

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: March 11, 2021

Status Report

1. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Bowie EDC met Wednesday and heard from an expert panel talking about Bowie as a location for computer and technology businesses. The panel experts said Bowie has more interest from medical tenants than other types of office or flex users. The demand for medical space is strong; the demand for general office space is much less; the demand for flex space is good. Interest in 'touch-down-space' has increased during the COVID crisis but the future demand is as yet undetermined. Computer and tech businesses want to locate near employees and in areas with amenities for those employees; live-where-you-work locations are more appealing than other locations; Bowie has very few of those options available. Bowie is looked at by computer/tech prospects but competes against Annapolis, Greenbelt, and other surrounding locations which have more choices and lowers rent costs.

The EDC also had a discussion about a Bowie Restaurant Week, perhaps to be held in 2022. An EDC topic team is working to refine the idea, evaluate dates and venues, identify sponsors from both public and private sectors, and to build a list of the food vendors in Bowie who would be invited to participate.

The next regular EDC meeting is Wednesday April 14, 2021 at 7:30 AM when the guest speaker will be noted economist Anirban Basu talking about the COVID and post-COVID Bowie and regional economy.

2. Paper Shredding & Styrofoam Recycling Event

The Public Works Department has scheduled a paper shredding and styrofoam recycling event at the Public Works Solid Waste/Recycling parking lot located at 16500 Annapolis Road on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 8am-2pm. Residents can bring up to five tall kitchen bags or five archive boxes for shredding. This event is first come first served. In the event that the three (3) trucks are filled, we may need to shut down before 2pm. Documents may be observed while they are being shredded. Styrofoam must be free of any debris (glue or tape). This is a new location this year, it has previously been held at the Bowie High School Parking Lot. Our last event in January collected 15.56 tons of paper and 42 pounds of styrofoam!

ADL: lfr