

# Bowie News Flash

**April 2015**

## **News**

### **Keep the Lights On!**

The City is responsible for the maintenance of most street lights in Bowie and uses a contractor to perform the repairs. But we need your help to identify and report where the lights are out or malfunctioning. There are several ways you can do this:

- Use our online Service Request System
- Email Jackie Tayman at [jtayman@cityofbowie.org](mailto:jtayman@cityofbowie.org)
- Call 301-809-2332

No matter what the method you use to report the problem, please be prepared to provide:

- The address nearest the pole
- The pole number (found about five feet up the pole)
- Your name and contact information so we can follow-up with you or obtain further information if necessary.

In general it is our goal to have street light outages replaced within 2 business days of them being reported. However, when a pole has been knocked down it could take up to 5 business days to get it replaced, and when the repair involves a problem with the underground cable supplying power to the pole, it may take up to 7 business days to complete, since it requires locating all the underground utilities in the area before digging can begin.

### **Refuse Truck Fires**

The safety of our employees is a top priority for the City of Bowie and it is a shared responsibility that starts right at your trash can and recycling cart. Over the last six months, the trash inside three City refuse trucks has caught fire. Fortunately, the quick thinking and prompt action of the three drivers prevented injury and avoided costly vehicle repairs. Before you discard anything, think about whether the item could cause a fire or an explosion. Some examples include hot fireplace ashes, flammable chemicals, oil based paints, and propane tanks. If an item poses such a danger, do not put it out for collection. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 301-809-2344 to learn how to properly dispose of the dangerous item.

### **City Council Begins Fiscal 2015 Budget Deliberations in April**

The City Council will begin its annual review of the Proposed Budget for the coming fiscal year with a series of Budget Worksessions, which are open to the public. See the Worksession schedule below under Events.

### Hydrant Flushing Begins April 6

The Bowie Public Works Department will soon begin the annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing will occur from approximately 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., according to the following schedule:

APRIL 6 & 7	Buckingham, Derbyshire and Forest Drive
APRIL 8 & 9	Somerset and Bowie Forest
APRIL 10 & 13	Tulip Grove
APRIL 14 & 15	Foxhill & Long Ridge
APRIL 16 – 20	Kenilworth
APRIL 21	Heather Hills
APRIL 22 - 24	Meadowbrook
APRIL 27	Gradys Walk & Glenridge
APRIL 28	Chapel Forge
APRIL 29	Victoria Heights Section & Race Track Rd Townhouses
APRIL 30	Idlewild
MAY 1	Yorktown & Overbrook
MAY 4	Whitehall
MAY 5	Rockledge

When flushing is underway in your area, some discoloration of your water may occur and clothes washing is discouraged. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment buildup in the water lines and is not harmful. The discoloration should clear in approximately 24 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could affect your water as well. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

### April is National Fair Housing Month

The Fair Housing Act was written into law under Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of religion, disability, gender, national origin, race or color, or familial status. During the month of April, the City's Office of Grant Development and Administration will host several educational activities related to the rights and obligations under the Act for tenants, landlords and others, including businesses, real estate companies, and homeowner associations (HOAs).

On April 17, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. there will be a Fair Housing Symposium at City Hall for HOA management, real estate brokers, landlords, developers, and rental property managers on fair housing laws and best practices. In addition, the City will broadcast several educational public service announcements on the government channel (Verizon 10/Comcast 71) and the Bowie public access channel (Verizon 11/Comcast 77). To learn more about the Fair Housing Act, your right to fair housing, and related activities, please visit [www.cityofbowie.org/grants](http://www.cityofbowie.org/grants). You may also email your questions to [Bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org](mailto:Bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org).

**Plant a Tree this Spring**

Tree rebates of \$50 and \$100 are available on a first come, first served basis for City of Bowie residents who would like to purchase up to two trees at Patuxent Nursery (located at 2410 Crain Highway in Bowie). There are ten species of trees eligible for rebates as well as lowered delivery/planting rates for program participants. Details of this program can be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate](http://www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate) and applications are available at the nursery. There are still plenty of rebates available!

**Bowie Green Expo - Saturday, April 11**

The City of Bowie and the Bowie Lions Club will host the Annual Bowie Green Expo on Saturday, April 11, 1 - 4 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. This event focuses on presenting information, practices, and products dedicated to helping us all lead greener lives. For more information, visit our website at [www.bowiegreenexpo.org](http://www.bowiegreenexpo.org).

**Bowie Earth Day Concert & Art Exhibit**

To celebrate Earth Day, Bowie's Green Team is hosting a family-friendly concert featuring four musical groups performing nature related music and a local student art exhibit that focuses on the theme "Energy". A silent film on nature and the environment by local award winning filmmaker, Ms. Kali Belden, will be displayed as a backdrop during the musical performances. Musical groups scheduled to perform are Category 5 Flute Quartet lead by Caitlyn Callahan, The Choraleers lead by Craig Sparks, Suzuki Cello Studio lead by Irma Cripe, and the SGI Japanese Taiko Drummers lead by Amanda Gardner. This free event will be held at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., and no tickets are required.

**Reminder: No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste**

As you begin to clean up and fix up your yard this spring, remember that yard waste cannot be put in plastic bags for curbside pickup. The ban on plastic bags for yard waste went into effect in 2014 when the County yard waste recycling facility where the City disposes of its yard waste stopped accepting yard waste in plastic bags.

Yard waste is picked up on Wednesdays throughout the City. Branches up to three inches in diameter must be tied and bundled or placed in paper bags or cans. Larger limbs can be stacked at the curb. They must be cut into 18 - 24 inch long sections, and can be no greater than 24 inches in diameter and weigh no more than 50 pounds each. All other yard waste must be placed in paper bags or trash cans. Large, heavy duty paper bags can be purchased at local stores. Cans, bags and bundles of limbs must weigh no more than 50 pounds each.

Do not use the blue recycling carts or bins for yard waste and please remember that yard waste cannot be included with your regular trash. However trash may still be put in plastic bags. Questions about yard waste collection should be directed to the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

### **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

The 2014 City of Bowie Water Quality Report is now available. Please go to [www.cityofbowie.org/wqr](http://www.cityofbowie.org/wqr) to view it and learn more about the source and quality of your City of Bowie drinking water. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please call 301-809-3060.

### **Rent Office Space at Kenhill Center**

Office space is available for rent to nonprofits at the Kenhill Center. For more information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org), call 301-809-3014 or email [shein@cityofbowie.org](mailto:shein@cityofbowie.org).

### **Street Sweeping is Underway**

Beginning in the spring and running through summer and fall, each City street is cleaned several times by a street sweeper. When sweeping is scheduled for your neighborhood, please park in driveways rather than the streets, whenever possible. The schedule for April is below. The complete schedule can be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/streetsweeping](http://www.cityofbowie.org/streetsweeping).

***Week of March 30<sup>th</sup>:** Amber Meadows, Ashleigh, Ashleigh Station, Greystone, Pointer Ridge, Ridgeview Estates, Tall Oaks, Ternberry, Woodmore Estates*

***Week of April 6<sup>th</sup>:** Allen Pond, Collington Manor, Covington Manor, Enfield, Enfield Chase Townhomes, Glen Allen, Mitchellville East, Northview, Oak Pond, Oaktree, Palisades, Peach Preserve, Pin Oak Village*

***Week of April 13<sup>th</sup>:** Collington Station, Devonshire, Dixons Crossing, Fairview, Gradys Walk, Grovehurst, Highbridge Park, Adnell Woods, Huntington, Northridge, Spring Meadows, Stewarts Landing, Westview, Hamptons at Woodmore, Woodmore Highlands*

***Week of April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Belair Town I, Meadowbrook, Belair Greens, Somerset*

***Week of April 27<sup>th</sup>:** Belair Town II, Chapel Forge, Idlewild, Long Leaf, Old Stage, Overbrook, Patuxent Overlook, Saddlebrook, Tulip Grove, Victoria Heights, Yorktown*

### **2015 Mosquito Control Program**

The City of Bowie works with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to keep the mosquito population in control. If you believe there is a problem with mosquitoes in your neighborhood, please contact our Public Works Department at 301-809-2344. Larviciding begins in the spring in areas where there is stagnant water and spraying occurs in spring and summer as needed on Tuesday (in north Bowie) and Wednesday (in south Bowie) evenings from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

### **Severe Weather**

Now that winter is finally departing, we are approaching the season for tornadoes, hurricanes and tropical storms. If one of these severe storms were to strike Bowie today, would you have the information and supplies you need to help you and your family get through the disaster safely? Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/emergencyprep](http://www.cityofbowie.org/emergencyprep) for tips, links, and contacts to help you be better prepared.

**Reuniting Stray Pets with their Owners**

Bowie pet owners can receive email and text messages through Alert Bowie 2.0 when Bowie Animal Control has picked up a pet and can't reach the owner or can't determine who the owner is. To sign up for Pet Pickup messages or any other messages sent through the Alert Bowie system, go to [www.cityofbowie.org/alerts](http://www.cityofbowie.org/alerts) or call Una Cooper at 301-809-3032 for assistance. Bowie Animal Control also posts photos and descriptions of stray pets it picks up on its Facebook page. Follow the page by going to [www.facebook.com/bowieanimalcontrol](http://www.facebook.com/bowieanimalcontrol).

Using these two methods, and with the new animal holding area at City Hall, we hope to reunite pets more quickly with their owners, reduce the number of animals being transported to the County Animal Management Facility, and minimize the trauma to the pet and pet owner.

**Information Wanted**

The Bowie Police Department publishes Information Wanted Notices when they need your help with solving a crime or identifying a suspect who may have been caught on a surveillance camera during a crime. You can view these notices at [www.cityofbowie.org/wanted](http://www.cityofbowie.org/wanted).

**City Hall Art Gallery**

The new exhibit at the City Hall Art Gallery is *Flora and Fauna*. It features photography, sculpture, and paintings by a number of artists. Come see the gallery. There's a tiger that almost jumps out of the frame, a cute frog sculpture, and more animals, and flowers that make you rejoice that spring is here. The City Hall Art Gallery is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to noon.

**Pipe Insurance**

From time to time, various companies will contact City residents to offer insurance for the water and sewer lines located on private property. The City of Bowie is not associated with any of these companies and does not endorse or recommend any particular insurance they may provide. City of Bowie Water customers can read the City's statement on pipe insurance at [www.cityofbowie.org/pressreleases](http://www.cityofbowie.org/pressreleases). WSSC customers can find more information on the subject at <https://www.wsscwater.com/customer-service/residential-tips/household-leak-detection/leak-insurance.html>

**Bridge Closure**

County Councilmember Todd Turner has notified the City that Prince George's County will be closing the bridge over the Patuxent River at Governor's Bridge Road this week due to some structural concerns.

## Events

**4/3 – Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the City Gym. For more information, call 1-800-REDCROSS.

**4/6 – 4/10 – Spring Break Nike Basketball Camp** – at the City Gym. Coed camp for ages 6 - 17. For more information and registration, visit [www.ussportscamps.com/basketball](http://www.ussportscamps.com/basketball) or call 1-800-NIKECAMP.

**4/6 – Regular City Council Meeting** – 8 p.m. at City Hall.

**4/7 – Colonial Afternoon: Work and Play** – 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Drop-in program. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**4/9 – Health Presentation: Memory Loss** – 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

**4/10 – 4/25 – *Flyin' West* at Bowie Playhouse** Following the end of the Civil War, many former slaves, anxious to leave the South and the increasing disappointments and dangers of Reconstruction, took advantage of the Homestead Act and went West to build new lives for themselves and their families. Set in 1898, *Flyin' West* is the story of some of these African-American female pioneers who settled, together, in the all-black town of Nicodemus, Kansas. Produced by Bowie Community Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets, visit [www.bctheatre.com](http://www.bctheatre.com) or call 301-805-0219.

**4/11 – Green Expo** – 1 - 4 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. This event focuses presenting information, practices, and products dedicated to helping us all lead greener lives. For more information, visit [www.bowiegreenexpo.org](http://www.bowiegreenexpo.org).

**4/13 – Special City Council Meeting - Budget Introduction followed by Budget Worksession #1** – 8 p.m. at City Hall. The following portions of the Budget will be reviewed: General Fund Revenues, CIP, and Capital Projects Fund.

**4/14 – Second Tuesday Lecture – *Of Rails and Rice: Ecology of Wild Rice Marshes on the Patuxent River*** – 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**4/18 – Camp Fair at the Gym – 10 - 2 p.m.** The City of Bowie Gymnasium and Chesapeake Family Magazine are co-hosting this one day Camp and Activity Fair on April 18, Discover a variety of overnight, local and out-of-state summer experiences including tennis, sailing, horseback riding, and specialty camps such as dance, music, nature and karate.

**4/18 – Celebrate Arbor Day** – 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park. This event celebrates the importance of trees to our community. It will include short presentations and a tree planting. For more information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or [rkellner@cityofbowie.org](mailto:rkellner@cityofbowie.org).

**4/18 – Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit** – 7 p.m. at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

**4/20 – City Council Budget Worksession #2** – 8 p.m. at City Hall. The following portions of the Budget will be reviewed: Public Works Department and the Water and Sewer Fund.

**4/21 – Kids Kaboose** - 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun, trainspotting, and games for youngsters ages 1-10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**4/21 – Hot Topics: Walk With a Doctor** – 5:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

**4/25 – Spring Plant Sale** – 8 a.m. at Bowie Library on Annapolis Road (MD 450). Sponsored by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Green Team. Buy mums, perennials, houseplants, etc. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

**4/27 – Lecture: Annapolis History, Treaty of Paris** – 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

**4/27 – City Council Budget Worksession #3** – 8 p.m. at City Hall. The budget of the Community Services Department will be discussed.

**5/1 – Senior Law Day** – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Attorneys will be on hand to answer questions about Power of Attorney, Living Wills, and Advance Directives and help draft these documents at no cost to seniors. An appointment is required and spaces fill up quickly. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Center at 301-809-2300.