

Bowie News Flash

February 2015

News

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 16

City offices are closed on this day. There will be no refuse or recycling collection. Collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day. Because of the Monday holiday, the Regular City Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 17th.

Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers New Groups

Bowie Youth & Family Services will be offering three new groups starting this month. The first, *Calm, Confident Kids*, is a group for 7 - 10 year-olds that will help return some of the fun of childhood to kids who worry too much. Participants will have the opportunity to talk about their anxieties and practice strategies for overcoming fears and staying calm. The second, an *ADHD/ADD Education Group* is for 7 - 11 year-old children and their parents. In this group, parents will learn more about Attention Deficit Disorder and kids will learn how to improve their social skills and frustration tolerance through games, crafts and other activities. Finally, our *Active Parenting Group* will help parents learn practical skills for developing cooperation, self-esteem, and responsibility in their children. Please call 301-809-3033 to register or for further information.

RAD Self-Defense Course for Seniors

The Bowie Police Department is pleased to offer RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) awareness and physical defense strategies for active senior adults. Classes are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 24 - March 26, 2015 at the Kenhill Center. Shuttle bus transportation will be provided from the Bowie Senior Center. For more information, please call 301-575-2015.

National Anthem and “Voice of Bowie” Auditions

Open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, 4th of July and the International Festival. Auditions will be held in the Studio at the Kenhill Center on Saturday, February 21, 2015 beginning at 9 a.m. for the National Anthem and 11:30 a.m. for the “Voice of Bowie”. For more information or to schedule an audition, please contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Accepting Nominations for Bowie's Hall of Honor

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. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2015 Hall of Honor is Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City issues a Water Quality Report for those areas of the City that are served by the City of Bowie Water Plant. The City and the Maryland Department of the Environment routinely monitor the drinking water to detect contaminants, according to Federal and State laws. The Report is designed to inform customers of water quality standards for the previous calendar year. The annual Water Quality Reports will no longer be mailed to residents, but can be viewed online at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr. The report covers the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014. For more information or to request a printed copy of the report, please call the Water Plant at 301-809-3060.

Dog and Cat Temporary Holding Rooms Open

Temporary holding rooms have been added at City Hall for lost or stray cats and dogs that are picked up by Bowie Animal Control. One room is designed for cats and the other room for dogs. Dogs and non-eartipped cats* found running at-large in Bowie will be transported to the holding rooms if their owner cannot be located immediately. Injured, sick, owner-surrendered, and non-socialized cats and dogs will not be taken to the facility. Information on the pets will be posted on Bowie's Animal Control Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BowieAnimalControl.

Pets housed in the temporary holding rooms will be provided with food, water, and exercise and kept in a clean environment. Daily fees (\$5/day boarding fee, \$35/day walking fee) and a \$60 redemption fee will apply and be due upon release of the pet to its owner or custodian. If the pet is not claimed after five (5) days, it will be transported to the Prince George's County Animal Management Facility in Upper Marlboro. The public is invited to a "leash cutting" for the new holding area on Saturday, February 7 at 9 a.m. For more information about the area or the ceremony, contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 or email lransom@cityofbowie.org

*Learn about eartipped cats at www.cityofbowie.org/tnr.

Youth Art Expo

The artwork of talented young people from ten Bowie schools is displayed in the current City Hall Art Gallery exhibit, which runs through March 20, 2015. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest

In addition to the Youth Art Exhibit, visitors to City Hall can also view artwork created by finalists in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest in the lobby at City Hall. Finalists were selected in January and contest winners will be announced during the week of February 9th and recognized at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The work of the finalists may also be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org/mlk.

Snow Emergency – Parking and Sidewalks

The accumulation of two (2) or more inches of snow and ice on City streets constitutes a “snow emergency”. The snow emergency remains in effect until the snow and ice are cleared. During a snow emergency, cars, vans and trucks are prohibited from parking on the street; however they may be parked on the grassy area of the owner’s yard until the emergency is lifted. City sidewalks are not to be blocked. It is important for private and commercial property owners, tenants and management companies to clear the public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 48 hours of cessation of the snow falling. Property owners near public and private schools should clear their sidewalks for the safety of children attending school. Noncompliance may result in fines or additional enforcement actions. For more information on snow emergencies, visit www.cityofbowie.org/snow or see Bowie City Code Chapter 14, Article IV Snow Emergency at www.cityofbowie.org/citycode .

Bowie Business Awards

The City of Bowie and the Bowie Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the Eighth Annual Business Recognition Awards program on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The Awards program was created to recognize and celebrate those businesses in the Bowie community that exhibit exemplary efforts to provide outstanding services, products and facilities to all their customers. Award categories include:

- Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Green Business of the Year
- Incubator Business of the Year.
- Community Service Award
- Entrepreneur of the Year

A description of each category and a link to the nomination form can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/bizawards. The nomination deadline is Friday, March 27, 2015. Please mail nominations to the City of Bowie, Attention: John Henry King, Economic Development Director, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716 or fax to 301-809-2315 or email jhking@cityofbowie.org

Bowiefest

It may be early February, but it's never too early to begin thinking about Bowiefest! This year it takes place on Saturday, June 6th. If you are interested in being a food vendor or selling arts and crafts at Bowiefest, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/bowiefest. We are also looking for performers from Bowie who would like to be part of the entertainment lineup at Bowiefest. For more information, contact Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Visit a City Museum This Month

Need a break from the winter doldrums? Why not stop by a City museum in February and learn a little about Bowie's heritage? They are nearby and admission is free! The Belair Mansion, built in 1745, was the home of Provincial Governor Samuel Ogle and his wife Anne Tasker Ogle, and is open every day except Monday, from noon to 4 p.m. The Belair Stable Museum, honoring Bowie's horse racing traditions is open Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Both the Old Town Bowie Welcome Center and the Bowie Railroad Museum are on Chestnut Avenue in Old Town Bowie; they welcome visitors Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The National Capital Radio Museum (visit www.ncrtv.org or call 301-390-1020) and the Prince George's Genealogical Library (visit www.pgcs.org or call 301-262-2063) are also located in Bowie and lease space from the City of Bowie. Call or visit their websites for open hours and more information.

State of the City 2015

Mayor G. Frederick Robinson delivered his annual State of the City speech on January 28, 2015. He reported that, "our conservative budget is balanced, our bills are paid, and we maintain a strong reserve... We pride ourselves on our commitment to fiscal responsibility and to the retention of our prestigious triple AAA bond rating, a designation that only a handful of municipalities in the state of Maryland can claim." View the full text of his speech at www.cityofbowie.org.

Events

2/6 - 2/22 – "I Hate Hamlet" at Bowie Playhouse A young and successful television actor relocates to New York, where he rents a marvelous, gothic apartment. With his television career in limbo, the actor is offered the opportunity to play Hamlet onstage, but there's one problem: he hates Hamlet. His dilemma deepens with the entrance of John Barrymore's ghost, who arrives intoxicated and in full costume to the apartment that once was his. The contrast between the two actors, the towering, dissipated Barrymore whose Hamlet was the greatest of his time, and Andrew Rally, hot young television star, leads to a wildly funny duel over women, art, success, duty, television, and yes, the apartment. This show is produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, call 301-858-7245 or visit www.2ndstarproductions.com.

2/7 “Leash Cutting” Ceremony at City Hall at 9 a.m. for expanded animal holding area, where cats and dogs picked up by Bowie Animal Control can be taken when their owners can’t be contacted. See news item above for more information.

2/10 – “Betsy Ross vs. Mary Pickersgill - The Legend and the Ghost” - Second Tuesday Lecture – 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Annalise Montone will discuss some interesting Star Spangled Banner history at this free lecture. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

2/12 - 4/2 – Belly Dancing at the Senior Center – Thursdays, 2 - 3 p.m. Register by 2/5. \$40 for residents and \$48 for nonresidents. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/13 – Friendship Day/Open House – 12:30 - 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. This event is an opportunity to celebrate friendship and the Bowie Senior Center’s programs and activities. There will be live entertainment, light refreshments and tours. Join us! For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/14 - Red Heart Sale at Belair Mansion – Enjoy 20% off selected items at Belair Mansion Gift Shop. The Mansion and the shop are open Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m.

2/17 – Kids Kaboose - 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad stories and fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

2/17 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. This meeting is being held on a Tuesday, because of the Monday holiday.

2/23 – African Americans and Dance Over the Past 100 Years at the Senior Center – 12:30 p.m. The Center will present a discussion about dance and its roots, traditions, and influences in African American culture. Join us as we look back at a history of change. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/25 – Armchair Tour – Greece, Crete and Cyprus at the Senior Center – 12:30 p.m. Join host Frank Evans as he takes on a tour of these historic cities of Greece, Crete, the major islands of Cyclades, and the contested island of Cyprus. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/26 – All About Pain Medications: Risks, Benefits and Weaning at the Senior Center – 10:30 a.m. With nearly a third of Americans living with chronic pain, it is important to learn proper treatment methods. Join us as Dr. Carey Walter Closson of the National Spine & Pain Center addresses precautions when using opiate medications. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/27 – Fun Sudoku Workshop at the Senior Center – 10 and 11 a.m. Curious about the popular number puzzle Sudoku? If you can count to nine, you can master this game. We will explore strategies for more challenging puzzles. Free, but bring your pencils...and erasers! For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/28 – “Games People Played” at the Belair Mansion. Try your hand at games from the past during open hours (noon to 4 p.m.) at the Mansion.