

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

September - October 2008

Bowie International Festival

Travel Around the World in Just One Day!

Entertainers, artists, crafters, food, a Parade of Cultures and children's activities will fill Allen Pond Park at the Bowie International Festival on **Saturday, October 4, 2008** (rain date Sunday, October 5th) from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Experiences at this Festival will take you "around the world in just one day". Bring your family and join friends and neighbors for a variety of activities. There will be entertainment on two stages, including dance and music from places like Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe, as well as Native American dance, music and ceremony. Savor foods from the far reaches of Asia to right here in our own backyard. Enjoy children's activities such as mask-making, games and stories from around the world. There will be vendors of crafts, clothing, jewelry and many other offerings, representative of a variety of countries and cultures. The Festival will include something for everyone. Entertainment will include a steel band ensemble and dancers from many areas of the world. Craft items offered will include interesting products from different lands. Hunger will be satisfied with familiar and new flavors.

For the entertainment schedule and further information, please visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org (select Leisure Activities in the upper right-hand corner and scroll down to Special Events). You may also contact Matt Corley at City Hall at 301-809-3011 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Salute to America Concert

Sunday, September 7

The U.S. Army Field Band "Volunteers" will be featured at the City's "Salute to America" concert at Allen Pond Park. Bring your flags and candles and join us for a special candle-light event. Music will begin at **7 p.m.** Show your patriotism as we close out the Summer Sunday Concert series with this hour of exhilarating music.

Beautification Awards Program

It's official! All of this year's entered yards have been judged, scores have been tallied, and the winners are ...

Well, you'll just have to attend the City's Beautification Awards ceremony on **Thursday, September 25, 2008** at the Bowie Senior Center where the results will be revealed! A slide presentation and refreshments will begin at 7 p.m. and the awards presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The City would like to thank all those who beautified their yards this year and who chose to enter this wonderful City-wide program. For additional information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Inside This Issue...

	Page
<i>Neighbors Helping Neighbors</i>	5
<i>New Arts Opportunities</i>	7
<i>Bowie Budget in Brief</i>	9-12
<i>Fun at the City Gym</i>	13
<i>News of the City Museums</i>	18

Do You Know Where Your Cleanout Is?

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. Deutsch,
City Manager
301-809-3030



The backup of sewage through the drains in your home is an unpleasant prospect. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to protect your property.

First, an easy lesson in basic plumbing. Wastewater flows through small sewer lines on your property to the larger sewer main in the street. From there the sewage travels by gravity or pressure to the treatment plant. The flow is constant, with peaks in the morning and evening. Each day millions of gallons of wastewater safely reach the treatment plant to be reclaimed and returned to the environment. Unfortunately, a blockage in the sewer line can interfere with this normally quiet, out-of-sight process. A backup in a private line or sewer main causes a backup through the drains and toilets at the lowest point in your home. The overflow will continue until the blockage is removed or until sewage is no longer entering the line.

The first question you will hear from City Utilities staff when they respond to a sewage backup is, "Do you know where your cleanout is?" Most people do not realize the importance of having a sewer cleanout; it could save you considerable money in the event of a backup. The cleanout is a pipe in your yard that rises from your sewer line to about 4" above ground level and is capped. (In some sections of the City, the sewer lines are located in the backyards.) A cleanout makes the sewer line accessible, and without a cleanout, it is impossible to clean the line.

Cleanouts are the homeowner's responsibility to install and maintain. Ideally, a cleanout was installed when your home was built. Locate the sewer cleanout in your yard and keep it accessible. If you do not have a cleanout, you should seriously consider having a plumber install one as close to your house as possible.

Also, check your homeowner's insurance policy. If you are not covered for sewage backups, call your agent for information on cost and coverage options. Finally, if you experience a backup, save all receipts related to any repair, cleaning, or damages.

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

Fall is fast approaching and leaves will soon be falling from the trees. With the above average rain-fall received during the spring and summer months, trees have grown at a great rate and with that growth comes the associated production of more leaves. Leaves should be raked to the edge of the grass/sidewalk areas, **not into the street.**

Leaves and other yard waste deposited in the street can be hazardous to pedestrians, school children and motorists who have to maneuver around large piles of leaves along the curb, causing dangerous situations. Wet leaves create a slippery surface which can cause pedestrians to fall and motorists to lose control of their vehicles. The accumulation of leaves and yard waste can also block storm drains and interfere with street cleaning and sweeping efforts.

The Bowie City Code, Chapter 10, Sec. 10-7 states: ***"Sweeping Into Gutters Prohibited.** No person shall sweep into or deposit in any gutter, storm drain, drainage swale, street or other public place within the City the accumulation of litter, grass clippings, brush, trees or tree limbs, trash and/or other debris from any public or private sidewalk, residence or driveway. Persons owning or occupying property shall keep the sidewalk in front of their premises passable, free of litter, tree limbs, bushes and other vegetable matter."*

For the safety of all, please do not rake fallen leaves and other yard waste into the streets and gutters. Properly bag leaves for Wednesday yard waste pickup or during our leaf collection program beginning in early November, pile the leaves atop the curb on the grassy area of the public right of ways adjacent to the pavement.

Help Keep Bowie Safe

The recent housing mortgage crisis is impacting our communities. We are noticing a significant increase in the number of homes that are not occupied. When homes are unoccupied, the probability that they will become neglected also increases. Some homeowners abandon their properties, leaving trash, litter, and debris in their yards; the water in their swimming pools becomes stagnant and the grass and weeds grow to great heights. Other vacant properties have open and broken windows and doors, and may become a haven for trespassers and criminal activity. Many vacant properties are properly maintained, but others require our Code Compliance or Police Officers to become involved.

When a Code Compliance Officer becomes aware of a property where a public nuisance exists (for example tall grass or stagnant water) or when public safety issues are present, the property is posted and a compliance letter is sent to the property owner. If these notifications fail and the public nuisance or safety concerns continue to exist, steps are taken to correct the issues. Normally, the City will hire a contractor to correct the violation. We bill the property owner, and then place a lien on the property if the bill is not paid.

The City needs your help in identifying unoccupied properties. If a property in your neighborhood is vacant and has Code violations as identified above, please call the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008. If a property appears to be the source of criminal activity or mischief, contact the City Police Department at 911 for an emergency, or at 301-333-4000 for non-emergencies.



Young Person's Art Gallery



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

September
Heather Hills
Elementary School

October
Pointer Ridge
Elementary School

Art Notes

Arts Directory The Bowie Arts Committee continues to collect entries for the Fall/Winter 2008 Edition of the Arts Directory. Are you a visual artist, arts organization, performing artist, individual or group, or work with a local gallery, studio, or offer classes or other arts related opportunities? Are your classes, performances or exhibits offered in Bowie or an adjacent community? If you have not submitted your information, please see the City website at www.cityofbowie.org, under City Committees/Arts Committee/Arts Directory, for a form to complete and return it with the necessary information included.

City Hall Gallery exhibits the work of one artist or group of artists during each month of the year, and includes several areas in the hallways of City Hall.

Conference Room Gallery This exhibit includes a number of different artists in two conference rooms at City Hall - Rooms 111 and 204. The exhibit in this Gallery changes every six months, with artwork hanging for six months to one year. Stop in to see the latest display.

Visions of Bowie Gallery Artwork showing various artists' perspectives of Bowie is displayed in this Gallery located in the Multipurpose Room. This exhibit will change in October.

Young Person's Gallery Located in the entrance foyer of City Hall, this Gallery is a joint project of the Arts and Education Committees. The Gallery exhibits the work of students each month during the school year, the work of the winners of the Arts Committee poster contest in July, and the work of individual young artists during the month of August.

Arts Grants The City is offering grants for activities which will bring one or more arts opportunities and/or experience to Bowie residents! The deadline for submission of applications is **October 31, 2008**. The application may be found on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, under Arts Committee.

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

Grants Workshop

The Bowie Arts, Community Outreach and Education Committees will hold a Grants Workshop on Tuesday, **September 23, 2008** at 7 p.m. to assist Bowie residents in applying for grants. A general presentation will provide helpful hints. This will be followed by breakout sessions which will cover specifics about the grants provided by each of the Committees. These sessions will offer specifics related to applications, criteria and selection processes. The workshop is open to individuals and groups in the community who work with local nonprofits, schools, or anyone applying for grants, to assist them in obtaining funding needed to provide programs and projects that will benefit Bowie residents and the community.

Education Grants Available

The Education Committee has again been allocated funds in the amount of \$15,000 in the City Budget for the purpose of awarding grants to schools, teachers, PTAs/PTOs, or individuals who have developed projects that enhance the curriculum and/or provide enrichment to the student learning process in an eligible school. (Please see the application for the list of eligible schools.) The application deadline is **October 16, 2008**. Grant applications are available at local schools or on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Education Forum

The City's Education Committee will present an Education Forum this fall at City Hall. The Forum will feature Prince George's County Public School System Chief of Staff, Dr. William Hite, Jr. Dr. Hite will address upcoming changes in Prince George's County schools. His presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. Watch for further information in local newspapers and on the City website - www.cityofbowie.org.

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Last year, in an effort to provide assistance to residents who are elderly or have physical limitations, the City initiated a program called Neighbors Helping Neighbors. This program provides an excellent volunteer opportunity to individuals and groups in our community. The program's goal is to provide a helping hand to residents who need assistance with such things as yard work, minor exterior painting and repairs, snow shoveling, changing light bulbs, grocery shopping, etc. It is directed to those who have a limited income and cannot afford to pay for these services.

We have had several success stories since this program began, including a project by the Youth Group from Mt. Oak United Methodist Church and the efforts by individual volunteers in repairing gutters, cleaning up long neglected yards, and cutting and removing tree debris. These projects have assisted both the elderly and those with physical limitations.

Don't sit at home and complain about folks who don't maintain their properties to your standards. Reach out and see if they need help. Be a part of the solution. Do it on your own by knocking on doors and being a good neighbor or volunteer through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. **You Can Make A Difference!**

If you are a Senior or disabled resident in need of help, please register with us. We can't be all things to all people, but we can try. Registration forms for those who need help or those who wish to volunteer can be mailed upon request (please call 301-809-3013) or found in the "What's New" section of the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.



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 \$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.

Katria Kuzmowycz, Pre-K through 5th Grade Music Teacher at Kenilworth Elementary School, is the May Teacher

of the Month. Parent and PTA President Cheyenne Wilson nominated Ms. Kuzmowycz, and stated that she has "reinvigorated music education" with her "inclusive instructional style and use of interactive song and motion techniques." In addition, she opened the school's choral program, a successful afterschool program, to all students interested. By doing this she eliminated the competitive aspect, and increased the interest of additional students as well as parents. She was then able to incorporate music activities into the curriculum, including all students, thereby removing the limitations of having to be able to attend chorus activities during afterschool hours.

By providing student choral performances in conjunction

with a PTA night, Ms. Kuzmowycz drew a broad audience for the meeting. This assisted with recruiting family members to work with PTA activities. Her dedication to her students was even more inspiring and commendable, as the evening of this performance she joined the students after having been involved in a serious car accident that day!

Chris Mills, Principal at Kenilworth Elementary School, expressed his appreciation for Ms. Kuzmowycz's teaching, as she has "brought energy and enthusiasm into the music program, which has resulted in greater student appreciation of the arts. Her greatest contribution to the students has been her commitment to provide every child the opportunity to perform on stage."

Ms. Kuzmowycz was recognized by the City Council at their meeting on June 16, 2008.

Taylor Chao, Pre-K Teacher at Heather Hills Elementary School, is the June

Teacher of the Month. Nominating parent Cynthia Unrani credits Ms. Chao with demonstrating exemplary skills, as "fun yet organized, disciplined yet kind, communicative and welcoming to parents." She feels that these, among many others "set her head and shoulders above your average educator."

In Ms. Chao's classroom, there are centers which give students individual or "one on one time," while other children in the class are involved with small group instruction. Students are responsible for signing in, checking job assignments, and even each other's attendance. Although only four and five years old, these students give weather reports and personal weekend activity updates, which allow them opportunities for public speaking.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

Ms. Chao has a firm approach without ever raising her voice, which enables her to keep students on task. Children remain responsible to one another for group success in the classroom. Her “courtesy to parents” is a “welcome experience.” Parents are provided with a written weekly update, assisting them to be able to “reinforce each lesson at home.”

Ms. Unrani indicates that her son went from an “anxious 5-year-old at a big, new school, to a child who loves going to learn each day.” He “comes home and shares his new knowledge with his family and is aware and proud of his leadership traits, as well as his talent for being a good example to his peers.” The experiences he had had this year have convinced her that a “quality education can be obtained” in the Prince George’s County School System, for her young son.

Assistant Principal at Heather Hills Elementary School, Ishmail Jabbie, stated that the school is very pleased with the selection of Ms. Chao as Teacher of the Month, as “she is a hardworking, dedicated and caring teacher. We are fortunate to have her as one of our staff members.”

Ms. Chao was recognized by the City Council at their meeting on June 16, 2008.

Thank a Fabulous Teacher!

Another school year has begun. Everyone is back from summer vacation and thinking of children going back to school. Are you thinking about past school experiences? Perhaps there is a teacher you want to nominate as a Teacher of the Month. It is not too late!

Please show that you appreciate those special, extra efforts of teachers who may have impressed you last year, or a prior year. Also, keep in mind those who work with your children at school this year.

The Education Committee accepts nominations all year long. This program offers a wonderful way to thank teachers for using a special approach, or teaching in an exciting, unusual or creative way that works to improve or enrich students’ education and school experiences. PTAs/PTOs, parents, teachers or community members may nominate teachers in eligible schools (identified on Page 6), for their dedication to teaching and to their students. Once received, each nomination is included in three selection processes.

Teachers selected each month during the school year receive recognition by the City Council; a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, the cost of which has been donated by program partner BB&T Bank; and a special gourmet lunch with their principal, provided by Main Street Caterers.

New Arts Opportunities

The City is very excited to have a new Arts Specialist on staff. Annette Esterheld has recently come on board to manage and expand arts activities throughout the City and to work with the City’s Arts Committee. Annette comes to us with a degree in Music Education and many years of experience working with the community in theater and other performing arts endeavors. We encourage residents to contact Annette at 301-575-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org and share ideas about additional arts programs you would like to see in the City.

We feel this is an excellent time to ask the community to become more involved with the arts. Some ideas we are considering bringing to the City are a Community Band (Orchestra), a Bowie Adult Chorale, a Bowie Youth Chorale, Chautauqua, Shakespeare in the Park, Movies in the Parks and more. We would like to hear from you. Please take a few minutes and complete our survey on the City’s website at www.cityofbowie.org.

Community Outreach Grant Winners

There were a record number of applicants for the Community Outreach Grants this year. Target populations ranged from preschool to teens to senior citizens. A wide variety of projects were proposed in areas that included health, exercise and fitness, technology, child identification, disaster response, therapy, training, the arts and sports, with many very worthwhile goals. The Committee spent many hours reviewing applications, trying to make the best decision as to which projects would receive the \$12,500 in funding that was made available for these grants. The purpose of the grants is to assist in funding programs or projects developed to provide a service, and in some way, meet a need of residents in the City. The following grants were selected:

Bowie Therapeutic Nursery Center Parent Education

Program This is a State-licensed therapeutic nursery and psychiatric rehabilitation program that serves preschool children with mental health needs. The grant will help cover a new program to provide parent training opportunities. They will reach out to the community, inviting local residents in addition to the parents of their students to some of their training sessions in order to provide information about appropriate parenting techniques.

Collington Lodge MD Child Identification

Program This grant will provide funding for the purchase of additional equipment and identification packages. This will enable them to continue to prepare and provide very inclusive identification packages to parents and grandparents, for children, the elderly, and mentally challenged individuals.

Unicorn Center, Inc. Therapeutic Horseback

Riding This grant will provide funding for lessons for disabled Bowie participants.

Parade of Cultures

The Bowie International Festival Parade of Cultures is seeking people to showcase clothing and regalia from around the world. Do you have traditional clothing from a country of your family's heritage, purchased during your travels, or worn as a participant in a festival or performance? This is an opportunity for you to share your special clothing and its significance with the community. Participants will parade across a stage while the audience hears about the clothing modeled and its history related to holidays, ceremonies, and/or activities the attire represents.

Celebrate the world's cultures at Allen Pond Park on Saturday, **October 4, 2008** (rain date is Sunday, October 5). If you would like to participate in the Parade of Cultures, please contact the International Festival Committee, prior to September 15, at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3011.

Bowie International Festival Sponsors

Sponsoring the Bowie International Festival at Allen Pond Park on October 4, 2008 is a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to have their name listed with a City activity that showcases the diversity and talents in and around our community. Names of sponsoring businesses will be mentioned in press releases, and listed on event programs and signs. So far, this year's sponsors include Comcast, NAI Michael Companies, Saturn of Bowie, Tim Johnson Preferred Mortgage, Wes Winter and Stu Stern of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

If you are a business owner, or work for a business that would be interested in being a sponsor of the Bowie International Festival, please contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Bowie Budget in Brief

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Activity	Highlights of Adopted Budget
Revenues and Other Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City tax rate increase of \$.028 per \$100 value provides \$1.6 million in additional revenue. County tax rate decreases by \$.037 due to the tax differential program. • Intergovernmental revenue increased by 5% for a total of \$15 million. • Construction cost for new City Hall (\$26,758,700). • Community Development Block Grant (\$163,300) to provide financial assistance to qualified seniors for home repair.
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 million to operate the City's Police Department. Staff will grow to 45 sworn officers. • Continued support for Bowie Volunteer Fire Department: \$101,000 annual operating support plus \$35,100 toward purchase of needed equipment. • Purchase of interoperable police radios, funded 97% by federal appropriation.
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing cost assistance to Teachers and Police Officers moving to Bowie. • Matching grant for not-for-profit organization to improve infrastructure. • Continued commitment of \$80,000 to the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, contingent upon matching contributions from other sources. • New Arts Specialist position for Community Services. • New part-time Information and Referral Specialist position for Senior Services.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of synthetic turf at Murtagh soccer field (\$900,000). • Replacement of ballfield lighting at Whitemarsh Park (\$250,000).
Planning and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Watershed Manager position. • \$50,000 start-up cost for business incubator. • \$307,600 in capital spending to continue revitalization plans for Old Town, plus \$10,000 in consulting and \$42,100 additional funding for revolving loan/grant program in Old Town and West Bowie Village.
Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,322,700 for street resurfacing, including \$40,000 for speed hump program. • Construction of vehicle bay and wash station for Solid Waste division (\$241,000).
Water and Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water rate increased \$.21 and sewer rate increased \$.29 per thousand gallons and a \$1 increase in the minimum charge per quarter. • Improvements to the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants (\$2,933,300) includes \$1,632,100 of State funding. • Addition of an Equipment Operator II position.

Bowie Budget in Brief

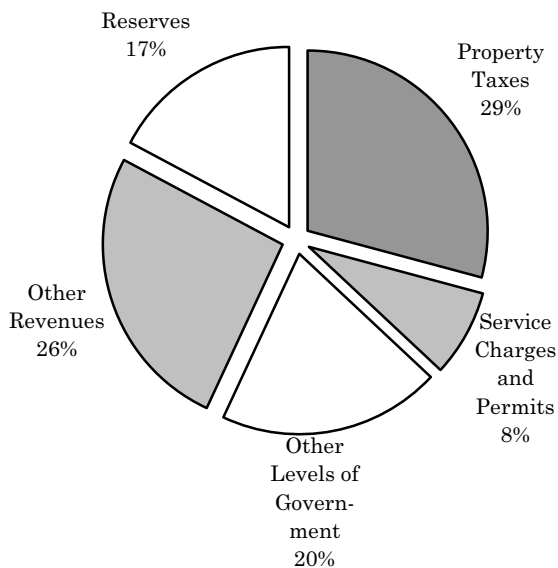
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

The Big Picture

For the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, City Council authorized \$87,006,700 in total spending from all funds. This number includes some amounts that are simply transferred from one fund to another. Governments use fund accounting to keep different types of revenue and expenditures separate from each other.

Excluding transfers, the total is \$75,502,300 compared to last year's total of \$46,977,300. The \$28.5 million increase includes \$23.1 million in capital construction of City-owned projects and \$5.4 million for all other operational expenditures.

Where the Dollars Come From



Property Taxes include both real property tax and business personal property tax. City Council sets the tax rates each year as part of the budget process, while the State Department of Assessments and Taxation determines the value of property to be taxed. This year's real

property tax rate increased by \$.028 to \$.380 per \$100 value, and business personal property tax rate increased by \$.07 to \$.950 per \$100 value.

The majority of revenue from **Other Levels of Government** consists of the City's share of State income and motor vehicle taxes. It also includes State grants for youth services and police protection, federal grants for urban development, County rebate of part of the landfill fees paid by the City, and many other smaller amounts. It also includes capital grants such as the State Program Open Space allocation.

Service Charges and Permits include such items as building permits, park use fees, Ice Arena revenues. However, the majority of this revenue refers to water and sewer charges. These charges are paid only by customers of the City of Bowie Water and Sewer System and are used only for costs of operating and maintaining that system. This year's water rates increased from \$2.26 to \$2.47 per thousand gallons, and the sewer surcharge increased from \$3.24 to \$3.53 per thousand gallons, in addition to a \$4.00 increase in the minimum charge.

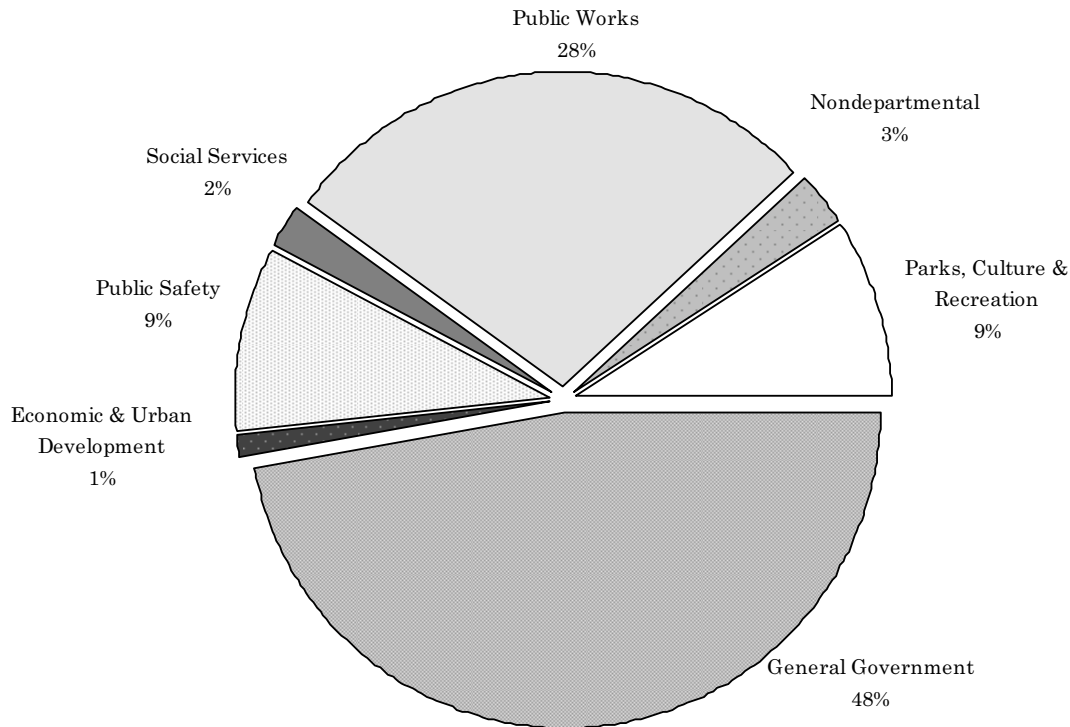
Other Revenues include interest earnings, rents, donations, sales of recyclable materials, the CATV franchise fee, and other miscellaneous items not classified elsewhere.

Reserves being used to provide funding for the current Budget have accumulated over all years of the City's existence, when revenues have exceeded expenditures. In any year, a surplus can occur from unexpected windfall revenues; from a level of expenditures less than budgeted, such as when projects are canceled or delayed; or from funds that have been reserved for a special purpose.

Bowie Budget in Brief

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Where the Dollars are Spent



General Government includes those functions that relate to the overall business of government: City Council, City Clerk, elections, legal services, public information, planning, etc. It includes administrative functions such as personnel, finance, information technology, maintenance and security of public buildings and grounds.

Economic Development involves efforts to improve the City's business climate. **Urban Development** refers to infrastructure improvements using federal Community Development Block Grant funds and other State and County funding sources. **Public Safety** includes police services, municipal code compliance, animal control, and support for the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department. **Social Services** include both the Senior Center and the Youth Services Bureau.

Public Works includes trash collection and disposal, street maintenance and snow removal, storm water control, and maintenance of

vehicles and mobile equipment for all City departments. It also includes the Water and Wastewater Plants, which serve users of the City of Bowie Water and Sewer System, and are funded only by water and sewer service charges.

Parks, Culture and Recreation includes the City's parks, ball fields, and recreational buildings such as the Ice Arena, Bowie Playhouse, and Gymnasium. It also includes coordination of City celebrations and special events, planning and scheduling of recreational offerings, restoration of historic buildings, operation of all City museums, as well as a contribution to support operation of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

The term "**Nondepartmental**" refers to those annual costs that benefit all other City functions. Such items as liability and property insurance and allowances for unexpected contingencies are budgeted under this description, rather than being allocated among the operating departments.

Bowie Budget in Brief

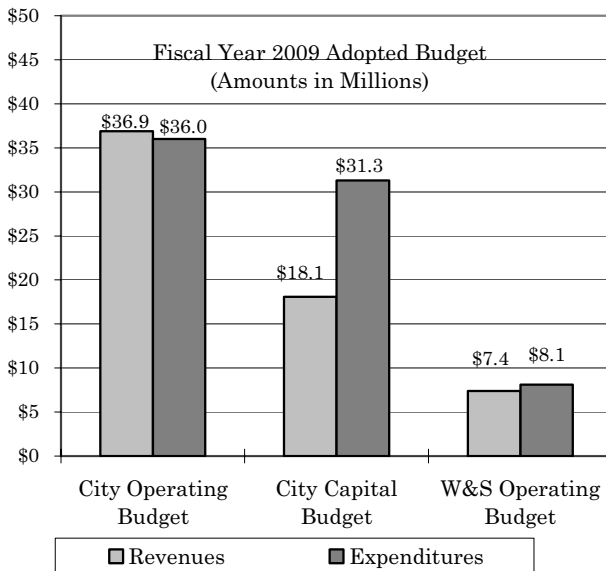
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

The Budget Process

During the period of January through mid-April 2008, the City Manager and staff prepared the FY 2009 Proposed Budget, taking into account various master plans, Council policy statements, long-term studies, user group requests, volunteer committee recommendations, and staff observations in the field.

Council held five Budget Worksessions and two Public Hearings during April and May. The FY 2009 Adopted Budget Ordinance and the companion Capital Improvements Program Resolution were passed on May 19, 2008. The budget is effective for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Operating Budget vs. Capital Budget



Note: Differences between expenditures and revenues are to be funded using reserves accumulated in prior years.

The Operating Budget covers day-to-day delivery of City services. It provides for the hours worked by City employees, contract services by non-employees, supplies, minor equipment and other operating costs. In the above graph, it also includes the cost of vehicles, other operating equipment, and annual debt service requirements.

The Capital Budget is for the improvement, construction or purchase of major City assets such as buildings, parks, roads or trails. The City uses a six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to prioritize and plan for these major projects. The current year's portion of the CIP amounts to \$31,308,200.

Operating Budget Detail

Staffing - The approved Budget provides for 336.9 full-time equivalent positions (FTE's). One FTE is equal to one or more employees working a total of 2,080 hours (or 1,950 hours, depending on the job classification). The work hours are budgeted in the General Fund (307.2 FTE) or the Water and Sewer Fund (29.7 FTE).

Types of Expenditures - The General Fund is the largest and most important fund, because it accounts for the delivery of basic municipal services and receives all general-purpose City revenues. General Fund budget expenditures are summarized here by object of expenditure.

Object	Amount	Percent
Salaries & Wages	\$ 20,742,300	47%
Contractual Services	8,831,100	20%
Commodities	2,766,300	6%
Other Charges	1,098,600	2%
Capital Outlay	41,000	--
Transfers	<u>11,164,400</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	\$ 44,643,700	100%

Budget Document

The City's detailed Budget is available online at the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Fun at the City Gym

30 and Over Men's Night - Every Tuesday, 8 - 10 p.m.

Women's Recreational Volleyball - Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
You must be member of the Bowie Gymnasium or a guest of a member to play. Guest fees are \$4.

Bowie Gymnasium Walking Program - Walkers are welcome Mondays - Fridays, 8:30 - 10 a.m. You must be a member of the gym to participate in the program.

Holy Cross Senior Fit - Program resumes at the facility on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 9 a.m. This program is held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 - 10 a.m. Please call Holy Cross Hospital at 301-754-7895 for more information.

Sporty Kids Day Program - Sport 4 All will conduct a new daytime session of its popular Sporty Kids Program for children ages 3 - 6 years, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at the Gymnasium. The first session will run September 16 - November 20, 2008. Call Sport 4 All at 301-262-5050 for additional information about this and other programs.

Bowie Boys and Girls Club Fall Volleyball - The season begins Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at the gym. Please refer to the website at www.bbge.com for more information.

Birthday Room/Court Rentals - Available in September and October. Courts are rented for \$20 per hour and room rentals are \$25 per hour. Please call the facility at 301-809-2388 for available dates.

Children's Country Store Bingo - October 16, 2008, 4 - 6 p.m. For youth ages 7 - 12 years. Admission is \$1.

For more information, please contact the City Gym at 301-809-2388.

Bowie Farmer's Market

The Bowie Farmer's Market is now in full swing! Patrons will find various types of fresh fruits and vegetables, breads and baked goods, jams and jellies, salsa, herbs, fresh cut flowers and bedding plants at this "Producers-Only" market.

The Farmer's Market is open **Sundays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, through October 26, 2008. The Market is held next to the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at 15200 Annapolis Road.

A full-color market brochure is available online at www.cityofbowie.org or at City Hall. For more information, please call 301-809-3078.

Upcoming Special Events

September 21 "Farm Days"

Visit the farm animal petting zoo, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.. And try the cow milking game, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

October 26 "Octoberfest"

Free scarecrow making (participants supply a long-sleeved shirt and trousers). Free pumpkin painting (pumpkins available for purchase at market). Live music and free hot apple cider! Activities begin at 10 a.m.



News From the City Forester

Hi Folks – As I write this article for our fall edition of the *Spotlight*, it is early July. It has been a wetter than normal spring and summer so far, and while that can cause some lawn and landscape problems, it more than likely has made your overall landscape lush and beautiful - big change from the previous couple of drought years we have experienced in this area.

So, I want to remind you all that the fall season is an excellent time for lawn fertilizing and seeding, actually the best time. And this time of year is also a great time for planting most landscape woody ornamental shrubs and trees. The latest research and advice on planting and plant selection is available from my office upon request, and as always, the internet is a great resource for this information. You can email me at rkellner@cityofbowie.org, and I will be happy to send you some information.

As a department, we are presently planting approximately 75-100 trees each spring and the same number again in the fall in City right of ways and City parks. In addition, your personal investments in your private landscapes will yield great benefits in terms of property values, community aesthetic appeal, energy dividends, environmental health, and community pride.

I continue to hope and trust that together we will go forward to improve our quality of life here in our City through planting the right plants in the right places. Enjoy the beauty and the wonder!
Rick Kellner, Community Forester

Bowie Stream Teams

The City will hold the second of its biannual Stream Team Clean-up on Gorgeous Prince George's Day (www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/LCI), which is Saturday, October 18, 2008, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Bowie Stream Teams will pick-up trash in as many as ten neighborhood stream segments in an effort to improve water quality and habitat in ten of the twelve Bowie sub-watersheds. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/Green/stream_teams.htm or contact Senior Planner Elizabeth Chaisson at echaisson@cityofbowie.org or at 301-809-3051. The same website has information about Bowie Stream Teams and the first Stream Team Clean-up event held on Saturday, April 19, 2008.

The City is looking for additional people to join the Bowie Stream Teams Program. Students who participate could earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. (Students need 36 SSL hours to graduate from a Prince George's County high school.)

The Bowie Stream Team Program is part of the Environmental Infrastructure (EI) Action Strategy Plan, which was approved by the City Council in September 2007 and can be viewed under "What's New" on the Bowie website, www.cityofbowie.org. To view action plans 1-12, please see pages 23-37 of the EI Plan document.

The second action plan is devoted to the Bowie Recycling Program, www.cityofbowie.org/cityserv/trshrecy.asp. The third action plan created the Bowie Backyard Habitat Program. There are already 57 residential yards in Bowie that are certified by the NWF Backyard Habitat Program, www.cityofbowie.org/green/backyard_habitat.htm. To certify your backyard with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), homeowners must fill out an NWF application indicating how your yard provides food, shelter, and water for wildlife (www.nwf.org/backyard). The fourth action plan establishes the Rain Barrel Program. The Rain Barrel Workshop previously scheduled for this summer has been postponed until early 2009.

Bowie Youth & Family Services

2008 Fall Groups *Fee and Registration - call 301-809-3033.*

Girls Count! - Mondays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. For high school girls ages 14-17. 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. Contact Debby Shipler or Symone Colquitt.

ADHD - Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m., October 1 - November 19. Ages 8-10 and parents. Contact Marisa Sherman or Karen Katrinic.

Active Parenting - Tuesdays, 7 - 9 p.m., October 28 - December 9. Group for parents that focuses on practical skills to develop cooperation and responsibility in your child. Contact Debby Shipler.

2008 Fall Lecture Series *Registration required - call 301-809-3033. Lectures held 7 - 9 p.m. at City Hall, Room 109.*

Staying Connected to Your Child - Thursday, September 25

Improve communication and connection with your preteen and teen. What are kids thinking and what do they need? What works and what doesn't?

Tools for the ADHD/ADD Parents - Thursday, October 9

Learn tried and proven techniques that are useful with children who have ADHD and ADD. Get resources for ongoing support, and strategies for both home and school.

Motivation, Inspiration and Encouragement - Thursday, October 30

Research shows that innate intelligence is not a benchmark for academic success. Learn what motivates children to be brave and attack tasks that can be daunting, how to give your child a voice, and how children can learn and grow from mistakes.

Volunteers Needed to Mentor Teens

For six years, the Community Prevention Network has coordinated the Teen Mentoring Program at Bowie High School and as the new academic year approaches, we are in need of caring adults to volunteer to serve as mentors.

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

Mentoring works! The TMP invites men and women to apply to be mentors if you are willing to: make a commitment to a teen for the school year; meet weekly with a teen, usually at lunch; agree to an interview and security screening; and attend initial mentor training and occasional follow-up training.

Students at Bowie High can apply at school through Guidance or the nurse, or contact Andra Berry, Prevention Coordinator at Bowie Youth & Family Services, at 301-809-3033 or mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Hope Starts Here

Hope messages permeate our culture. We all know hope and hard work are needed now. The Community Prevention Network (CPN) seeks to engage caring individuals and agencies in actively working to improve the school, work, recreation and community environments in Bowie for young people and their families.

This fall, the CPN and its partners will launch a new effort to involve more people in developing a comprehensive plan to better address the issues that most impact our youth and those who care about them. If you have energy and interest in the issues of substance abuse prevention and youth engagement, please contact Andra Berry, Prevention Coordinator at Bowie Youth & Family Services, at aberry@cityof-bowie.org or 301-809-3033. The Community Prevention Network will meet October 2, 2008, 12 - 2 p.m.

September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a great time to focus on your personal emergency plan so that you and your family will be prepared the next time that extreme weather or another type of disaster strikes. The Department of Homeland Security asks individuals to do four things to be prepared:

Have a Kit

Assemble or purchase a kit of basic emergency supplies. You can view a variety of checklists on the internet. We've posted one on our website, www.cityofbowie.org/emergency/emergency.htm, or call and we'll send one to your home. At a minimum, your kit should contain water, a flashlight and batteries, a first aid kit and a radio.

Have a Plan

Know how you will communicate in an emergency and where you might go if you had to leave your home. If you have pets, have a plan for taking care of them.

Be Informed

How will you get critical information in an emergency? We'll use as many means as possible to communicate with residents during an emergency, including our website, the government channel, and local radio and television stations. When the power is out, the best ways to obtain information will be via text messages sent to cell phones through the Alert Bowie system, messages posted on the message boards located at major gateways to our City, or by calling City Hall (301-262-6200). During emergencies, City Hall is staffed around the clock to assist residents.

Get Involved

Volunteer with an organization like the Red Cross, the Fire Department that responds to emergencies, or become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer.

No Cost and Low Cost Tips for Emergency Preparedness

Studies show that Americans are less prepared for emergencies than they were a few years ago. Becoming and staying prepared for emergencies is a constant challenge. Here's some no cost and low cost tips to help you be better prepared (and perhaps a little more organized).

- Create a written emergency contact list (don't rely on your cell phone address book).
- Decide on a family meeting place if you have a fire or are evacuated from your home.
- Create a visual inventory of your valuables - take digital pictures or make a video.
- Back up your computer regularly.
- Scan important documents and save to disk.. Keep a copy in a safe deposit box or give to an out-of-town relative.
- Understand your homeowner's policy. What's your deductible? Do you have sewer backup protection? Are you covered for loss at replacement value?
- Create a list of things you'd need/want if you had to leave your home quickly.
- Install smoke detectors.

Be In the Know - Sign Up for Alert Bowie

Alert Bowie provides informational and emergency email and text message alerts to cell phones and other personal devices. Subscribers choose the types of messages they'll receive. Registration is free but your cellular carrier may charge for text messages. To register, go to the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org and select the Alert Bowie button or call 301-809-3032.

The City of Bowie, in cooperation with Prince George's County, presents a

Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Event

Safely dispose of your household hazardous waste, shred sensitive documents, and recycle your unwanted electronics at this **FREE Event!**

**Saturday
November 1, 2008
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Prince George's
Stadium**
4101 N.E. Crain Highway
Bowie

For more information,
call the City of Bowie
Public Works
Department at
301-809-2344.

ACCEPTED MATERIALS

Household Hazardous Waste:

(Look for words on the label such as corrosive, flammable, poisonous or reactive. Bring these items in their original sealed containers for recycling.)

Contents must be marked.)

- Oil based paints
- Pesticides
- Used motor oil
- Antifreeze
- Household cleaners
- Automotive & household batteries
- Solvents & photographic chemicals



Document Shredding:

- Up to 550 lbs. of sensitive documents (5 tall kitchen bags or 5 archive boxes).
- Residents may observe their documents being shredded.

Electronics Recycling:

- CPUs
- Computer keyboards
- Mainframes
- Computer speakers
- Copiers
- Surge protectors
- Monitors
- TVs
- CD players
- Telephone systems
- Fax machines
- Cell phones
- Laptop computers
- Scanners
- Pagers
- Wire
- VCRs

No commercial, medical or industrial waste accepted. Non-commercial vehicles only.

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

Belair on the Civil War Homefront

Saturday, September 6, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Join the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society in domestic activities experienced during the Civil War. Free.

Second Tuesday Lecture Series

Tuesday, September 9, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Free.

Grandparents Tea at Belair

Saturday, September 13, 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Celebrate generations with an elegant afternoon tea in Bowie's most historic house! \$20 per person. Advance reservations and payment required.

Kids Kaboose

Thursdays, September 18 and October 16, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Train Station, 11th Street and Chestnut Avenue, Old Bowie. Railroad fun and games! Ages 1-10. Free.

Annual Old Town Bowie Fall Fest

Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Bowie Train Station/Old Town Bowie Welcome Center, 11th Street and Chestnut Avenue, Old Bowie. Celebrate the Fall in Old Town – food, crafts, history and fun. Free.

Second Tuesday Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Free.

Spooky Stories by the Campfire

Friday, October 24, 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Free.

A Polite Recreation - Art of the 19th Century Gentleman

October - November at Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Tuesday – Sunday, 12 – 4 p.m. An exhibit featuring the pencil drawings of Benjamin Ogle II illustrates the artistic skills of one of Belair's residents. Free.

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

Museum Hours of Operation

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, 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.

Prince George's Community

College SAGE Program

**Tuesday, September 9
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Sign-up for classes. New classes this semester include: Living Well with Chronic Conditions, Yogalatte, Nutrition and Health, Seven Great Composers, Ballroom Dancing and Beyond II, Basic Meditation, Greeting Cards, Let's Sing, History Through Hollywood Film, and Low Impact Aerobics (evening class).

Senior Information

September 29 - October 2

Four days of senior information lectures are planned. Topics include: finances, end of life decisions, and legal programs for seniors. An Information Fair will be held on October 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact the Senior Center.

Active Adult 55+
Active Adult 55+

Senior Health Insurance Program (S.H.I.P.)

**Thursday, September 18
10:30 a.m.**

S.H.I.P. offers health insurance counseling to older Marylanders and their caregivers. Julie Neal, S.H.I.P. Director of Prince George's County will speak on the A.B.C.'s of Medicare, Medicare part D, enrolling and "what you should know", local/Federal subsidies to help people with expenses of Medicare part D and programs that help people once they hit the coverage gap. Sign up at the front desk.

Foreclosures and Reverse Mortgages

**Thursday, October 16
10:30 a.m.**

Mary Dade-Clark, a representative from United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP), will speak at the Bowie Senior Center. The lecture will explain the service UCAP provides for those who might be facing foreclosure or considering a reverse mortgage. Sign up at the front desk.

Speak Easy Luncheon Dance

**Friday, October 31
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

A secret knock will be needed to enter. Guests will receive instructions when they sign up. Be creative and wear outfits from the Roaring Twenties Era. Those who come in the best Flapper and Gangster outfit will be judged and prizes will be awarded. Lunch and entertainment is included. Sign up by Wednesday, October 22. Cost: resident - \$7, and nonresident - \$8.

Bowie Senior Center

14900 Health Center Drive

301-809-2300

www.bowieseniorcenter.org

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.

Upcoming Events

Labor Day

Monday, September 1, 2008
City Offices Closed
No Refuse or Recycling Collection

Emergency and Disaster Preparation

Saturday, September 27, 2008
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For information -
drt@stmatthews-bowie.org

Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling

Saturday, November 1, 2008
Prince George's Stadium
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

Street Lights

The City is responsible for the maintenance of most street lights in Bowie and has hired a contractor to perform the repairs.

To report a street light outage or malfunction, complete the online form at www.cityofbowie.org, email jtayman@cityof-bowie.org, or contact the Public Works Department at 301-809-2332. If you call after hours, please leave a detailed voice-mail message and a call back number. Please provide the address nearest the pole and the pole number, found about five feet up the pole.

Lights on wooden poles are maintained by BGE and must be reported directly to the company for repair. Call 1-800-685-0123 or visit the website, www.bge.com, and select "Report a Problem" at the top of the page.

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

ECRWSS
PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOWIE MD
Permit No. 5362

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR G. FREDERICK ROBINSON
MAYOR PRO TEM TODD M. TURNER
DENNIS BRADY
JAMES L. MARCOS
DIANE M. POLANGIN
ISAAC TROUTH
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH

Residential Customer Local

