



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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No City-sponsored Fireworks this Fourth of July

There will be no City-sponsored fireworks display in Bowie in 2015. For the last few years the City's free Fourth of July celebration has taken place at Prince George's Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox and has included a free concert and fireworks display. This year, the Baysox have a home game scheduled on the Fourth of July, so they are not able to provide the stadium to the City for the event.

In 2012, the City of Bowie teamed up with the Bowie Baysox organization to bring what it hoped was a new Fourth of July tradition to Bowie, when City-sponsored fireworks were moved to the Prince George's Stadium and the fireworks display was combined with a fun and entertaining concert by the Fabulous Hubcaps. The change of venue was necessary because Allen Pond Park, which had been the scene of Fourth of July celebrations for decades, had become too small and too difficult to manage from a crowd perspective.

Unfortunately, the Bowie Baysox organization informed the City earlier this year that due to a home stand this Fourth of July weekend, the Baysox would be unable to offer their stadium to the City for a Fourth of July celebration and fireworks display. This was an extremely disappointing turn of events for City officials who have hosted a Fourth of July celebration in Bowie for more than 40 years and who had been assured that the annual game schedule could accommodate a night for the City-sponsored celebration. After evaluating potential alternative sites and finding them lacking, the City has reluctantly made a decision to forego City-sponsored fireworks in 2015.

Bowie's Mayor Fred Robinson and other City officials are unhappy and disappointed about what has happened, but it could not be helped. "This is not a conclusion that was reached easily. Bowie fireworks have been a long-standing Bowie tradition and one of those special hometown events that we have treasured as a way to celebrate the founding of our great nation. We will miss hosting the celebration this year and are very sorry to disappoint our residents."

City staff has compiled a list of fireworks displays taking place in the area, which can be found on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/fireworks and they are already exploring alternatives for 2016 and beyond, including going back to Prince George's Stadium, but for 2015 there will be no City-sponsored fireworks in Bowie.

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