

Bowie News Flash

August 2015

News

Emergency Repairs to Close MD 197 SB Near Bowie State University This Weekend

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) provided the following message to the City of Bowie about the closure of MD 197 southbound this weekend:

Beginning this Friday night (July 31st) at 7 p.m. (weather permitting), MDOT/SHA will temporarily close southbound MD 197 (Laurel Bowie Road) at the intersection of Race Track Road in Bowie. All lanes will reopen no later than 5 a.m. on Monday morning.

Recently, a 24-inch pipe at the site failed and a new pipe will be installed. During the closure, crews will perform excavation to abandon the old, failed pipe and install a new pipe. SHA placed electronic message signs earlier this week advising of the upcoming \$50,000 emergency pipe repair and road closure.

Motorists should use the approved and signed detour route of MD 564 (Lanham Severn Road), MD 193 (Glenn Dale Boulevard) and MD 450 (Annapolis Road). Drivers are advised to add extra travel time. The left turn lane from northbound MD 197 onto westbound MD 564 will be closed; northbound through lanes will remain open for travel.

National Night Out Against Crime – Tuesday, August 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Learn about crime prevention, have some fun, and meet your local law enforcement officers at Bowie's National Night Out Against Crime at Allen Pond Park. There will be information booths, demonstrations, activities for the kids, and free giveaways. For more information, contact Officer Bennie Henderson at 301-575-1824 or email bhenderson@cityofbowie.org.

Bicycle Registration Program

At this year's National Night Out Against Crime the Bowie Police Department will kick off its new bicycle registration program, which will help bike owners recover their bikes if they are lost or stolen. Bowie residents who bring their bikes to the National Night Out event can register them that evening. The process involves completing some paperwork, having a photo of the bike taken, and getting the model and serial number recorded. Registrants will be given a registration number sticker for their bike, which is tied to a national bike registry database. Those who do not have their bikes with them at National Night Out, can fill out a registration form online at www.cityofbowie.org/bikeregistry and then bring the bike to the Bowie Police Department on Wednesdays from 4 - 6 p.m. to complete the registration process and receive their sticker.

Citizens' Police Academy

The Bowie Police Department is introducing a new way for the average resident to gain a better understanding of how the department functions. Applications are now being accepted for the initial class of the Citizens' Police Academy, which will take place over the course of nine Tuesday evening sessions this fall. Topics will include, but are not limited to, tactical technical training, internal investigations, judgement enhanced training, citizen police interaction, and media relations. Complete the application online at www.cityofbowie.org/citizenacademy. For more information, please email cops@cityofbowie.org or call 301-575-2480.

Bowie Police Offer Free Self-Defense Training for Women

Women of all ages can learn strategies to better protect themselves with Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Training from the Bowie Police Department. Each training class consists of six three-hour sessions. Classes take place on Monday or Wednesday nights (6:30 - 9:30 p.m.) and run for six weeks beginning in October. Classes are free to Bowie residents but space is limited. For more information or to register, call 301-575-2015 or email cops@cityofbowie.org.

Still Have Questions about the Ban on Recycling Plastic Bags and Film at Curbside?

Due to a change at the Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility where Bowie takes its recycling loads, as of July 1, 2015, plastic bags and plastic film can no longer be included with your curbside recycling. The plastic bags were clogging the machinery and causing pollution near the facility so the facility has banned them from recycling loads.

We realize that this ban has made disposing of plastic bags a little more inconvenient, but we hope that you will recycle the bags at a local retailer or take reusable bags with you when you do your shopping, so that the volume of plastic bags going into landfills does not increase. You can find a list of retailers that will take bags and other plastic sheeting at www.cityofbowie.org/plasticbags or visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org and plug in your Zip Code for a list of establishments in your area that will accept plastic bags and sheeting for recycling.

All of the retailers listed will accept plastic grocery bags and most will also take other kinds of plastic bags or sheeting, such as Ziploc bags and dry cleaning bags. However, not every type of bag or plastic sheeting can be recycled at these locations. For example, bags that contained frozen vegetables or mulch are not recyclable at most retailers, nor is cling plastic like Saran Wrap. Please read our Frequently Asked Questions on Plastic Bags for all of the details on what can and can't be recycled. It can be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org/plasticbagsFAQ.

Beat the Heat at the Bowie Ice Arena

The Ice Arena reopened last month after a two-month hiatus for maintenance. The facility offers camps, group lessons, public sessions, birthday parties, pickup hockey, pickup figure skating and stick & puck sessions. Summer skating camps are underway. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena or call 301-809-3090.

City Gym Maintenance

The City Gym will be closed for annual maintenance August 24 - September 7. The Gym will reopen September 8. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Wanted: City Election Chief Judges, Judges and Alternates

Chief Judges, Judges and Alternate Judges are needed for the City of Bowie Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Judges must be registered to vote in City elections. Preference will be given to persons having experience. All judges who are selected to serve must attend a training session (date to be determined).

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day and judges will be on duty from approximately 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. A Chief Judge will supervise the Judges at each polling place. The Chief Judges will receive \$150 and Judges will receive \$120 for their duties on Election Day. In addition, all Judges will receive \$10 for the training session and for any additional meetings they are required to attend.

Interested Bowie residents must fill out an application, which can be found on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/elections or may be obtained at City Hall. Submit completed applications to: City Clerk, Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716 or via email to ahernandez@cityofbowie.org. For information, call the City Clerk at 301-809-3029. The application deadline is September 30, 2015.

Police Softball Game Benefits Special Olympics

Following the August 2nd 2:05 p.m. Bowie Baysox vs. Trenton Thunder game, watch the Prince George's County Police All-Stars take on the Bowie Police All-Stars at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per ticket (includes both games) and all proceeds support Special Olympics. For more information, contact Sgt. Bennie Henderson at 301-575-1824 or bhenderson@cityofbowie.org.

Check Out the Bowie Farmers' Market

Market vendors offer fresh locally grown produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants, breads, pastries, jams, jellies, meat and more. The market operates 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.

Energy Audit Program

Save money and improve the comfort of your home with a no-cost BGE comprehensive energy audit (valued at \$100) available for Bowie homeowners. Complete an application online at www.cityofbowie.org/eap or in the Planning Department at City Hall Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Grant Applications

Each fall, the City awards grants for education and for the arts to schools, parent-teacher organizations, other local organizations, and individuals who are working to enhance educational opportunities for students in Bowie schools and to foster an appreciation of the arts. Applications for the 2015 - 2016 year will be available at www.cityofbowie.org/forms after August 10th and will be due in mid-October.

Calling All Artists

The City's Arts Committee will jury two shows in August for upcoming exhibits: *Bowie: Past and Present* (entry forms and digital submissions due August 15) and *City Scapes* (entry forms and digital submissions due August 28). Forms and requirements for exhibiting can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/arts. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or email aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

Community Cats

Community cats are free-roaming cats seen in communities nationwide. These cats are stray, lost, or abandoned. Some may be friendly, though many are unsocialized, feral and cannot be adopted.

The City of Bowie adopted Resolution R-70-14 on November 17, 2014 endorsing TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) as the best non-lethal program for resolving community cat issues. If you need help with cats in your community, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/cats for information. There you will find tips for addressing nuisance cat problems, contacts for local community cat groups, and you can learn about renting a humane deterrent device for discouraging cats from your property. You can also call the Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002 for more information.

Fourth Annual Public Safety Awards

The Bowie Public Safety Award Program was created to honor those who protect the people of Bowie as first responder public safety professionals, whether serving in career or volunteer capacities. Award categories include: the Mayor's Award for Community Service, the Distinguished Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award, the Leadership Award, the Business Partnership Award, and the Lewis Award of Valor. This program is sponsored by the City of Bowie Public Safety Committee and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. If you would like to nominate a first responder for one of these awards, please contact David Emanuel, Executive Director of the Chamber at 301-262-0920. The award ceremony will take place on August 21st from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Bowie Comfort Inn and Conference Center. For ticket information, visit the Chamber website at www.bowiechamber.org.

Job Opening

The City of Bowie is accepting applications for the following position:

Municipal Services Worker

Parks and Grounds Division of Community Services

Application deadline: August 7, 2015

For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Volunteer Mentor Opportunity: The City of Bowie Youth & Family Services Prevention Network is now accepting applications for its mentoring program. As a volunteer mentor to a Bowie High School student, you will spend one hour a week building a positive relationship with him/her. Your involvement has the potential to change the course of a teen's high school experience, his/her life, and your community. For more information contact: Rhonda Simon, Program Coordinator 301-809-3033 or Andra Berry, Prevention Coordinator, at 301-809-3080 or email mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Walk on Wednesdays in August with Bowie's Green Team

The Bowie Green Team's Food, Health and Wellness Subgroup will be hosting weekly community walks on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. during the month of August. Walks are a fun and social opportunity for the residents of Bowie to get together for light to moderate exercise. They also will highlight nature and many beautiful local walking trails. Participants should wear appropriate outdoor attire, bring water and arrive no later than 7:05 p.m. if walking with the group. There will be a group leader decked out in green attire, in honor of the Bowie Green Team, and who also will have a Walk Wednesdays sign to help participants locate the starting point for the walk. For questions about these walks, please contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org. The following walks are planned:

August 5th at Allen Pond Park (3330 Northview Drive) - The group will meet at the edge of the parking lot at the start of the walking path. The walk will take approximately 30-40 minutes.

August 12th at David Kerr Nature Trail (Kinderbrook Lane) - Left onto Kinderbrook Lane from Kembridge Drive. Follow Kinderbrook Lane for about a half mile. The trail is on the left side of the road and is marked by a sign. Park on the street. The group will meet by the sign for the trail. The walk is expected to take approximately 30 minutes.

August 19th at Governor Bridge Trail (7600 Governor Bridge Road) - The group will meet by the sign in the parking area before proceeding onto the trail. The walk will take 30-40 minutes at this location.

August 26th at Whitemarsh Park (6300 Crain Highway) - The group will park in the parking lot by the head of the trail and will plan to walk for approximately 40 minutes.

City to Sell Discounted Compost Bins to Residents for \$20

Do you want to compost but aren't sure how or don't want to spend a small fortune on a retail compost bin? Well, we have solved both problems for you. To make backyard composting of kitchen scraps and yard waste more accessible for residents, the City will be selling discounted compost bins starting Monday, August 3. They can be purchased and picked up at City Hall any time it is open. Bins are only \$20 as the City is subsidizing the full cost. Payment will be accepted by cash or check, but please note that after 5 p.m. and on weekends, you must pay with a check; no cash will be accepted. Residents in the incorporated City limits can purchase up to two bins per address, and they must be placed in backyards. Hurry because supplies are limited! For details on the program including information sheets from the manufacturer on the specific bin and how to compost using it, visit www.cityofbowie.org/compost. For information, contact Kristin Larson, Sustainability Planner at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

Events

8/1 – Saturday Concert Series – *Bottle of Blues* 4 - 6 p.m. at Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564). These free concerts are presented “in the heart of the antique district” in Old Town Bowie. 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.

8/2 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – *The Winstons (Motown Sound)* 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. All concerts are free. They 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.

8/2 – Bowie Police Participate in Softball Game to Benefit Special Olympics 4:30 p.m. at Prince George’s Stadium following the Baysox game. Tickets to both games may be purchased from the Police Department for \$10. For more information, contact Officer Bennie Henderson in the Bowie Police Department at 301-575-1824 or email bhenderson@cityofbowie.org.

8/3 – City Council Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

8/4 – National Night Out Against Crime 6 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Come out and join the Bowie Police Department, community organizations, and businesses to learn about crime prevention and public safety awareness.

8/8 – Saturday Concert Series – *Delta Loco (Rock Music)* 4 - 6 p.m. at Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564). For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Free.

8/9 – “Corn Roast” at Bowie Farmers’ Market 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School. Come by and enjoy free hot corn on the cob fresh off the grill, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

8/9 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – *Annapolis Bluegrass* 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. 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. Free.

8/10 and 8/24 – Labyrinth Walks – Senior Center 10 a.m. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/11 – Fireside Chat at the Senior Center: Stretch Your Space 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Now is the time to eliminate excess stuff. Get tips from the pros. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/12 – Drop-In History Fun 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 4 and up are invited to enjoy games and activities. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/15 – Deadline to Submit Artwork for *Bowie: Past and Present Exhibit* at City Hall Galleries. Contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org for information.

8/16 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – *US Air Force Max Impact (Rock Music)* 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. 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. Free.

8/17 – Sudoku Workshops 10 and 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Learn strategies for this popular number puzzle. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/18 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.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.

8/18 – Hot Topics at the Senior Center: Explore Dating 5:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/21 – Public Safety Awards Breakfast 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Comfort Inn. For ticket and nomination information, contact the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce at 301-262-0920.

8/21 – Ice Cream Fun at Belair Mansion 1 - 3 p.m. Kids: learn about the history and science of ice cream, make it, and eat it on the last Friday of summer vacation! Free, but reservations are required please. Call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/22 – 12th Annual Back to School Bash 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the City Gym. Games, moon bounces, entertainment, parent resource area, music, food, and more for elementary age school children. Backpack giveaway to first 300 children. Please bring a food, toiletry, or monetary donation for the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, please contact the Gym at 301-809-2388.

8/23 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Navy Commodores (Jazz) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. All concerts are free. They 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.

8/27 – Hearing Loss: Can Losing Your Hearing Impact Your Memory? 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/28 – Deadline to Submit Artwork for Cityscapes Exhibit at City Hall Galleries. Contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org for information.

8/30 – 60th Anniversary of Nashua’s Match Race Victory 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Stable. Family activities. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/30 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Army Blues 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. They 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. Free.