

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

January - February 2009

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This space is often used to express our collective appreciation to all those that make Bowie such a warm and pleasant place to live, to work, and to raise a family. That tradition obviously continues. Indeed, it has become a boast to claim Bowie as our "hometown". Say what you want about our challenges, bottom line, we are truly blessed.

Our young folks continue to excel in educational endeavors, in sports, in scouting, and in community service. We are rightfully proud of their commitment and their example. Our growing senior community remains active and engaged in health, education, cultural, civic, and social issues and they too, serve as examples of wisdom and enthusiasm; they are in fact, the folks that made Bowie into the great community it has become. As always, Bowie's parents and grandparents are actively engaged in PTA programs, in athletic and recreation efforts, in religious and civic activity, and they are ever-present when someone in the community finds themselves in unexpected need.

Yes, Bowie, important things happen here and they happen all around us. But, we are sure in our selves ... our hometown is very special.

So, we bid goodbye to 2008 and eagerly look forward to 2009. On behalf of all my colleagues on the City Council and on behalf of a talented and dedicated City staff, we wish everyone a truly Happy New Year.

G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor

City's Hall of Honor Accepting Nominations

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

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

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

Another inductee, Malcolm C. "Skip" Popp, was a tireless Scouting volunteer. Along with other fathers in the community, Mr. Popp organized the first Cub Scout Pack at Buckingham Elementary School in 1965. His final service to the community came through a tragedy as he drowned rescuing one of his scouts from the rough waters of the Shenandoah River's South Fork.

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

For more information on the Hall of Honor, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2009 Hall of Honor inductions is **5 p.m. Friday, February 13, 2009** at Room 203 in City Hall.

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



"Fulfilling the Dream"

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

This year marks the 41st anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee. For those who were alive in 1968, it was a time of upheaval and unrest that will not be forgotten. For newer generations though, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and the legacy of Dr. King are part of our American history, but not part of their personal experience.

The City's Diversity Committee seeks to bring that time alive for our youth by hosting a program and contest in celebration of Dr. King's contributions. This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Contest emphasizes the visual arts with a contest entitled "Fulfilling the Dream".

Age appropriate contests are being sponsored for youth in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Contests are open to all students who live within the municipal limits of Bowie or attend a school in the City of Bowie. The contests are as follows: Coloring Contest (K-2nd grade), Poster Contest (3-5th grade), and Photography Contest (6-12th grade). Prizes will be awarded to the first (\$100), second (\$50) and third (\$25) place winners in each category. The **deadline** for submission of entries is **Thursday, January 8, 2009** at 5 p.m. Contest information has been sent to the schools and is also available on the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org.

The public is invited to a short program at City Hall honoring the legacy of Dr. King on **January 15th at 7 p.m.** The program will showcase the work of the contest finalists and will include musical entertainment.

Attention Homeowners Associations

The City maintains a list of contact information for local homeowners associations. 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 change. Any corrections or updates to the information should be provided to Marianne Baird at mbaird@cityofbowie.org or by calling 301-809-3047.

If your association has a website and you would like it to be listed on the City's website, please provide that information as well.

Code Corner

Bowie Rental License Program

The City adopted the Bowie Housing Code in 1979, “to provide for the inspection and licensing of all rental properties”. Currently, we have over 900 single-family homes and over 1,500 apartments that are licensed as rental properties. The City’s rental license program provides for a routine inspection of every single-family home and apartment. The inspection can be completed in less than an hour. Inspections are scheduled at a day and time acceptable to the tenant and landlord.

Some of the more frequent Code violations discovered during inspections include malfunctioning smoke detectors, lack of a fire extinguisher, dirty and ineffective furnace filters, double key locks on exit doors, chipping paint, and yard waste. A written report of the inspection is provided to both the tenant and the landlord. The report identifies all City Code violations and provides a date for correction of the violation. Most tenants and landlords welcome the inspection, and neighbors of rental properties appreciate the standard of maintenance applied to the City’s rental properties.

The majority of rental property owners comply with the City Code and have obtained a City rental license, yet some properties remain unlicensed. The department makes a determined effort to identify unlicensed rental properties and ensure they are properly licensed and inspected. If you believe a property near your home may be an unlicensed rental property, please email us the address at rsharp@cityofbowie.org and we will investigate. Anyone wishing to learn more about the City’s rental license program can contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008.

Open Storage

The Code Compliance Office routinely receives emails and telephone calls regarding exterior property issues. One of the most common concerns is the open storage of materials and other items on ones property. The Bowie City Code, Chapter 5, Sec. 5-7 (b) 6., prohibits the open storage “*of building rubbish or refuse, bathroom or kitchen or other fixtures, household appliances, glass, furniture, tires, automotive parts, building materials or equipment, including construction equipment and attachments thereto, or other similar items and materials or residue therefrom, irrespective of age or condition*”. The phrase “*or other similar items and materials*” can be interpreted to cover a variety of objects.

The Code Compliance Office investigates concerns and follows a common sense approach to the topic.

- Do the items appear to be trash, rubbish, yard waste, garbage or litter, which are prohibited by other sections of the City Code?
- Are the objects currently being used or are they being stored and left in the open to rot or decay?
- Do the items or materials make the yard unsanitary or unsightly, which would constitute a nuisance or have a blighting effect on nearby properties?
- Would a reasonable and prudent person expect these items to be stored outside and in plain view of the public?

If a violation exists, a Code Compliance Notice of Violation will be sent to the property owner(s). Should the owner not comply with the request, fines and/or a court appearance will follow. For the health and safety of all residents, as well as to maintain property values, every property owner is encouraged to maintain their yard free of trash, litter, and openly stored materials.

Plan Your 2009 Picnics

Once again, the time has come to reserve your picnic site for the 2009 season. The City's Recreation Office has reserved priority days when only City residents will be permitted to reserve picnic sites at Allen Pond and Whitemarsh Parks.

In order to make this process more convenient, **City residents** are able to place their 2009 picnic reservations beginning at 9 a.m. on **Saturday, February 7, 2009** at City Hall, Room 204.

Nonresident picnic reservations will be accepted beginning at 9 a.m. on **Monday, March 2, 2009** at the Recreation Office in Room 203 at City Hall.

The following items are required when placing a picnic reservation:

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

All reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each adult may only make one reservation at a time. You are encouraged to arrive early to ensure you obtain the day and site you prefer. However, please have an alternate date in the event your preferred date is not available. For additional information, please contact the Recreation Office at 301-809-3011 or ekennedy@cityofbowie.org.

Donate to the Food Pantry

The Community Outreach Committee extends another THANK YOU for the many donations that continue to be made to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund.

Donations continue to be needed throughout the year. You are making a difference in people's lives through your donations, which are very much appreciated! Please continue to donate to the Food Pantry to help maintain the stock on its shelves. Food, toiletries, baby items, paper goods, school supplies and monetary contributions are needed.

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 at City Hall and the Senior Center, where you may drop nonperishable food, paper goods and personal items.

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

Bowie Reads at Bowiefest

The Bowie Education Committee is seeking new or "gently used" books for children, to distribute at their reading promotion booth, *Bowie Reads*, at Bowiefest on June 6, 2009 at Allen Pond Park. If you have books that your children and/or grandchildren have read, are no longer interested in or have outgrown, and that they would like to share with other children, please consider donating them. People will be able to pick up books at the *Bowie Reads* booth to read to their children or for their children to read, at no charge. Information about reading to children and reading programs will also be available.

Books may be dropped off at City Hall, in the Department of Community Services, Room 203, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, please contact the Education Committee at lstern@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3068. Thank you for your donation!



Young Person's Art Gallery



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

January
Northview
Elementary School

February
Tulip Grove
Elementary School

Art Notes

City Hall Art Galleries

The **Conference Room Gallery** exhibit hangs in two different conference rooms at City Hall, in Room 111 and Room 204, and is changed every six months. Visitors to City Hall can stop in the two rooms to view the artwork as long as there's not a meeting scheduled for the rooms.

Visit Artist Fran Stetina's photograph display in January in the **City Hall Gallery** and in February the Southern Comforters quilts will be on display. The gallery changes on a monthly basis.

Don't forget to check the entrance foyer of City Hall for the latest art efforts of some of Bowie's youngest artists. In January, the **Young Person's Gallery** will feature work from students at Northview Elementary School, and in February the gallery features students from Tulip Grove Elementary School. The gallery is a joint effort of the City's Arts and Education Committees.

Last, but not least, the **Visions of Bowie Gallery** is located in the Multipurpose Room. The gallery exhibits artwork from many different artists that reflect the artists' individual perspectives of Bowie.

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, 301-575-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

Arts Directory

The Bowie Arts Committee is updating its Arts Directory. The Directory includes contact information for individuals, groups and organizations that are providers of visual or performing arts. The Directory's purpose is to provide information so Bowie residents will be able to contact appropriate artists for lessons or for consultations about commissioning artwork, locating local actors, musicians, and singers for performances, and possible networking opportunities. Application forms can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org, follow the links to "City Committees," then "Arts Committee/Arts Directory." For more information, contact Arts Specialist Annette Esterheld 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.

Judy Cameron of Northview Elementary School is the October 2008

Teacher of the Month. According to her nomination, Ms. Cameron is the "go to" person you can always count on! Lynette Truske, also a teacher at Northview, who submitted the nomination, indicates that she always seems to know what you need before you do!

In her instruction and discipline of students, Ms. Cameron has a "caring and compassionate approach." Upon entering her classroom, everyone feels the warm and inviting atmosphere. She puts in an enormous amount of extra time creating special projects to be sure her students are always engaged in learning and having fun. Her students write, illustrate and publish books, and create PowerPoint presentations based on their research. She hosts an "Annual Poetry Party" and has an "Explorers Hall of Fame" for student depictions of explorers. Literary book circles, encouraging the love of reading among her students, and weekly class meetings, to help students learn to solve their own problems and get along, are a part of her activities. This is a teacher who is excited by creativity and celebrates it!

Ms. Cameron manages to find the time to support her colleagues with an interest in what they are doing, offering help and support whenever she sees a need. She is selfless, supportive, creative and kind, a "cheerleader" and "coach," who enjoys the successes of others, as much as her own.

According to Ms. Bissett, Principal at Northview Elementary School, Ms. Cameron is a "master's, master teacher!"

Paraprofessional Award

The Education Committee is planning for the recognition of an education paraprofessional who works closely with teachers to provide appropriate learning experiences for students in local schools. For the purpose of this award, an education paraprofessional is "an aide or other person who is not trained or hired as a teacher, but who works directly with children in a classroom or small group setting within a school." The award will honor someone who, through dedication and working beyond the expectations of their position, accomplishes much in assisting students toward success in their educational experiences.

Paraprofessionals must work in one of the eligible schools listed above, and must be nominated for this award by the principal or a teacher with whom they work. Nomination forms will be available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, at City Hall, or at schools by mid-January. For more information, please contact the Education Committee at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.

Arts and Education

Scholarships

The City will again offer Excellence in Education and Arts Scholarships for high school seniors. Scholarship applications will be sent to high schools attended by Bowie students during the month of February.

Schools are asked to nominate high school seniors who are City residents and meet the eligibility criteria for the Excellence in Education Scholarship. Students must live within the corporate limits of the City and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Interested individuals should contact guidance counselors at the school attended to express interest in being considered for nomination. The schools will provide applications for the students they nominate.

The City Arts Scholarship requires that the student live within the corporate limits of the City and have a cumulative 3.0 grade point average. Students must be planning to major in a visual or performing art field. Arts Scholarship applications may be obtained at high schools, on the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org, or at City Hall, Room 203.

The tentative application deadline for both scholarships is March 20, 2009. For more information, contact your high school guidance department or Arts Committee Liaison Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or aesterheld@cityof-bowie.org, or Education Committee Liaison Leni Stern at 301-809-3068 or lstern@cityofbowie.org.

News From the City Forester

Hi Folks - Year 2008 passed with blazing speed. I am looking forward to a fresh new year in 2009 particularly as relates to "green" things and a new planting and growing season. As with so many things in life, planning helps one to achieve success ... and so it is with our lawns and landscape.

So, here are a few pointers and tasks for early starters:

- Winter and early spring are good times to clear excessive leaves and other debris away from lawns and shrub beds.
- Edging beds and tree rings with a spade and mulching to depth of 2-3" with a good quality shredded hardwood bark mulch will beautify your landscape, keep weeds to a minimum, and help retain moisture in the root zone. Be careful not to overdo it and do take care not to pile mulch up on the trunks and/or stems of any plants.
- Many plants are particular about when they liked to be pruned, but many others can be pruned any time. For example, dead or dying branches can be removed any time, and selective pruning of low branches and/or misshapen plant parts can be done as well.
- As long as the ground is not frozen, lime can be applied to lawn areas in order to adjust the pH (acidity/alkalinity) of the soil. You should have your soil tested which will yield not only the results of pH and other nutrient factors, but it will also provide recommendations for applications.
- Take some time to look through some books and/or web sites if you are considering renovating your landscape or just adding a few plants. Pay attention to specifications for plants regarding leaf texture and color, flower timing and color, evergreen vs. deciduous, mature size, soil requirements, moisture requirements, light/shade requirements, etc. Additionally, consider using a "native" plant species in that they most often do well in their native habitat, and these plants often encourage the livelihood of our beautiful bird and butterfly population in this area.

Don't be afraid to get creative and dream a little bit this winter and spring about what could be in your yard landscaping-wise. It's work, but it's fun ... and the rewards can provide years of beauty and pleasure in your own backyard! Go green!
Rick Kellner, Community Forester

City Uses Geese Police at Allen Pond Park

Since November 1, 2008, the City has used the services of Geese Police of Maryland, Inc. to assist in correcting Canada goose problems at Allen Pond Park. The services include the use of trained Border Collie dogs, which stalk and stare down the geese, but never actually attack them, to intimidate the geese and cause them to leave the area. Highly trained handlers will call specific commands to the dogs while they are working within the Park. The handler will remain within 100 yards from the dog and will visit Allen Pond Park twice a day, seven days a week, through March of 2009.

The need for goose management services is a result of complaints received from Park patrons concerned with the excessive amount of goose fecal matter found throughout the Park walkways, athletic fields, and children's playgrounds. The fecal matter presents an unsightly condition throughout the Park and can lead to unhealthy conditions in addition to having a negative impact on the pond water quality, directly affecting the fish population and aquatic life within Allen Pond.

The City of Laurel, Maryland and other agencies have very successfully used the services of Geese Police of Maryland, and the company comes highly recommended as a solution to our problem at Allen Pond Park. Questions or concerns should be directed to Matt Reno at 301-809-3076 or mreno@cityofbowie.org.

Park Maps Available for Download

Over the past two years, the City has developed a set of user-friendly park maps which the public can download from the City's website.

The data contained on each map was obtained using GPS (global positioning system) coordinates gathered by staff and compiled into map data information. The information contained on the maps identifies property boundaries, pedestrian trails, athletic fields, public restrooms and various other park amenities. The maps are user friendly and provide specific information on each City park. The maps can be downloaded as pdf documents from the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org - look for Leisure Activities and select City Parks.

If you have suggestions as to other data that you would like to see contained in these maps, please email your suggestions to mreno@cityofbowie.org, and staff will attempt to alter the maps to provide this additional information.

Christmas Trees

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





Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ... Single Stream Recycling is Here!

301-809-2344

Effective December 1, 2008, the City began single stream recycling. This means that all recyclables are collected by one full-size refuse truck from one recycling container! You may now put all of your papers, cardboard, junk mail, catalogs, phone books (tied in bundles or put in bags so that they don't blow around) into your recycling bin with your glass, cans and plastics. And if you need larger containers - maximum 50 pounds when filled - you may use any container marked **RECYCLE**.

Single stream recycling allows us to **REDUCE** the number of trucks coming down your street, **REDUCE** the amount of fuel used by the vehicles, and **REDUCE** the amount of vehicle emissions. The larger trucks used enables us to collect many more recyclables before we need to take them to the recycling center, further reducing fuel and emissions. And we are **REUSING** the same drivers and collectors that have been servicing your route all along!

For more informaton, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

Thank you for recycling!

Recycling Bin Items

Commodity	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Glass Please rinse; plastic rings and labeling may remain.	All Bottles and Jars	Ceramics, Crystal, Mirrors, Light Bulbs, Window Glass, Drinking Glasses
Cans Please rinse; cans may be crushed; labeling may remain.	Aluminum, Steel/Bimetal Food & Beverage Cans, Empty Aerosol Cans, Foil & Foil Containers	Paint Cans or Cans Containing Hazardous Chemicals
Paper	All Paper: Newspapers, White Paper, Magazines, Catalogs, Telephone Books, Junk Mail, Wrapping Paper, Clean Milk and Juice Cartons, Cardboard and Paperboard	
Plastics All narrow and wide mouth containers; soft or rigid; caps and lids; cups; bags secured in a bag.	Bottles, Tubs, Cups, Milk Jugs, Soda Bottles, Shampoo & Detergent Bottles, Toys, Lawn Furniture, Bags Secured in a Bag	Motor Oil or Chemical Bottles, Plates, Utensils, Styrofoam

“Extreme Makeover” City Website Edition

The City of Bowie website - www.cityofbowie.org - is undergoing an “extreme makeover”. The redesigned site will soon have a new look, new menus, and a host of new features intended to make doing business with the City a little more convenient.

The site will be bright and easy to read, with drop down menus that make finding the right information simple. Visitors will be able to select the size of the text that suits their needs and translate the text into Spanish at the click of a button.

Information is grouped into a few major categories: government, resident information, visitor information and business information. The most heavily used pages on the site will also be available from a quick links menu on the side of the home page. Individual sections will include submenus that will make navigating quicker and less confusing. Looking for a particular report, press release, form or other City document will be fast and straightforward with the improved search engine. A site guide will help users become familiar with the new design and explain how to use some of the new features such as RSS feeds.

Bowie has had a presence on the World Wide Web since 1996. The City’s site has evolved since that time, with an ever increasing amount of information available to site visitors, but this will be the first complete overhaul of the site’s functionality since it was first created. The new site takes advantage of the latest technologies available to provide constantly changing news items and a variety of calendar features. Visitors to the site can also sign up to receive notices when specific information on the site is updated. Called RSS feeds, this tool will allow users to be sure they have the latest information about what’s going on in the City.

The goal of the website redesign was to provide around-the-clock access to City Hall via the website. With tools like Alert Bowie, Ask Bowie Gov and Online Service Requests, residents and other visitors to the site can get information, pose a question, report a problem or request a service at their convenience, no matter what the time of day or night.

Examples of the kinds of things that can be done through the service request system include reporting a street light outage, scheduling a special pickup, and reporting a pothole or graffiti in your neighborhood. Using Ask Bowie Gov, residents can ask questions about any aspect of City government or City services. If the answer to the question is in our database, the response will be immediate. If not, a staff person will respond to the inquiry via email, usually within a few hours on weekdays.

Plans are also in the works to reserve picnic areas online and allow City water and sewer customers to pay their bills online. This is an ongoing project. Users are encouraged to use the new feedback feature to provide us with suggestions and comments on how we can continue to improve the site.

National Anthem and "Voice of Bowie" Auditions

On Saturday, **February 28, 2009**, the City will hold auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events, and for individuals interested in being a stage announcer or "Voice of Bowie" at these events. Special events include Bowiefest, 4th of July, and the International Festival.

Auditions will be held in the TV Studio at City Hall. National Anthem auditions begin at 12 p.m. Participants should come prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella for a judging panel.

"Voice of Bowie" auditions begin at 2:30 p.m and candidates will be asked to read from a provided script.

For more information or to schedule an audition, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityof-bowie.org.



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. For more information, please see the City's website at www.cityof-bowie.org (select Leisure Activities).

Series 3 Group Lessons Begin February 5, 2009 Registration will be held January 29 - February 4, 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.

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

2 for 1 Admission
to a Regular Public Session

Bowie Ice Arena

Expires 2/28/09

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

\$5 Off Series 3

Group Lesson

Registration

Bowie Ice Arena

Expires 2/4/09

Not valid with any other discount or offer.

ONE COUPON
PER FAMILY

Bowie Youth & Family Services

301-809-3033

Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) offers counseling for families with children living in the home who are under the age of 18. 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 residing outside these boundaries. Medical assistance or insurance is not accepted.

Groups

Upcoming groups offered include: **Active Parenting** - ongoing signup for winter group; **Girls Count!** - group for high school teen girls to begin in late January; **ADHD** - group for child and parents to begin in late February; **Divorce and Separation** (children and adult) - to begin in February; **Social Skills** (elementary age children) - to start in spring. Groups have a small fee of \$50 for groups where there are separate parent and child sections, and \$40 for groups where only one section is required.

2009 Winter Lecture Series - Preregistration is required. Lectures held 7 - 9 p.m. at City Hall.

Winter Lectures include: **Staying Connected to Your Teen; Motivation, Inspiration and Encouragement for Your Child; Tools for the Parent of an ADHD/ADD Child; and Self-Care and Nurturing for Moms.** Registration is required to attend.

Teen Job Bank Needs Workers

Winter is upon us and more teens are needed to shovel snow. There are not enough teens signed on to accommodate everyone for this arduous task. If you know a teen interested in signing up, please check the website for Youth & Family Services. Applications can be downloaded and mailed to the office. It's a great way for a teen to earn a few extra dollars.

Please call the office for more information and to be put on our callback list for services.

Bowie Dog Park

Licensing Requirements

All dogs must wear a current rabies tag and Prince George's County animal license while in the Bowie Dog Park. Animal Control Officers routinely patrol the park for violations. If your dog is not wearing both of these tags you can be assessed a fine of \$50 for each missing tag. For more information on licensing your pet, please contact the Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002.

2009 Bike to Work Day

Save the Date!

Friday, May 15, 2009

Food, Fun and Prizes!

Registration information, time, and Bowie pit stop locations will be announced in the next **Bowie Spotlight**.



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. On Tuesday, December 2, 2008, Washington, D.C. area broadcasters conducted a soft shutdown of their analog transmissions at 5:28 p.m. for two minutes. During that time, if you had a TV setup that is not ready for the Digital Transition you would have received a message on your TV set telling you just that.

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



OUT OF ORDER -- 1/9 - 1/24

Presented by Bowie Community Theatre, www.bctheatre.com, 301-805-0219.

THE MOVING OF LILA BARTON -- 1/30 - 2/14

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

NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH -- 2/20 - 3/14

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



All performances are at the Bowie Playhouse, located in Whitmarsh Park, 16500 White Marsh Park Drive. For ticket sales and information about the theater groups, please contact the theater companies directly.

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

“Presidential Elections and Broadcasting”

Mini-Exhibit

January 1 through February 28 at the Radio and Television Museum, Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. A special mini-exhibit in conjunction with the inauguration of our new President. The first election coverage by radio took place in 1916. Learn about radio and presidential elections, and hear audio clips of Presidents speaking - Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. The exhibit includes an Atwater Kent radio owned by Herbert Hoover.

“Edgar Allen Poe”

Second Tuesday Lecture Series

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free – no reservations required.

Coffee, Tea and History

Wednesday, February 4, 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy a conversation about an object in the museum collection. This month’s featured item will be our silver chocolate pot. Coffee and tea will be provided. Free – no reservations required.

Second Tuesday Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Topic to be announced. Free – no reservations required.

Valentine Tea

Saturday, February 14, 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Enjoy an elegant tea with someone special. Traditional tea goodies served by candlelight! \$24 per person. Reservations and advance payment required.

For information on these, or any museum program, please call 301-809-3089 or email 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 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!

Metro Senior Outreach

"Smart Card"

**Thursday, January 8
10:30 a.m.**

Metro offers a Smartrip Card for all seniors over 65 years of age. Seniors can ride the rail and bus for half fare. To learn more about Metro's services, please attend this presentation at the Senior Center.

Active Adult 55+

"Creative Side of Wellness" Open House

**Friday, January 16
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

The Center will provide a glimpse of the programs that inspire seniors to discover their inner passion through the arts. With the guidance of talented instructors, students are free to express themselves with art, music, crafts, creative writing, reading, singing, and theater. Enjoy presentations, short readings, and displays of handcrafted jewelry, stained glass, art pieces, and more at our "Creative Side of Wellness" Open House.

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.

AARP Driver Safety Classes

**Wednesday, January 28
Thursday, January 29
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Driver Safety Classes are offered at the Senior Center throughout the year. These are the first scheduled classes for 2009. The fee is \$12 for AARP members, and \$14 for nonmembers. For more information, please call the Center.

Easter Seals Low Vision Resources

**Thursday, January 22
10:30 a.m.**

Easter Seals will provide a presentation on low and high tech items to make life for those with low vision easier. Resource information will be provided for low vision and blind persons. An Easter Seals Senior questionnaire will be available -- this will help Easter Seals meet the needs of people with vision difficulties.

Upcoming Events

New Year's Day

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 19, 2009
City Offices Closed. No Refuse or Recycling Collection.

Presidents Day

Monday, February 16, 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**

ECRWSS
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BOWIE MD
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Residential Customer Local

