

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: March 19, 2015

1. Wal-Mart Special Exception Oral Argument

The District Council has scheduled Oral Argument on the appeal of the Zoning Hearing Examiner's decision of DENIAL of Special Exception 4734 for the proposed Wal-Mart at Mill Branch Crossing. Under the County's Zoning Ordinance, Special Exception approval is required for a department or variety store exceeding 125,000 square feet. A store containing 186,933 square feet is proposed on a 25-acre parcel in the C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) zone. The Oral Argument hearing will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The Zoning Hearing Examiner issued her decision in late January; the attorney for Wal-Mart filed an appeal on February 20, 2015.

2. Use Water Wisely Workshop

To provide awareness about the need for saving water, Bowie's Green Team is hosting a free Use Water Wisely Workshop. The workshop will be held on March 23, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at City Hall. Information about where water in Bowie comes from and about management of those water resources will be provided, and it will be a great opportunity to learn what water conservation is and why it is needed. The workshop will also start promotion of My Water Pledge. This is a friendly competition between cities across the U.S. to see who can be the most "water-wise." Residents may choose to conserve water on behalf of their city through a series of informative, easy-to-use pledges online. More information can be found at www.mywaterpledge.com.

3. Bowie Solar Co-op

The Bowie Solar Co-op is being organized by the City of Bowie, Community Power Network (CPN), and CPN's project MD SUN. Based on the same principle as buying in bulk, members of the co-op select a contractor and purchase solar systems together to save 20 - 30% in cost. They also have the support of the co-op throughout the process instead of having to go it alone. Two information sessions have been held at City Hall for interested members, one on January 14th and one on March 14th, with 180 overall attendees. Currently, there are 61 people signed up to install solar panels as part of the co-op, and on March 10th, members met and reviewed bids from solar installers. They selected the bid from Sustainable Energy Systems. Even though the installer has now been selected and the discount set, additional members living in Bowie or in a neighboring community in Maryland are still welcome to join, but must sign up by April

30th. More information can be found at <http://mdsun.org/bowie-solar-coop/>.

4. NetMotion

The Information Technology Department must replace the current hardware and perform a software upgrade to provide secure remote access for staff. It has been determined NetMotion delivers a Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution which will provide secure access to various applications. Staff reviewed bids for this item and found the State of Maryland Commercial Off-the-Shelf Software 2012 contract 060B2490021. This contract will be honored by HCGI, located in Columbia, MD, for \$33,483.00. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice to City Council of the intention to make such a purchase. This cost is covered by cable franchise revenue.

5. Stream Cleanup - Saturday, March 28

Though there is snow in tomorrow’s forecast, it is almost time for our spring stream cleanup. We invite each of you to join us and about 75 others on Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 a.m. for our 14th cleanup. The list of streams to be cleaned and the meeting places are noted in the table below (two sites are still tentative). There is still time to register, which is needed to ensure the proper amount of supplies at each site, so please share this information with your constituents.

Neighborhood/ Section	Stream	Meet-up Site
Buckingham	White Marsh Branch	Buckingham Drive near Bradford Lane
Collington Station*	Lower Collington Branch	Jennings Mill Drive stream crossing south of Jodphur Drive
Covington Manor and Townes	Mill Branch	Ruby Tuesday parking lot (walk to stream behind Covington Plaza)
Heather Hills	Green Branch	Holiday Lane pump station
Meadowbrook	Millstream Branch	Free State Shopping Ctr. (behind Giant)
Fairview*	Horsepen Branch	Gallery Street (near end of cul-de-sac)
Pointer Ridge	Middle Collington Branch	Perrell Lane at Powell Lane
Pointer Ridge	Middle Collington Branch	Peach Walker Drive at Panther Lane
<i>*tentative site</i>		