

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

November - December 2011

City Election Day - Tuesday, November 8, 2011 Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The City of Bowie will hold an election on Tuesday, **November 8, 2011** to elect members of the City Council consisting of a Mayor and six Councilmembers to hold office for a term of two years. Each registered voter may cast a total of four votes. All City voters may vote for Mayor and two at-large Councilmembers. Voters in each district may also vote for a district Councilmember.

For example, a registered voter living in the Kenilworth section of the City may vote for Mayor, two at-large Councilmembers, and one district Councilmember to represent District 2. While the entire City will elect the Mayor and two at-large Councilmembers, only the residents of a specific district may elect the Councilmember to represent that district.

Please check inside this newsletter for information on Absentee Ballots and Polling Places, and to view a Sample Ballot.

For additional information about the City Election, please contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or pflaming@cityofbowie.org, or visit the City's website at www.cityof-bowie.org.

Who Can Vote?

If you are a registered voter in Prince George's County and your voter registration card specifies your current City of Bowie address, you may vote in this City election. Only those registered to vote as of **October 7, 2011** may vote in this election. To determine if you are eligible to vote, please contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029.



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City Election News

Polling Places for 2011

The City is divided into four election districts. There are two polling places in each district. Voters must vote at the polling place assigned to their neighborhood. Polling places are different than those used for the general election and a couple of polling places have changed since the last City election. Please take a moment to review the list of neighborhoods assigned to each polling place on **Page 3**. Voters will also receive a postcard from the Prince George's County Board of Elections, indicating where they should vote in this City election.

Voters To Use Electronic Voting Machines

This November, City voters will vote using electronic touchscreen voting machines. These electronic voting screens are user friendly, easy to read and wheelchair accessible. They also have the potential to speed up the Election Day process because these machines will electronically tabulate votes. Voters may check out a sample machine at City Hall from October 27 to November 7.

Absentee Ballots Available

In accordance with Section 6-30 of the City Code, any qualified voter of the City who may be unavoidably absent from the City or who is otherwise prevented from being present and personally voting at the polls may apply for an absentee voting ballot. Applications are available from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, or on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Application for an absentee ballot must be made in writing and signed by the applicant. If the applicant is unable to sign, the application must bear the mark of the applicant. The application must be presented to the City Board of Elections in person or by mail to 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, Maryland 20716, no later than 5 p.m. on November 7th.

When the application is received by mail, the City Clerk will issue the absentee voting ballot by return mail; when the application is presented in person, the City Clerk will issue the absentee voting ballot to the voter or duly authorized agent. Persons receiving absentee ballots will also be furnished official self-addressed return envelopes for use in returning the marked ballots. Only those ballots received in official return envelopes shall be counted and considered properly cast. All absentee ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by the closing of polls at 8 p.m. on November 8, 2011.

Need Help Getting to the Polls?

The Bowie Senior Center bus transportation service will be available for **seniors 55 and older, and for handicapped citizens**, for the City Election on November 8.

Shuttle service will be provided to the Pin Oak, Evergreen and Willows senior communities from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For others, service will be provided from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Election Day. Please call the Senior Center at **301-809-2324** by Friday, November 4th to make arrangements.

City Election Polling Places		
District	Neighborhood	Polling Place (Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.)
1A	Bowie Station Horsepen Ridge Huntington Huntington Crest	Northridge Ray's Wood Rolling Hills Huntington Community Center 13022 8th Street
1B	Belair Greens Belair Town Chapel Forge Heartfields (Asst. Living) Idlewild Meadowbrook (north of Millstream Drive) Overbrook	Rockledge Saddlebrook Saddlebrook West Sumner Chase Victoria Heights Whitehall Yorktown Cornerstone Assembly of God Church 16010 Annapolis Road
2A	Bowie Forest Fairview Glenridge Grady's Walk	Highbridge Meadowbrook (south and west of Millstream Drive) Stewart's Landing Christian Community Presbyterian Church 3120 Belair Drive
2B	Buckingham Derbyshire Forest Hills Foxhill	Kenilworth Somerset Somerset Park Tulip Grove Kenhill Center 2614 Kenhill Drive
3A	Allen Pond Bowie Commons Dixon Crossing Evergreen Apartments (Seniors) Long Ridge Northview Princeton Square Princeton Square Addition	Oak Pond Old Stage Spring Meadows Summerville (Asst. Living) Westview Willows (Seniors) Woodmore Estates Woodmore Highlands Bowie Gymnasium 4100 Northview Drive
3B	Archstone Apartments Covington (north of Excalibur Road) Enfield Chase Ensleigh Essington Evergreen Estates	Heather Hills Heather Ridge Apartments Longleaf Palisades Pin Oak Village Vistas Woodland Lake Bowie City Hall 15901 Excalibur Road
4A	Amber Meadows Amber Meadows II Ashleigh (Mt. Oak Road) Covington (south of Excalibur Road)	Glen Allen Lake Village Manor Mitchellville East Oaktree Pointer Ridge Ridgeview Estates South Bowie Community Center 1717 Pittsfield Lane
4B	Ashleigh Ashleigh Station Collington Manor Collington Ridge Collington Station Devonshire Estates	Graystone Grovehurst Tall Oaks Crossing Ternberry Woodmore at Oakcreek Collington Station HOA 375 Johnsberg Lane (at the corner of Jennings Mill and Johnsberg Lanes)

November 8, 2011

OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT

Polls Open
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



MAYOR
(Vote for One)

COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
(Vote for Two)

• G. Frederick
ROBINSON

• _____
Write-in

• James G.
BELL

• Dennis
BRADY

• Todd M.
TURNER

• _____
Write-in

• _____
Write-in

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 1
(Vote for One)

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 3
(Vote for One)

Elected
Only
by
District 1
Voters

• James L.
MARCOS

• _____
Write-in

Elected
Only
by
District 3
Voters

• Babatunde
ALEGBELEYE

• Henri
GARDNER

• _____
Write-in

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 2
(Vote for One)

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 4
(Vote for One)

Elected
Only
by
District 2
Voters

• Piero V.
MELLITS

• Diane M.
POLANGIN

• _____
Write-in

Elected
Only
by
District 4
Voters

• Carl
BROWN

• Isaac C.
TROUTH

• _____
Write-in

Bowie Youth Chorus

Sign ups for the Bowie Youth Chorus will begin mid-November. The Youth Chorus will hold rehearsals on Thursdays at Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive, beginning on February 2. All youth, grades 5 through 8, who live in Bowie or attend Bowie schools, are invited to join this musical group directed by Eleanor Minor and Assistant Director Mary Ann Jenkins. The Chorus is expanding to include a high school group, Summit Singers. High school youth, grades 9-12, are invited to try out for this audition-only performing musical group.

Both groups will rehearse on Thursdays at Kenhill Center. The Bowie Youth Chorus will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and the Summit Singers from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Registration is \$50 for Bowie residents and \$55 for non-Bowie residents. There will also be a costume fee for all students.

Bowie Youth Chorus members can register in person at the Community Services Department at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, or at the first three rehearsals, February 2, 9, and 16. There is no audition for the Youth Chorus.

High school students wishing to audition for Summit Singers will need to arrive at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2012, to sign up to audition that night. The audition will include singing a prepared song, testing in vocal exercises, and sight reading.

Questions? Contact Arts Specialist Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Art Notes

Art Gallery News

Visitors are invited to view the first art exhibit at the new City Hall. To celebrate the last 50 years of Bowie's history, this first exhibit, located in the East and West Art Galleries on the second floor, is entitled "Belair-at-Bowie," and includes artwork by area artists that feature landscapes and activities that reflect Bowie. This juried art show will run from October 8 through December 2011.

Starting in January, the Arts Committee is planning another juried show that will feature works by many local artists. Later, exhibits in the second floor galleries will also be juried by the Arts Committee. Plans are to hang the work for two months. Artists interested in having their work shown in the galleries need to read the Requirements for Exhibition that include filling out an application and submitting a portfolio representative of their work. Requirements for artists are on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

A future gallery that will feature the work of young artists is planned for a first floor gallery.

For additional information, contact Arts Specialist Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Thanks for Donations

The Community Outreach Committee (COC) appreciates the generosity of community members in support of their efforts to collect food and other items for the Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund. Your donations at the International Festival and at all other times really make a difference! Tax deductible contributions and grocery store gift cards are also a great way to donate! Checks may be written to the Bowie Food Pantry and sent to 3120 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715. The Pantry is located behind the Christian Community Presbyterian Church and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. There are also collection containers at the Kenhill Center (old City Hall), the Bowie Gym and in the lobby of the Senior Center, where you may drop nonperishable food, paper goods and personal items.

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

Are You Prepared for the Next Emergency?

Between August 23rd when an earthquake shook the region, to the weekend of August 27 and 28 when Hurricane Irene paid a visit, to the flash flooding that occurred the following week when Tropical Depression Lee stalled over the DC area, Bowie has seen its share of emergency situations lately.

Hopefully, Bowie doesn't experience another disaster trifecta any time soon, but if there are lessons to be learned from this experience, it is that disasters can strike at any time, and that it is imperative that each of us take responsibility for our own personal preparedness.

Every household should have a personal plan for what you will do if you must leave your home, and an emergency supply kit. At the very least your kit should contain first aid items, a battery operated radio, a flashlight, water, and food that does not need to be refrigerated or cooked. More tips for personal preparedness are offered below.

Each of the three emergencies that occurred between August 23rd and September 7th had some impact in Bowie, especially for those who experienced extended power outages and flooding, but it was not catastrophic. We were fortunate this time. Next time, it could be different. Make sure that you have taken basic steps to keep you and your family safe and prepared.

No-Cost Preparations

- Create an emergency contact list.
- Decide where you will meet your family if you can't go home. Choose one place nearby and one further away.
- Decide now what you will do with your pet if there's an emergency – pet friendly hotels, friends, boarding kennels, etc.
- Make a visual inventory of your valuables. Take pictures or video.
- Scan important documents.
- Keep inventory and scanned documents on a disk in a safe deposit box or send to a friend or family member for safekeeping.
- Back up your computer.
- Check your homeowner's insurance policy. Know what coverage you have – what's your deductible, do you have actual cash value or replacement value coverage on your home? Do you have flood insurance or sewer backup protection?
- Have a "Go Bag" of essentials. What would you grab if you had five minutes to leave your home?
- Register for Alert Bowie to get important information and updates via text message and email.
- Get first aid and CPR training. Consider becoming a Bowie CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) volunteer.

For more information or assistance with planning for emergencies, or to arrange for a presentation on emergency preparedness, please contact Alan Creveling at acreveling@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3079.

Snow Removal

With winter upon us, please remember to remove your vehicles from the street if snow or ice is in the forecast. This will allow plows and/or salt and sand vehicles to more thoroughly treat your street.

A **Snow Emergency** is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two inches. All vehicles must be removed from City streets. The City begins plowing when the snow depth reaches two inches. All main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. Plowing continues until all streets have been cleared. In the event of a snowfall less than two inches, all main drives, hills and collector streets are treated with salt and/or sand. Streets and cul-de-sacs that are flat or have only slight inclines with limited intersections are only treated in extreme icing conditions. During a snow or ice event only, it is acceptable to park your vehicle on your grass.

Each resident and commercial property owner is responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk in front of their property. To report hazardous conditions within the City, call 301-809-2344. A detailed explanation of the snow policy can be found on the City's website - www.cityof-bowie.org.

Christmas Trees

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



What's Bouncing at the City Gym

South Bowie Boys and Girls Club Basketball Registration
Every Tuesday and Friday, 7 - 8:30 p.m. through December 23.

Morning Walking Program

Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m. Come walk indoors and enjoy the benefit of a climate controlled facility.

Women's Recreational Volleyball

Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Enjoy an opportunity to get some exercise and meet new friends! No experience needed.

Bowie Food Pantry Annual Food Drive

November 1 - 18 Please drop off items in the lobby of the Gymnasium.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

November 9, 2 - 8 p.m. Give the "Gift of Life". Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to register.

Saturday Fun with Santa

December 10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The program includes games, moon bounces, face painting, music, pictures with Santa and more. The cost is \$3 per child or a donation of an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots.

During the month of December, the City Gym will be a drop site for donations to the Bowie Police Department's Toys for Tots Campaign.

The City Gym will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days. For additional information, please contact the City Gym at **301-809-2388**.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 7, 2012 for the 2012 Community Summer Camp Fair at the City Gym!



Bowie Ice Arena

301-809-3090

Series 2 Group Lessons Begin December 1, 2011. Registration will be held November 17-30, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Registration must be made in person by a parent or legal guardian. Classes are offered for children as young as 18 months of age through adults. The series includes seven half-hour lessons, skate rental during the lessons, and a seven-admission public session pass. The fee for Bowie residents is \$90. Space is limited, so register early. Private lessons are also available. Please call the Ice Arena for further information.

Leaf Collection Begins

October 31

The City's leaf collection service kicks off October 31. Each residential neighborhood will have two collection dates. Residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of their grass for pickup by the City crews. **Please do not rake leaves into the street.** Collection will take place from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the schedule on Page 9.

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

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

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

For more information, call 301-809-2344.

**2 for 1 Admission
Any Public Skating
Session**

Bowie Ice Arena

Not valid during DJ Session or with any other discounts. Skates \$3.

Expires 12/30/11

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	\$3.00

**\$5 Off Series 2
Group Lesson Registration**
Bowie Ice Arena

Not valid with any other discount or offer. One coupon per family.

Expires 11/30/11

2011 Leaf Collection Schedule

Section	First Leaf Collection Date	Second Leaf Collection Date
AMBER MEADOWS	Thur. 11/17	Tues. 12/6
ASHLEIGH	Wed. 11/2	Mon. 11/21
ASHLEIGH STATION	Wed. 11/2	Mon. 11/21
BELAIR GREENS	Mon. 10/31	Tues. 11/22
BELAIR TOWN I	Tues. 11/8	Wed. 11/30
BELAIR TOWN II	Mon. 11/7	Mon. 12/5
BUCKINGHAM	Mon. 10/31	Wed. 11/23
CHAPEL FORGE	Tues. 11/1	Tues. 11/22
COLLINGTON MANOR	Wed. 11/2	Tues. 12/6
COLLINGTON STATION	Wed. 11/2	Tues. 12/6
COVINGTON MANOR	Thur. 11/17	Thur. 12/8
DERBYSHIRE	Mon. 10/31	Wed. 11/23
DEVONSHIRE	Thur. 11/17	Tues. 12/6
ENFIELD (excluding townhomes)	Wed. 11/9	Wed. 11/30
FAIRVIEW	Wed. 11/2	Wed. 12/14
FOXHILL	Tues. 11/15	Thur. 12/15
GLEN ALLEN	Thur. 11/3	Wed. 11/23
GRADYS WALK	Mon. 10/31	Mon. 12/5
GROVEHURST	Thur. 11/17	Tues. 12/6
HARVEY MANOR	Tues. 11/1	Tues. 11/22
HEATHER HILLS	Thur. 11/17	Tues. 12/13
HIGHBRIDGE PARK	Wed. 11/2	Wed. 12/14
HUNTINGTON*	Tues. 11/1 (& 11/2)	Mon. 11/21 (& 11/22)
HUNTINGTON CREST	Tues. 11/1	Tues. 11/22
IDLEWILD	Wed. 11/9	Mon. 12/5
KENILWORTH	Mon. 11/14	Wed. 12/7
LONGLEAF	Mon. 10/31	Tues. 12/13
LONG RIDGE*	Mon. 11/14 (& 11/15)	Thur. 12/15
MEADOWBROOK*	Tues. 11/8 (& 11/9)	Wed. 11/30
MITCHELLVILLE EAST	Thur. 11/3	Wed. 11/23
NORTHRIDGE*	Mon. 10/31 (& 11/1)	Tues. 11/22
NORTHVIEW	Wed. 11/9	Tues. 12/6
OAKTREE	Wed. 11/2	Thur. 12/8
OLD CHAPEL	Mon. 10/31	Wed. 12/14
OLD CHAPEL ESTATES	Mon. 10/31	Wed. 12/14
OLD STAGE	Mon. 11/21	Wed. 12/7 (& 12/8)
OVERBROOK	Mon. 11/7 (& 11/8)	Tues. 11/29
PATUXENT OVERLOOK	Mon. 10/31	Tues. 12/13
POINTER RIDGE	Thur. 11/3	Thur. 12/1
ROCKLEDGE	Mon. 11/7	Mon. 11/28
ROLLING HILLS	Wed. 11/2	Wed. 12/14
SADDLEBROOK	Tues. 11/8	Mon. 11/28
SADDLEBROOK WEST	Tues. 11/8	Mon. 11/28
SOMERSET	Wed. 11/16	Mon. 12/12
SPRING MEADOWS	Wed. 11/2	Wed. 12/7
STEWART'S LANDING	Wed. 11/2	Wed. 12/14
TALL OAKS	Mon. 11/21	Tues. 12/13
TERNBERRY	Wed. 11/2	Tues. 12/6
TULIP GROVE*	Tues. 11/15 (& 11/16)	Mon. 12/5
VICTORIA HEIGHTS	Wed. 11/9	Thur. 12/8
WESTVIEW	Wed. 11/2	Wed. 12/7
WHITEHALL	Tues. 11/1	Mon. 11/28
WOODMORE ESTATES	Wed. 11/2	Mon. 11/21
WOODMORE HIGHLANDS	Wed. 11/2	Mon. 11/21
YORKTOWN	Mon. 11/7	Tues. 11/29

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

Important Thoughts on Ash Trees in Bowie

Happy fall/winter! I trust you survived the dog days of summer, the earthquake, hurricane Irene, and the deluge of more than ten inches of rain in a three-day period in September!

I'm sure many of you have heard of the alert concerning the arrival in the last decade of the invasive insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer to our region. And you have probably seen some weird looking purple box-like structures (State of MD sampling traps) hung in ash trees throughout the City. This alert remains real and continues to determine the need for the quarantine that started in Prince George's and Charles Counties prohibiting the movement of any wood products across county lines. Since last year, this pest continues to spread geographically, and this quarantine has been extended to the entire western shore of Maryland. In other words, wood products such as firewood and wood chips cannot be moved from west of the Chesapeake Bay to the Eastern Shore of Maryland or over any state line. This is an effort by the State of Maryland to contain and eradicate this pest that destroys the ash trees in our area. So, here are some of the important things to know regarding this bad bug:

- It is not a native insect. It has mistakenly been imported from Asia with overseas shipments to the U.S. and Canada.
- So far, its one destructive target here in North America has been the highly valued ash trees (millions of them)!
- This bug came to our area in Maryland on an illegal shipment of ash trees from already-infested Michigan.
- Once found, a huge program was instituted by the State of Maryland to control the spread of this infestation by way of tree removals, monitoring, and quarantining affected areas such as ours, which continues today.
- While ash trees already had many insect and disease issues, this problem is the worst of all.

To identify the borer and its life cycle, please note: The adult beetles are bright green and are active in and around June - July, depending on weather conditions. They feed on the foliage of the tree. The females lay 60-90 eggs during this period which hatch in 7-10 days and quickly become larvae, chew through bark, and then tunnel under the bark throughout the infested area. At first, this puts the tree under stress, but soon cuts off the flow of water and nutrients which kills the tree. This process may take anywhere from two - four years. These tunnels or "galleries" can easily be seen when the loose bark is removed. This feeding and damage to the tree is completed in the fall and the pupae overwinter there. In or around April - May, the adults emerge through a D-shaped hole that is very distinct, and the cycle begins again.

Find more information at www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/ and www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab. We have informational flyers available as well. If you suspect that this pest is invading your property, I'd be happy to inspect the site. Hoping for the best - Rick Kellner, Community Forester, rkellner@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3061.

City Committees

Need Volunteers

Would you like to play a role in how the City operates, help shape its future, and provide valuable service to the community?

If so, consider serving on a City Committee. These volunteer citizen bodies advise the City Council and help implement the laws and policies that the Council establishes. Committee members are appointed by the Council to serve a two-year term, and may be reappointed for additional terms. There are a variety of City Committees, each with a specific purpose and function. They meet periodically, usually once a month.

To learn about the City Committees and the vacancies available, visit the City's website - www.cityof-bowie.org, select Government, then City Committees. Information on how to apply for vacancies can be found on the website or by contacting the City Clerk at p Fleming@cityof-bowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Bowie's Tree Canopy

We all know how beautiful trees are this time of year when those vibrant yellows and reds are all around. We may not be so thrilled, however, at the thought of raking leaves when they land in our yards. Did you know that you do not need to rake them at all? What we may see as a waste product that we have to blow and bag or rake to the curb for pickup, Mother Nature sees as a natural fertilizer. In forests, leaves fall and decompose slowly and provide important nutrients to the soil. Since fall is the best time to fertilize, we can take a tip from nature and let our leaves fertilize our yards. Consider using your mulching or other lawnmower to chew up the leaves and let the shreds work their way into your grass.

Throughout the year, trees provide a multitude of benefits that we either may not realize or take for granted. In fact, the Arbor Day Foundation's website states that residents can save as much as 50% on air conditioning costs using properly situated shade trees, and healthy, mature trees can increase the value of a home by as much as 10%.

Perhaps more importantly, trees have tremendous benefits to the community and our watersheds as a whole. The City has more than 40% tree canopy that provides invaluable and often irreplaceable benefits to our environment, including:

- Stabilizing soil and stream banks,
- Reducing polluted stormwater runoff by intercepting and infiltrating rainfall,
- Reducing stream warming, and
- Providing a food source for the base of the stream ecosystem.

Despite the relatively high amount of existing tree canopy, the City's Planning Department is working with a consultant to develop a plan to increase tree canopy in the City even more because we know that trees are crucial to a healthy environment. We would like to see more trees out there, and it is not too late for you to help us meet this goal! The State provides a coupon for \$25 towards an approved tree at participating vendors. Visit www.trees.maryland.gov for more information and to print your coupon.

And as always, visit us at www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie! Stay on top of Green Bowie happenings by signing up for our quarterly e-newsletter there. For more information on the urban greening plan that is underway or for additional information on Greening Bowie, please contact the City's Watershed Manager Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.



Challenge Yourself With Our "Recycling Quiz"

What is the most frequently recycled product?

Answer: See www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie.

New Low Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic for Your Pet

The Prince George's County Animal Management Division in partnership with Last Chance Animal Rescue, Inc. has opened a low cost spay and neuter clinic, named "The Spay Spot". The clinic is located at the Prince George's County Animal Management Facility, 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The clinic will be open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Spay/neuter prices will start at \$45 and increase according to weight. For more information on available services or to schedule an appointment, please call "The Spay Spot" at 301-254-8151 or visit the Prince George's County Animal Management Division's webpage at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/AM. Call 301-809-3002 or email tdodge@cityofbowie.org for more information.

Disaster Planning for Your Pets

Recent flooding, earthquakes and Hurricane Irene have awakened our need to properly prepare for disasters. As we take steps to prepare for our families, we need to plan for the care and survival of our pets. Here are some planning tips.

Make a Pet Survival Kit

Your kit should include:

- A current color photograph of your pet in case you must search for a lost pet.
- Water and food supplies, a manual can opener, bowls and plastic bags.
- A leash/harness and a pet carrier or cage.
- A copy of all current vaccination and health records, license numbers and microchip numbers.
- Medication for your pet and a basic feeding and medication schedule.
- A first aid kit to care for your pet.
- A cotton sheet to put over the carrier (this calms pets and makes them feel more secure).

Other Pet Planning Suggestions

- Contact relatives outside the effected area to see if they would be willing to care for you and your pet(s).
- Ask your veterinarian or regular boarding facility if they provide shelter care for animals during times of emergencies and disasters.
- The order to evacuate can come at any time, even while you are away. Find a trusted friend or neighbor to take care of your pet(s) in this situation.
- Make a written disaster plan and be sure to include adequate provisions and evacuation sites.

For more information and tips concerning disaster planning for pets, please contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 or tdodge@cityofbowie.org, or visit our webpage - www.cityofbowie.org/Government/CommunityServices/ac_emergency_prep.asp.



Code Corner

Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks and Driveways (City Code Sec. 14-22)

Qualified residents, apply now for the 24-hour snow and ice removal extension. Every owner or tenant of residential or commercial property which abuts a City sidewalk, or the paved area of their driveway if located within the public right-of-way, is required by City Code to remove or clear away any snow and ice from the sidewalk or driveway within forty-eight (48) hours after the cessation of any falling snow, sleet, or freezing rain. If circumstances (age, disability, illness, etc.) prevent an owner or tenant from removing the snow or ice within the forty-eight (48) hour period, an individual may apply for a twenty-four (24) hour extension. The twenty-four (24) hour extension does not exempt one from clearing snow and ice from the public sidewalks and driveway area. It only provides a waiver of the forty-eight (48) hour rule and grants a twenty-four (24) hour extension. The extension will permit the applicant seventy-two (72) hours (3 days) to comply with the City Code. It is strongly suggested that you make arrangements now with a company or individual for snow removal during the winter months. It will be more difficult to find someone once the snow/ice season has begun.

Qualified residents may apply for the 24-hour extension by submitting an application to the Code Compliance Office at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. The application is available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org/Forms/snowice_clearing_waiver.pdf. An application may also be obtained at City Hall or by contacting the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or lransom@cityofbowie.org. **Applications should be submitted before December 1, 2011.**

Vacant Properties

Residents of the City of Bowie are not immune to these difficult financial times. Some residents are struggling to maintain their jobs and provide adequate housing for their family. A few owners are abandoning their property or are forced from their home during foreclosure proceedings. Code Compliance Officers are working with property owners, financial institutions, and property preservation companies, to maintain the exterior of vacant homes and their exterior property areas. Public nuisance and public emergency violations are quickly resolved but court proceedings often delay enforcement of other less significant issues. If you know of a vacant property that is not being properly maintained, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008, or lransom@cityofbowie.org.

Rental License Program

New homebuyers and current property owners wishing to rent their homes should be aware of the City of Bowie Rental Licensing Program. All residential properties that are not owner-occupied must be licensed with the City of Bowie. An application for a License of a Rental Dwelling is available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org/Forms/Rental_License_Application.pdf or may be picked up at City Hall. Once the application is reviewed and the \$100 license fee accepted, a temporary rental license will be issued. An inspection of the rental property will be conducted. If no violations exist or violations are remedied, a rental license will be issued. The annual license fee for a single-family home is \$100 and an inspection of the property is conducted every 14 months.

Please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or lransom@cityofbowie.org for more information, or if you have any questions or concerns.

Bowie Youth & Family Services

The mission of Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) is to provide community-based mental health services for the families of the Bowie community, to improve understanding and communication between parents and youth, to prevent youth from entering the formal juvenile justice system, and to increase the safety of our community through drug and alcohol prevention activities. BYFS is dedicated to providing excellent professional services and innovative programming in order to help and support those citizens who are experiencing emotional difficulties and family stress.

BYFS believes that “every child deserves a seamless web of support—made up of parents, friends, neighbors, community, government, and the private sector through which no child will slip. It is everyone’s responsibility to help weave that web.”

Family counseling services are provided to residents within the corporate limits of the City of Bowie for \$20 per session, and to those in the greater Prince George’s County area for \$30 per session. Families with children up to age 18 are encouraged to call to make an appointment. Groups are offered for those who want guidance with parenting skills, social skills for young children, helping your children in coping with divorce, and a group for high school girls. Each group runs between four and eight weeks and varies from \$60 to \$120 per group. Call **301-809-3033** for more information.

Teen Job Bank Needs Workers

Teens are needed for snow shoveling this winter. If you know a teen interested in signing up for occasional work, including housework, babysitting, leaf raking, yard work and snow shoveling, please call for an application at 301-809-3033. It’s a great way for a teen to earn a few extra dollars. For Bowie citizens who want to hire a teen, call **301-809-3033** for more information.

Holiday Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion

Sunday, December 4

The City will host its annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Bundle up for caroling outdoors followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus atop the Bowie Volunteer Department’s Ladder Truck.

By returning to the Mansion’s front yard for this celebration, Bowie remembers the 20th century when it was the tradition to hold the Tree Lighting at the Mansion. The tradition has returned this year as part of the City’s year-long Belair 50 Celebration.

During Belair Mansion’s early history, its colonial residents feasted, sang and visited, but there was no Christmas tree because the holiday favorite didn’t come to America until the mid- 19th century. During the 20th century Bowieites gathered in front of the Mansion waiting for the man in the red suit and for the holiday lights to be lit. Come early Sunday, December 4, and enjoy Historic Belair Mansion’s Twilight Holiday Tour from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free, but please bring a canned food donation for the Bowie Food Pantry. Belair Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive.

For information, contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078, or Historic Properties Manager Pam Williams at pwilliams@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3089.

Top Gardens Honored

The lovely yard of Virginia Smith captured the top award as *2011 Distinguished Yard* at the 16th Annual City of Bowie Beautification Awards, held at the Bowie Senior Center. The event was once again cosponsored by the Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton. Thanks to all the nominees, whose hard work and creativity have helped make Bowie a more beautiful place to live, and to the sponsors who provided prizes and decorations for the program. This year's sponsors were Frank's Garden Center and Patuxent Nursery. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients identified to the right.

Winners	Award
Virginia Smith William Bachteler Trisha Patterson Maria and Chuck Arnold Barbara Brisso Jack Croft Marty Gigger Francis Pelkey Maxine Brown Robert E. Evans Funeral Home Pam Fleming Richard Oliver Patricia Rauch Margaret Reid Rochelle Buckley Dorothy Campbell Heather Dunahoo Mary and Ed Haraway	2011 Distinguished Yard Award Distinguished Back Yard Distinguished Front Yard Distinguished Wildlife Habitat Distinguished Whole Yard 1-Star Maintenance 1-Star Maintenance 1-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 2-Star Maintenance 3-Star Maintenance 3-Star Maintenance 3-Star Maintenance 3-Star Maintenance

Bowie Playhouse Presents



Pippin -- 11/4 - 12/5

Historians, don't look for historical accuracies in this musical about two real life individuals, Emperor Charlemagne and his son Prince Pippin, from the early Middle Ages. The story, with fabulous choreographed musical numbers follows Prince Pippin who's searching for the meaning of life. His search takes him on a road trip that includes battles, revolution and assassination. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Matinees are at 3 p.m. Presented by 2nd Star Productions, 301-832-4819.*

SORRY! WRONG CHIMNEY! -- 12/9 - 12/18

David is moonlighting as a department store Santa so he can buy his wife a fur for Christmas. He tells her he's working late at the office. She calls and learns he's not there. A suspected other woman, hypnosis, a notorious "Santa Burglar" and his moll, and a confused policeman make for hysterically, hilarious holiday entertainment. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The last show is a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. Presented by Prince George's Little Theatre, www.pglt.org or 301-937-7458.*



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

The City of Bowie
Presents the 30th Annual
HOLIDAY HOUSE
DECORATING CONTEST



HOUSE DECORATING ENTRY FORM (Form may be reproduced.)

DECORATING CATEGORY

CIRCLE ONE: COLONIAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

By sending this form, participant gives the City of Bowie the right to use their name and picture of their house for future publicity.

FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 12.

BOWIE CITY HALL

15901 EXCALIBUR ROAD, BOWIE, MD 20716

ATTN: HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

**HOLIDAY HOUSE
 DECORATING CONTEST**

Judging Categories and Criteria

Entrants will select one of three categories:

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

***Religious** (of any denomination)

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

Entries will be judged on the following:

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

Contest Rules:

- House must be located within the Bowie City limits. (Please check with us if you're not sure.)
- Contest is limited to what can be seen from the street side of the house at night.
- People or live animals are not allowed as part of the display.
- All participants are requested to keep their houses decorated through December 31st so the community may view and enjoy them.
- Entry deadline is Monday, December 12, 2011 at 5 p.m.
- **Judging is on Wednesday, December 14, during the hours of 6 to 11 p.m.** (Participants: please turn on displays by 6 p.m. so that the judges may evaluate each entry.)
- Winners will be notified by phone on Friday, December 16.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Prizes will be awarded at the Holiday Awards Reception on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. All contest entrants are invited to attend.

For additional information, please contact City Hall at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

The Spirit of Bowie's Christmas Past

Bright lights glowing on trees and menorahs, fragrant greens, halls decked with holly, the fragrance of pies, cookies and kugel filling kitchens...all are part of Bowie's oldest holiday traditions. Those long-standing symbols are joined today by those of a new holiday – Kwanzaa – an African celebration including kinaras – a traditional candleholder symbolizing African roots, karamu – a great feast featuring traditional African foods, and zawadi – gifts given to children. Everyone shares in food and fellowship, regardless of faith or culture, during this time of year.

Looking back to years past, colonial residents at the Belair Mansion feasted, sang, and visited with friends and family, but had no Christmas tree or Santa Claus. By the time Huntington City was settled in the late 1800's, the highly decorated tree of today had become the style, and the chubby guy with the long beard visited Huntington's small residents, who also feasted with friends and family! When Belair at Bowie's residents settled in 1961, the iconic aluminum tree had arrived, and friends and family came to discover a new community. Fifty years later, icicle lights drip from gutters, holiday spaceships land in front yards, recipes for low-fat cookies and kugel abound, and zawadi gifts delight small residents. Family and friends still share the season's fun and fellowship.

Bowie's history is long...so are its evergrowing and everchanging holiday traditions. They reflect our history, our diversity – and the spirits of 266 holidays past – as we look forward to the next holiday season!



Continued from Page 18

News of the City Museums - Mark Your Calendar continued:

City Christmas Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion

Sunday, December 4, at 7 p.m. Celebrate 50 years of Belair at Bowie holiday history – the City Tree returns to the Mansion! Light up the night and visit with Santa! Free.

Snowflake Tea at Belair Mansion

Saturday, December 10, at 4 p.m. Enjoy tea and traditional goodies in a historic house decked for the holidays. Reservations and advance payment required. \$25 per person.

Kringle Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum

Tuesday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Holiday fun at the Railroad Museum for ages 1-10. Free.

Winter Wonderland Tea at Belair Mansion

Friday, December 30, 4 p.m. Enjoy tea and traditional goodies in a historic house decked for the holidays. \$25 per person. Advance reservation and payment required.

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

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

“A Collection of Curious and Entertaining Orations” Annual History Lecture Lunch Day

Monday, November 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Five speakers will explore 18th century topics ranging from fishing to ladies' dressing tables – a fun learning experience. Reservations required. Lunch included. \$60 per person.

“Meet Mary Surratt - Robert Redford's Conspirator” Second Tuesday Lecture

Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Julia Cowdery, Surratt House Museum. Free.

“Talking Turkey - Thanksgiving History” Brown Bag Lunch Lecture

Monday, November 14 at 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Free.

Kids Kaboose

Tuesday, November 15, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Fun at the Museum for ages 1-10. Free.

Black Friday at Belair Mansion Museum Shop

Friday, November 25, 12 - 4 p.m. 25% off! Shop til you drop!

Taste of the Past at Belair Mansion

Saturday, November 26, 12 - 4 p.m. Visit the Mansion kitchen to sample holiday goodies from long ago. Free.

Trainspotting Day at Bowie Railroad Museum

Sunday, November 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Watch unusual cars fly by on AMTRAK'S busiest day of the year. Children can visit the Welcome Center next door to leave their Christmas list with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Free.

KinderKristmas at Belair Mansion

Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Youngsters 3-10 are invited to a special holiday morning at the Mansion – tours, crafts – and a visit with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus! Free. Donations to Bowie Food Pantry requested.

Twilight Tours of Belair Mansion by Candlelight

Sunday, December 4, 4 - 7 p.m. Enjoy holiday decorations from the past, the music of Bedlam and cider in the kitchen. Free. Donations to Bowie Food Pantry requested.

Museum Hours of Operation

Belair Mansion, Tuesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Free.

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

Old Town Bowie Welcome Center, Tuesdays - Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8606 Chestnut Avenue, 301-575-2488. Free.

Bowie Railroad Museum, Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8614 Chestnut Avenue. Free.

To schedule a group tour of any of these City Museums, or for more information, please call 301-809-3089.

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.*

The Prince George's Genealogical Library, Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (first Wednesday of the month 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.), Tulip Grove Drive. Free. *For information, call 301-262-2063 during open hours.*

Continued on Page 17

Senior Services Overview

The Bowie Senior Center provides a wide variety of educational and recreational programs and services for the active adult 55 years and older.

The *Telephone Reassurance Program* makes weekly telephone calls to homebound and isolated seniors. If you or someone you know would like to receive a weekly friendly call, please contact Kathy White at 301-809-2300.

Veterans Day Salute

**Thursday, November 10
12:15 p.m.**

A special program honoring veterans. Guest speaker, Stephen Williams, PhD, will talk about the *Importance of Remembering Vietnam*. Music provided by Bowie Senior Chorale.

Memory Screening Day

**Tuesday, November 15
10 a.m.**

Program presentation and screening.

Power of Primary Care

Doctors

**Tuesday, November 15
6 - 7 p.m.**

Speaker Jack Davidson will discuss services primary care doctors provide.

Active Adult 55+

Bingo Chat with County Council Chair Ingrid Turner

Monday, November 21, 10 a.m.

Holiday Bazaar

Friday, December 2, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

A welcome part of the holiday season. Members only can rent a table for \$5 - reserve by November 23. Event open to the public.

Antiques Talk - Show & Tell

Friday, December 9 at 10 a.m.

Bring your antiques and tell us about them. Samantha Dorsey, Bowie's Museum Curator, will possibly identify objects and suggest appraisers and antiques dealers to contact.

Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concerts

Thursday, December 8 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center

Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.

at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets are required for both concerts. The Senior Center concert is for Senior Center members; a donation to the Bowie Food Pantry is appreciated to obtain a ticket. The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts concert is open to the public and tickets are \$6. Tickets will be available at the Senior Center one month before the concerts.

Who's Caring for Mom and Dad?

Tuesday, December 20, 6 - 7 p.m.

Come see the skit "Wake-up Call" and receive information that will help you make better decisions about care so you can be safe and remain in your home.

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 12 p.m.

CITY OF BOWIE
15901 EXCALIBUR ROAD
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20716

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BOWIE MD
Permit No. 5362

Residential Customer Local

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR G. FREDERICK ROBINSON
MAYOR PRO TEM JAMES L. MARCOS
DENNIS BRADY
HENRI GARDNER
DIANE M. POLANGIN
ISAAC TROUTH
TODD M. TURNER

Upcoming Events

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11, 2011

City offices closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

Thanksgiving

November 24 and 25, 2011

City offices closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

Christmas Holiday

Monday, December 26, 2011

City offices closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

New Year's Holiday

Monday, January 2, 2012

City offices closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

2012 City Holidays

New Year's	Monday	January 2, 2012
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday	January 16, 2012
Presidents Day	Monday	February 20, 2012
Memorial Day	Monday	May 28, 2012
Independence Day	Wednesday	July 4, 2012
Labor Day	Monday	September 3, 2012
Veterans Day	Monday	November 12, 2012
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 22, 2012
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	November 23, 2012
Christmas	Tuesday	December 25, 2012

City offices will be closed on the dates listed above.
There will be no refuse or recycling services on these dates;
services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

Please Note: Future issues of the *Bowie Spotlight* will be distributed in an electronic format. To sign up to receive notice of availability of the newsletter, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org and register with Alert Bowie. Print copies will be distributed to senior housing communities and public facilities in the City, as well as to residents who requested mailing.