

Bowie News Flash

September 2015

News

West Nile Virus

Last week, the Maryland Department of Agriculture notified the City that a Bowie resident may have contracted West Nile Virus. At this point the case has not been confirmed, and it is not known where the individual came into contact with the infected mosquito. However, out of an abundance of caution, since the individual lives in the Somerset neighborhood of Bowie, all streets in Somerset and other nearby streets will be sprayed for mosquitoes this evening (September 1st) starting at 9 p.m., weather permitting. Spraying will also take place in other Bowie neighborhoods with known mosquito problems according to the schedule on our website (www.cityofbowie.org/mosquitoes).

The best way to avoid getting West Nile Virus is to eliminate places where mosquitoes breed and to protect yourself from getting mosquito bites. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as two inches of water, so be sure to get rid of places in your yard where water can collect, such as in kiddie pools, old tires, in the lids of trash cans, or in clogged gutters. If you are prone to mosquito bites and are outside at dawn or dusk when mosquitoes are most active, use insect repellent and wear long, light clothing. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/mosquitoes.

Fox 5 Zip Trip Feature

On Friday, August 28th, Bowie was featured as one of Fox 5's Zip Trip destinations. In addition to a short item on five "must see" things to do in Bowie, the live broadcast from Bowie featured interviews and segments with Mayor Robinson, the Mocha Moms group, Bowie Citizens for Local Animal Welfare (CLAW), the Bowie Lions Club, a self-defense demonstration with the Bowie Police Department, the Bowie Baysox, a local PG Select U9 baseball team, the Bowie State Cheer Team, junior reporter Nicole Rottmann, and Sound of the City band. They also had Bowie resident Connor Turner, age 1, on the Fox 5 First 5 segment and honored Luther Holley, longtime resident and volunteer, with a "Hometown Hero" award. Thanks to all the groups that participated and to all who attended. View photos of the event at www.facebook.com/bowiemd.

It's Back to School Time – Drive Carefully and Watch Out for Pedestrians

Public schools opened in late August. Stay alert, drive within the posted speed limit, and remember to stop for school buses that are loading and unloading.

Salute to America Concert at Allen Pond Park

Bowie's annual Salute to America concert is Sunday, September 6 from 7 - 8 p.m. The Bowie State University Concert Band will perform patriotic music at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather.

Labor Day Holiday - Monday, September 7

City offices and facilities, including the Senior Center, the City Gymnasium, the Kenhill Center, and the Ice Arena will be closed for the holiday on 9/7. No refuse or recycling collection.

City Gym Maintenance

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

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Dispose of prescription drugs in a responsible, safe and convenient way on Saturday, September 26, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road. For information, call 301-575-2480.

National Senior Center Month: Celebrate Life at Your Center

The Bowie Senior Center offers a variety of programs, classes, trips and services. It's also a great place to meet new friends, exercise, or to just have lunch. Contact the Center at 301-809-2300 for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Board and Committee Vacancies

Volunteers are needed for several City boards and committees: Administrative Review Board, Arts Committee, Community Outreach Committee, Community Recreation Committee, Diversity Committee, Education Committee, Board of Elections, Environmental Advisory Committee, Ethics Commission, Financial Advisory Committee, Information Technology Committee and Board of Personnel Appeals. Information on the role of each committee and how to apply for membership can be found on the City's website or by calling the City Clerk at 301-809-3029.

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.

City Selling Discounted Compost Bins to Residents for \$20

Compost bins can be purchased at City Hall any time it is open and during Special Event Days at the Bowie Farmers' Market. Payment is by cash or check, but after 5 p.m. and on weekends, you must pay with a check; no cash will be accepted. Those who live in the incorporated city limits of Bowie can purchase up to two bins per address, and the bins must be placed in backyards. For program details, visit www.cityofbowie.org/compost. Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

City Election – November 3, 2015

Beginning this year, City elections will take place every fourth year in November. The next City election will be held on November 3, 2015. The offices of Mayor and six Councilmembers will be up for election. Prior to the election, registered voters will receive Voter Notification Cards from the County with their polling locations. In the meantime, visit www.cityofbowie.org/elections to view a City map of polling locations.

- **Filing for Office** Residents who are registered voters can file for elected office in the Office of the City Clerk. Please call the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 in advance to verify filing eligibility requirements and to arrange a filing date and time. Filing forms can be at www.cityofbowie.org/elections. To view the current list of candidates, visit www.cityofbowie.org/candidates.
- **Absentee Ballots** In accordance with Section 6-30 of the City Code, any qualified voter of the City may make application for an absentee voting ballot for the City's upcoming election on November 3rd. The application may be obtained from the City Clerk's office or on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/elections.
- **Election Dates to Remember:**
 - 10/2** Last day to register to vote at City Hall or County Board of Elections in order to vote in City Election. Last day to file for elected office.
 - 10/13** Last day for candidate to withdraw from candidacy for office.
 - 11/2** Last day to present application for Absentee Ballot to City Clerk (5 p.m.).
 - 11/3** Election Day - Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- **Election Judges Needed** Chief Judges, Judges and Alternate Judges are needed for the City of Bowie Election. 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).

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. The application deadline is September 30, 2015.

For more information about the upcoming City election, visit www.cityofbowie.org/elections or contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

September is National Preparedness Month

Are you prepared for a disaster? During the month of September, there will be a tip posted on our website and on Facebook each weekday to help you be better prepared for emergencies. Check out our four-page Emergency Preparedness Guide, which is attached to this message, or visit www.cityofbowie.org/emergencies or www.facebook.com/bowiemd for more information.

New Bowie Youth & Family Services Groups are Starting this Fall

The following groups, sponsored by Bowie Youth and Family Services, are starting soon:

- ***Active Parenting Program for Parents***
This group for parents will focus on practical skills to help develop cooperation and responsibility in children, ages 5 - 16. It is offered on four consecutive Mondays, beginning October 5, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Huntington Community Center. Cost: \$60
- ***Calm Confident Kids***
The goal of this group is to help return some of the fun of childhood for kids, ages 7-10, who worry too much. We will talk about various worries and anxieties and practice strategies to help overcome these fears and stay calm. Beginning in October. Cost: \$60
- ***Girls Count***
Weekly group for high school girls, ages 14-18. Participants will learn to nurture themselves, share issues they face every day; and find their inner strengths as they discover that Girls Do Count! Beginning in October. Cost: \$60

Registration is required for these multi-week group sessions. Please call 301-809-3033 for more information or to register. Financial aid may be available.

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, contact cops@cityofbowie.org or 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.

Bowie Art Exhibits

- ***Bowie Past and Present*** In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Bowie in 2016, the City Museums and the Bowie Arts Committee are sponsoring an exhibit featuring artwork all about Bowie. The mixed media art show at Belair Mansion will offer glimpses of Bowie from the City's earliest days to the present. The exhibit will open on September 19, and run through November 15. The exhibit includes photos of early Bowie such as opening day at the Bowie Race Track in 1928, how Allen Pond and Foxhill Park looked before development, and much more. There are also photos and paintings of today's Bowie. This exhibit at the Belair Mansion is one not to miss.
- ***Chesapeake Bay*** – City Hall Art Gallery. Exhibit runs through September 25. Free and open to the public.
- ***Cityscapes*** – City Hall Art Gallery. From the taxicabs of New York to old men playing chess in a DC park, this exhibit at Bowie City Hall includes paintings and photos that capture the urban experience. Concurrently with this exhibit, the display cases at Bowie City Hall will feature the work of Bowie sculptor Nathaniel Lewis.

Exhibits are free and the public is invited to view them during open hours at each facility. For more information about the City Hall exhibits, contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or email aesterheld@cityofbowie.org. For information about the *Bowie Past and Present* exhibit, contact museumevents@cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3089.

Arts and Education Grants Available

The City has arts grants available for individuals or groups that would like to offer art projects such as public performances, art workshops, or a group art opportunity for Bowie residents.

Education grants are also available to individuals, parent-teacher organizations, schools and others that have new and creative ideas for projects and programs to enrich the learning experiences of students in Bowie schools.

The application deadline for arts grants is Friday, September 18, 2015 at 5 p.m. The deadline for education grants is Friday, October 23, 2015 at 5 p.m. For more information about either grant program, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601. The application forms may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/forms.

Walk on Wednesdays in September with Bowie's Green Team

The Bowie Green Team's Food, Health and Wellness Subgroup continues its weekly walks in September on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Get some light to moderate exercise, meet some other Bowieites, and enjoy the natural beauty of local trails. A group leader decked out in green attire, will help participants locate the starting point for the walk. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org. The following walks are planned:

- **9/2 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 (30 - 40 minute walk)
- **9/9 at David Kerr Nature Trail (Kinderbrook Lane)** - From Kembridge Lane, make a left on Kinderbrook Lane. Go about one half mile then the trail is on the left side of the road and marked by a sign. Park on the street. Meet by the sign for the trail. (30 minute walk)
- **9/16 at Governor Bridge Trail (7600 Governor Bridge Road)** - The group will meet by the sign in the parking area before proceeding onto the trails. (30 - 40 minute walk)
- **9/23 at Whitemarsh Park (6300 Crain Highway)** - The group will park in the parking lot by the head of the trail. (40 minute walk)
- **9/30 at Bowie Town Center Pond, City Hall (15901 Excalibur Road)** - The group will meet outside the front entrance to City Hall. (30 minute walk)

Events

9/6 – Salute to America Concert 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. The Bowie State University Concert Band will perform patriotic music at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather.

9/7 – Labor Day Holiday. All City offices and facilities are closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

9/8 – *Ceramics in the Chesapeake* - Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/8 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. This meeting is being held on a Tuesday because of the Labor Day holiday on Monday.

9/11 - 9/26 – *Once Upon a Mattress* at Bowie Playhouse Produced by Prince George's Little Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.pglt.org or call 301-937-7458.

9/12 – Grandparents & Grandchildren Storytime 10 - 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Enjoy local children's authors and an ice cream treat. Register by 9/8. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

9/14 – *Slavery and Race: The Non-PC Topic* 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Belair Mansion. This discussion will be led by Chris Haley of Maryland State Archives. Bring a lunch, drinks will be provided. Reservations requested. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/15 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 - 11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/19 – Red Cross Blood Drive 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the City Gym. For more information, please contact the Red Cross at 1-800-REDCROSS or www.redcrossblood.org.

9/20 – Farm Day 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. There will be a farm animal petting zoo from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

9/20 – Weed Warrior Work Day 2 - 5 p.m. at Whitemarsh Park. The Bowie Green Team is in need of volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and is very destructive to native ecosystems. 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 to bag them. To participate, please register by contacting Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

9/20 - Local Artist Recital Series - *The Capital Reeds* 3 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$5/students; available at the door, cash only. *The Capital Reeds* group performs classical music and is Washington, DC's premiere reed trio. Comprised of an oboe, clarinet, and bassoon, it is one of the region's up and coming chamber music groups. For more information about the trio, visit www.capitalreeds.com. This concert is cosponsored by the City of Bowie.

9/20 – Hall of Honor Ceremony 4 p.m. at City Hall. The Hall of Honor at City Hall is a way to honor those who have made a profound and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie. This year, Sylma Gottlieb and Kenneth Fox will be inducted and remembered for their many contributions. This ceremony is open to the public and will be followed by a short reception.

9/21 – Grey Matter: Get Clear on the Aging Brain 9:45 a.m. at the Senior Center. Four sessions. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

9/21 – City Council Regular Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

9/23 – Armchair Tour 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Frank Evans will present his 100th armchair tour of places he has traveled.

9/24 – Beautification Awards Ceremony 7 p.m. at City Hall. At the 20th Annual Beautification Awards Ceremony, Bowie residents, businesses, and organizations will be recognized for their efforts to make Bowie an attractive place to live and work.

9/25 – Flu Shot Clinic 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Senior Center. Free for seniors with Medicare Part B. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

9/25 – Green Your Business Workshop 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Room 243 of City Hall. Learn how to save money by greening your business. Also, learn how to receive recognition for your efforts through the Green Bowie Business Certification Program. This event is sponsored by Bowie's Green Team and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce.

9/26 – Prescription Drug Take Back 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bowie Police Department. This is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of prescription drugs. It is sponsored by the Bowie Police Department. For more information, contact the Department at 301-575-2480.

9/26 – Rochambeau's March Commemoration 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Reenactors, kids' games, 18th century marketplace, sewing circle and history fun! Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/26 – Fall Plant Sale 8 - 12 p.m. in the Bowie Library Parking Lot (next to Bowie High School on Route 450). Plant now for Spring. The sale is sponsored by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Green Team. It offers a wide selection of nursery-grown and member-grown plants including natives, perennials, and pollinator attracting plants. Proceeds support Bowie schools and other local programs.

9/26 – *Movin' and Groovin' Puppet Show with Bridgette and Dawn* 11 a.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. This show features a dynamic female duo who have been entertaining families for the last seven years with their unique, upbeat style of puppet shows that include music/dancing and a lot of interaction with the audience. Tickets are \$10 per family at the door. The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts is located at 15200 Annapolis Road (adjacent to Bowie High School).

9/28 – Celebrate Life Party 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. There is always a reason for a party at the Senior Center. This time it is about celebrating National Senior Center Month and celebrating life! A DJ will provide music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Free.

9/28 – *Cityscapes* Gallery Exhibit opens at Bowie City Hall Visit City Hall during open hours to view this exhibit of talented artists. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or email aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

9/28 - The Challenges of Parenting Children Living with Anxiety or ADHD 7 p.m. at the Huntington Community Center. This lecture is hosted by Bowie Youth & Family Services and is free. For more information, call 301-809-3033.

9/29 – Emergency Preparedness Presentation 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. September is National Preparedness Month. Learn some simple steps you can take now to be better prepared before an emergency occurs.

9/30 – Native American Flute Music 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Free.