

Bowie News Flash

May 2015

News

Demolition of Bowie Marketplace Has Begun

The long awaited rebuilding of the Bowie Marketplace takes a big step forward this month with demolition of the existing structures at the shopping center. Demolition work began on Monday, April 27 and should be done in about 60 days. The entire demolition and redevelopment of the center is expected to take about two years to complete.

Hydrant Flushing Ends May 5

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

April 28 Chapel Forge

April 29 Victoria Heights & Race Track Road Townhouses

April 30 Idlewild

May 1 Yorktown & Overbrook

May 4 Whitehall

May 5 Rockledge

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 will be 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, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

Police Warn About Debit/Credit Card Fraud

The Bowie Police Department has seen an increase in reported credit card/debit card fraud recently. Thieves obtain card information through a variety of means and transplant it onto blank magnetic strip cards to make purchases. The Department has some strategies to help prevent you from becoming a victim or to help you recognize the signs of card fraud early. View these tips at www.cityofbowie.org/police. You may also want to contact your bank for more information.

Routine Pole Inspections in Progress by BGE

BGE is currently conducting routine inspections and maintenance on the electric poles in Bowie to identify issues that could affect the system's reliability and add years of service to older poles. In many cases, the pole will simply be visually inspected; however, some poles will be treated with Department of Agriculture-tested and approved treatments to discourage insect encroachment. In a very small amount of cases, the poles will be repaired or replaced.

Most inspections will occur on county or municipal property. BGE's contractor, Osmose, will also inspect electric pole(s) located on private property. BGE does not expect service to be interrupted as a result of its work; however, potential pole replacements may require a planned outage. If this is required, BGE will notify customers in advance. Please note that at no time will the crew need to enter any private residence. BGE will work to minimize possible inconveniences and preserve the character of the area. Please call 1-800-685-0123 and reference the Osmose pole inspection program if you have any questions or comments.

Plant a Tree This Spring for Beauty, Shade, and Privacy

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 to plant on their property. Trees must be purchased at Patuxent Nursery (2410 Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD), and there are 10 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 and applications are available at the nursery. There are still plenty of rebates available. Call 301-809-3044 for additional information.

Certify Your Yard as a NWF Wildlife Habitat for Free!

If you haven't certified your yard as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Wildlife Habitat yet, now is a great time. Usually, it costs \$20 to certify your yard, but the City of Bowie is reimbursing the certification fee for up to 50 homeowners. Go to www.cityofbowie.org/habitat to learn more about the certification and the NWF application. Then email or mail the receipt of your application certification fee along with your name, address, and phone number to klarson@cityofbowie.org or Ms. Kristin Larson, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. If you need assistance applying online or have any questions about this program, call 301-809-3044.

Farmers' Market Opens Sunday, May 17, 2015

Join us for the Bowie Farmers' Market Opening Day on Sunday, May 17, 2015 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Market vendors will offer fresh locally grown produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants, breads, pastries, jams, jellies and more. The Market will operate in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road on Sundays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., through October 25, 2015. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Celebrate Heritage Day May 17, 2015

Enjoy pony rides and music at Belair Stable, a puppet show at Belair Mansion, model trains at the Railroad Museum...all **free**...all fun...from 12 - 4 p.m. at all City museum sites on Sunday, May 17. For more information, please contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Memorial Day Weekend Parade – Saturday, May 23, 2015

The Parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the Bowie High School Annex (3021 Belair Drive). Participants will march along Belair Drive to Sussex Lane, to Stonybrook Drive to Sage Lane. The reviewing stand, along with concession stands and restrooms, will be located in Acorn Hill Park on Stonybrook Drive. So bring your flags, family and friends, and wear red, white and blue, and show your hometown pride! For more information, go to www.cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3078.

Sunday Sunset Concert Series Begin May 24

Concerts are held every Sunday 7 - 8 p.m. throughout the summer. They are canceled in case of inclement weather. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/concerts or call 301-809-3078 or email mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Become a Mentor

Bowie Youth and Family Services Teen Mentoring Program is accepting Mentor applications for the 2015-2016 school year. For more information or to apply, please contact Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033.

New and Gently Used Children's Books Needed

The Bowie Education Committee is collecting books to be given to children at Bowiefest on June 6. For more information or to donate, please contact Community Outreach Specialist Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

City Beautification Awards

The City, in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, is accepting nominations for the Annual Beautification Awards. Anyone can nominate a home or townhouse, business, school, or specialty garden that reflects the beauty of Bowie. All nominations must be for locations within the corporate limits of Bowie. For more information or to obtain a nomination form, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/beautification or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Flora and Fauna

The current City Hall Art Gallery exhibit runs through June 19. It is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are City Hall hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Administrative Office Associate – Animal Control (closes May 8th)
- Parks Crew Leader – Parks and Grounds Division (closes May 6th)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for more information.

Events

5/1 - 16 – “Suite Surrender” at Bowie Playhouse Produced by Prince George’s Little Theatre. For tickets and information, visit www.pgl.t.org or call 301-937-7458.

5/2 – Saturday Concert Series – 40 Dollar Fine (Spring Street Festival) 4 - 6 p.m., Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564), Old Town Bowie. The next concert will be held on 6/20 and each Saturday thereafter until 8/8. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather. For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

5/3 – Weed Warrior Work Day 2 - 5 p.m. at Whitemarsh Park. The City’s Green Team is in need of volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. This is an outdoor activity that requires cutting the ivy vines at eye-level and foot-level, then pulling them back about two feet from the base of the tree and bagging them. To participate, please register by contacting Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org. This is an excellent Student Service Learning (SSL) activity.

5/4 – City Council Meeting - Public Hearing on Budget & Capital Improvements Program and Constant Yield Tax Rate 8 p.m. at City Hall.

5/5 – City Council Budget Worksession #4 8 p.m. at City Hall. Worksession includes a review of the budgets for the City Manager’s Office, Police Department, Finance Department and Nondepartmental.

5/11 – Toddler Time Travelers 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Stable. Ages 2 - 5. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/11 – Patriotic Variety Show at the Senior Center

5/11 – City Council Budget Worksession #5 8 p.m. at City Hall. Worksession includes the budgets of the Planning and Economic Development Department, Information Technology Department, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, Appendix, and Wrap-up.

5/13 – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture – The Governor’s Quilt Project 12 - 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/14 – Senior Chorale Concert 1 p.m. at the Bowie Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/15 – Bike to Work Day 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. Pit Stops at Bowie Town Center Food Court and Old Town Bowie Fire Station, 9th Street. Join thousands of area commuters and show your support for bicycling by taking part in a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. Register at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org or by calling 1-800-745-7433. Register by May 8th for a free t-shirt and to be entered in the bike raffle. For more information, contact Frank Stevens in the City’s Planning Department at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.

5/16 – Prescription Drug Take Back Day 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road. Safely dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and over the counter medications at this event sponsored by the Bowie Police Department. For more information, call 301-575-2480.

5/16 – “The Handwriting’s on the Wall” - a Genealogy Program hosted by the City of Bowie in cooperation with the Prince George’s Genealogical Society 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/17 – Farmers’ Market Opening Day 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Parking Lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School. Market vendors will offer fresh locally grown produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants, breads, pastries, jams, jellies and more. The Market takes place on Sundays through October 25, 2014. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

5/17 – Annual Bowie Heritage Day 12 - 4 p.m. Enjoy pony rides and music at Belair Stable, a puppet show at Belair Mansion, and model trains at the Railroad Musuem. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/18 – City Council Meeting - Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program 8 p.m. at City Hall.

5/19 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1-10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/20 – Senior Chorale Concert 7:30 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets for the performance may be obtained at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/23 – Memorial Day Weekend Parade 11 a.m. at Bowie High School Annex, 3021 Belair Drive. The Parade will proceed along Belair Drive to Sussex Lane, to Stonybrook Drive to Sage Lane. The reviewing stand, along with concession stands and restrooms, will be located in Acorn Hill Park on Stonybrook Drive. For information, go to www.cityofbowie.org/parade or call 301-809-3078.

5/24 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – Rise Band and Show 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. These concerts offer relaxing entertainment for the entire family. All concerts are free. They are canceled in case of inclement weather. For the full summer concert schedule visit www.cityofbowie.org/concerts. For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

5/25 – Memorial Day Holiday City offices are closed on this date. There will be no trash or recycling pickup on the holiday. Collection will be on your next regularly scheduled day.

5/27 - 29 – Get Into the Act: Senior Information and Referral Fair On 5/27 and 5/28, there will be information sessions hosted by experts on a variety of topics of interest to seniors and those who care for them. On Friday, 5/29 there will be a Showcase of Vendors. This event is open to the public. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/27, 6/2, 6/4 – AARP Smart Driver Class For more information and to register, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/29 - 6/27 – “Kiss Me Kate” at Bowie Playhouse Produced by 2nd Star Productions. For tickets and information, visit www.2ndstarproductions.com or call 301-832-4819.

5/31 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Navy Country Current 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. These concerts offer relaxing entertainment for the entire family. All concerts are free. They are canceled in case of inclement weather. For the full summer concert schedule, visit www.cityofbowie.org/concerts. For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.