



# BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

[www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)

December 2015

## Holiday Candlelight and Tree Lighting

Bowie has a long holiday history and the City invites you to bring your family and friends to celebrate that festive spirit at Belair Mansion beginning at 12 p.m. on **Sunday, December 6, 2015**. Traditional decorations and flickering candles will offer a glimpse of holidays past. New this year will be an 1830's Quilting Bee. The music of "Bedlam" will fill the air at 2 p.m. and the candles will be lit at 3 p.m. Then, bundle up for an outdoor "carol sing-along" with the City Council, tree lighting, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus atop the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck at 7 p.m. Admission is free but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are requested. Please look for the marked Food Pantry containers for your donations. For more information, contact City Hall at 301-809-3011 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).



## Bowie Police Host 5th Annual "Shop With A Cop"

The Bowie Police Department is pleased to host its annual "Shop With A Cop" event on **Sunday, December 13, 2015**. This is a nationally recognized program that helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. Through donations received, children (referred through local agencies, churches, and schools) are given a spending limit to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones. Children are accompanied by a uniformed officer who will assist them with their holiday purchases at a designated store. Afterwards, the kids enjoy a delicious lunch made available through contributions received from local restaurants.

We are in need of donors to make this event a success. Please help us help others! Donations may be directed to the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. All donations are tax deductible. For more information about this program, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

## Donate to Toys for Tots

Join the Bowie Police Department to help make this Christmas special for local children. Please donate new unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations will be accepted at the following City locations: City Hall, Bowie Police Station, Gymnasium, Ice Arena and Senior Center, as well as Melvin Motors and the Huntington Community Center. Please drop toys off by **December 16, 2015**. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

## Holiday House Decorating Contest

Do you spend hours putting up lights and other displays outdoors for the holidays? Are your decorations the envy of the neighborhood? Then why not enter the City's Holiday House Decorating Contest! The entry deadline is **December 7, 2015 at 5 p.m.** Homes must be within the Bowie municipal limits. For entry forms and information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org) and search Holiday House Decorating Contest or contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

## Protect Pets This Winter

Dogs and cats should be kept inside during cold weather. Don't leave them alone in a car when traveling. It is beneficial to you and your pet to go for walks, but do not walk your dog on icy sidewalks or roadways. Wipe your pet's feet and coat when coming indoors. Winter is an excellent time to have your pet microchipped and spayed or neutered. Call the Bowie Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002 for more information or visit our webpage ([www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)) for details on low cost microchipping and free spay and neuter programs.

## Code Corner

Early December is an excellent time to prepare your property for winter and snow. Clean your yard of toys, fallen tree branches and landscaping/decorative objects which could become a trip hazard under the cover of snow. Clean the gutters and tighten them to the house. Cover the top of the air conditioning unit so heavy ice and snow will not bend the fan blades. Replace your furnace filter and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Have a snow shovel and environmentally safe deicing materials available. If you will be away, assign someone to shovel the snow off the sidewalks and move your car off the street during a snow event.

## A Community Garden for Bowie?

A Community Garden is a location where residents without adequate space or sunlight in their own yards can plant fruit, vegetables and flowers in a communal area. Water, fencing and garden materials are usually available on site. Fees and participant volunteer hours are usually required.

We would like to determine the interest of City residents in the development of a Community Garden in the City. If you are interested, please complete the survey which can be found on the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org/communitygardensurvey](http://www.cityofbowie.org/communitygardensurvey). Please provide your name and contact information on the survey form. The deadline for completing the survey is **Monday, December 7, 2015**. For more information, please contact Sally Cannon Hein, Assistant Director of Community Services at [shein@cityofbowie.org](mailto:shein@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3014.

## Go Meatless On Mondays

The City Council issued a proclamation urging residents to participate in **Meatless Mondays** as a way to improve health by reducing the risk of chronic preventable medical conditions and improve environmental sustainability by lowering the community's carbon footprint. Bowie joins cities and counties across the country including the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Maryland that have taken similar action. Visit [meatlessmonday.com](http://meatlessmonday.com) for free recipes, articles and other resources for going meatless on Mondays.

## Veterans Corner

**Need help with benefits** - Service Officer available every Tuesday 7 - 9 p.m. at the DAV.

**Need general information** - American Legion (301-464-9814), 9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie MD 20715. Meets monthly, fourth (4th) Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

**The following organizations meet at the DAV Post (8205 Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie MD 20715):**

- Marine Corps League (301-706-2491) - Meets monthly, second (2nd) Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
- VFW Post 8065 (301-464-3730) - Meets monthly, first (1st) Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- DAV Post #7 (301-464-8899) - Meets monthly, second (2nd) Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**For information on legislation, benefits and programs**, tune to the Veterans Forum on Bowie Cable TV Channel 11 (Verizon) or 77 (Comcast). Consult the guide for airing time.



**Christmas Belles 12/4 - 12/20** at the Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-805-0219 or [www.bctheatre.com](http://www.bctheatre.com).

**Seasons** City Hall Art Gallery exhibit. Show runs through February 12, 2016. Free and open to the public (during City Hall hours).

**Public Art** The City's newest piece of public art is a Memorial Monument at Veterans Park in Old Bowie, dedicated at the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2015.

**Arts and Education Scholarships** Applications will be available mid-January 2016.

For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at [aesterheld@cityofbowie.org](mailto:aesterheld@cityofbowie.org).

## MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**TRAINSPOTTING** 11/29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Amtrak's busiest day!

**BELAIR BY CANDLELIGHT AND HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING** 12/6, 12 - 8 p.m. Belair Mansion Free Food Pantry donations requested.

**HOLIDAY TODDLER TIME TRAVELERS** 12/9, 10 - 11 a.m. Belair Mansion Ages 2 - 5 Free

**KINDER KRISTMAS** 12/12, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion All ages. Donate to the Food Pantry.

**HOLIDAYS PAST - BROWN BAG LUNCH LECTURE** 12/14, 12 p.m. Belair Mansion Bring your lunch. Free

**STOCKING STUFFER SALE** 12/20, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Shop Enjoy 20% off!

## CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive  
301-809-2388

**SATURDAY FUN WITH SANTA** 12/19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Face painting, music, moon bounce, games, giveaways and more! Admission: new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or \$3 per child.

**DECEMBER BLOOD DRIVE** 12/24, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Information: 1-800-REDCROSS or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

**RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL** Fridays, 11 a.m.

## PICKLEBALL

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. Offered in partnership with the Senior Center.

## WALKING PROGRAM

Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 10 a.m.

The Gym will be closed Christmas, 12/25 and New Year's, 1/1.

## ADULTS 55+

### Bowie Senior Center

14900 Health Center Drive  
301-809-2300

### DAYS & TIMES

M/W/F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
T/TH 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
SAT 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

12/4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### BOWIE SENIOR CHORALE "CHRISTMAS@THECINEMA"

12/18, 7:30 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$6, purchase in advance.

**HOLIDAY PARTY** 12/17, 11:30 a.m. Lunch and DJ music \$10 residents, \$12 nonresidents Register by 12/8.

**HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW** 12/21, 10:30 a.m.

**NOON YEAR PARTY** 12/31, 12:30 p.m. \$5 residents, \$6 nonresidents

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor G. Frederick Robinson  
Mayor Pro Tem Henri Gardner  
Michael P. Esteve  
Courtney D. Glass  
James L. Marcos  
Diane M. Polangin  
Isaac Trouth

## CITY MANAGER

David J. Deutsch  
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