days after receipt. For more information on this program, you can visit the NTIA's website at www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon, or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY).

If you currently subscribe to a TV cable service or a satellite TV service, you should contact your provider to see if you will be impacted by the transition. However, if you have any TVs in your home that are not hooked up to cable or satellite service, you'll need a converter box to continue watching those TVs.

Bowie Playhouse

Presents



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM -- 11/14 - 12/13

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Presented by 2nd Star Productions, 301-858-7245.

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR -- 12/19 - 12/28

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Presented by Prince George's Little Theatre, 301-937-7458.

OUT OF ORDER -- 1/3 - 1/24/09

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

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



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.

News of the City Museums



Museum Hours of Operation

Mark Your Calendar

Black Friday Discount Day at Belair Mansion Museum Shop

Friday, November 28, 12 - 4 p.m. Discounts on MANY shop items!

Trainspotting at the Bowie Railroad Museum

Sunday, November 30, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bowie Train Station. Watch lots of unusual cars roll by on AMTRAK's busiest day of the year. Shop in antique stores and boutiques, and enjoy a holiday visit with Santa. Free.

Greens and Goodies! Decoration Workshop and Cookie Swap Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Build a holiday table decoration...bring 12 of your favorite holiday cookies to share! \$20 per person. Advance reservation and payment required.

Belair Mansion and Stable by Candlelight

Sunday, December 7, 4 - 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion and Stable. Historic holidays from the past. Donations requested.

Snowflake Tea at Belair Mansion

Friday, December 12, 4 p.m. Holiday goodies amidst beautiful decorations. \$24 per person. Advance reservation and payment required.

Taste of the Past from Belair Mansion's Kitchen

Saturday, December 13, 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Sample bits of holiday culinary history. Free.

Santa's Big Broadcast at the Radio and Television Museum

Saturday, December 13, 1 - 5 p.m. Holiday broadcast fun from the past. Free.

Kids Kandlelight at Belair Mansion

Sunday, December 14, 3 - 6 p.m. Candlelight tour for small folks and a craft to take home. Donation requested.

Winter Wonderland Tea at Belair Mansion

Saturday, December 27, 4 p.m. Holiday high tea to celebrate the season. \$24 per person. Advance reservation and payment required.

Monday Morning at the Museum

Monday, December 29, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 4 - 11. A discussion about holiday traditions from the past. And a holiday craft to take home! Free.

For information on these, or any museum program, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

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, Tuesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 2835 Belair Drive. Free.

Belair Mansion, Tuesdays 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, please call 301-262-2063 during open hours.*

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 the active adult 55 years and older. *This is your invitation to stop in and take a tour of this great facility!*

Veterans Day

**Thursday, November 6
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

The Center will pay tribute to our veterans. Attending veterans will be recognized according to the branch of the Armed Forces in which they served. Entertainment provided by the Bowie Senior Chorale. Please register by November 2. Program is free and open to the public.

Coffee Social

**Tuesday, November 18
Tuesday, December 16
10 a.m.**

Please join City Council member(s) for free coffee and an hour of lively discussion at the Center! This is your opportunity to talk about senior issues and other community concerns.



Holiday Community Project

The Center will once again support the Family Readiness & Support Group (FRSG) Unit Delta Company 729th BSB Cheltenham Maryland. The Unit Coordinator, Aretha Wilkerson, is planning a Christmas Party for the Unit children and their families. The Center will partner with VFW Post 8065. With your help, they will bring Christmas to the many boys and girls of these soldiers. Please look for "The Giving Tree" in the lobby and choose a child. All items are needed by **November 28.**

Bowie Senior Chorale

December 4, 1 p.m.
at Bowie Senior Center
December 10, 7:30 p.m.
at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

Two holiday concerts. Both concerts are open to the community. Donations will be accepted for the Bowie Pantry and the Senior Center.

Holiday Bazaar

**Friday, December 5
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Expect an array of hand-made craft products and a festive atmosphere. Limited vendor table space is available for \$5 for Center members - see the front desk for reservations.

**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.

Holiday Party

**Thursday,
December 18
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Our annual festive celebration. A live band will entertain us with holiday music and old favorites. Lunch is included. \$9 for residents, \$11 for nonresidents.

Upcoming Events

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11, 2008
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27 and 28, 2008
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.

Christmas Holiday

December 25 and 26, 2008
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.

New Year's Holiday

Thursday, January 1, 2009
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.

2009 City Holidays

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| New Year's Day | Thursday | January 1, 2009 |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | Monday | January 19, 2009 |
| Presidents Day | Monday | February 16, 2009 |
| Memorial Day | Monday | May 25, 2009 |
| Independence Day | Friday | July 3, 2009 |
| Labor Day | Monday | September 7, 2009 |
| Veterans Day | Wednesday | November 11, 2009 |
| Thanksgiving Day | Thursday | November 26, 2009 |
| Day after Thanksgiving | Friday | November 27, 2009 |
| Christmas Day | Friday | December 25, 2009 |

**City offices will be closed on the dates listed above.
There will be no refuse or recycling services on these dates.**

Alternative versions of this newsletter are available upon request.

Call the Public Information Office at 301-809-3032 or TTY/TDD 301-262-5013.

**CITY OF BOWIE
2614 KENHILL DRIVE
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20715**

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