



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

January 2016

Season's Greetings

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we close the book on 2015 we are optimistic and eager to embrace the New Year. Bowie is a great community. It is difficult to speak of our hometown without making it sound like bragging but we are justifiably proud. Our community remains the strongest, most diverse, most family friendly in the region and that is largely due to the wonderful folks that have chosen to make Bowie "home".

Over the years the City has grown in size but we still enjoy the small town sense of belonging to and in a special place. Our seniors are active and they can take pride in what they have accomplished in converting a development into a community. Our students, their parents and their teachers can take pride in their successes. Our faith community remains strong and engaged.

Our veterans community is active and their patriotic sense of service continues to animate our City. Our business community is engaged in and with us on a variety of levels and their participation in our daily lives has helped move us toward an exciting future. So, as this year passes to a new one, and as we remember our family members and friends in service to our country, it is my honor on behalf of the entire Bowie City Council to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous and safe New Year.

G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor

Tips On Pruning From the Community Forester

All aspects of landscape maintenance require a knowledge of methods, timing, and plant culture. I would like to address one area of landscape management – pruning woody plants (trees and shrubs).

Know Your Plant Considerations: What's my goal with the specific plant(s)? Is the plant evergreen or deciduous (loses leaves)? Is the plant a conifer (pine family) or a broadleaf? Does the plant flower noticeably, and is it valued for such? Do I want to encourage an informal, natural form, or do I want a more formal, tightly-shaped form? How does the plant's location affect how I want to prune it?

Timing: Does the plant flower on old or on new growth? If pruned now, will the plant force new tender growth just before frost or winter freeze? Is the plant under stress from insect or disease damage?

Good Practices: Use clean, sharp pruning tools. Remove all dead wood. Remove crossing and rubbing branches. Prune to encourage new growth in the right direction. Prune to minimize narrow branch crotches and/or codominant leaders. Prune to promote safety for people/pedestrians, vehicles, and property. Make cuts that are just outside the "branch bark ridge" back to the attaching stem. Make cuts leaving branches that are at least 1/3 the size of the attaching stems. Never prune/remove more than 25% of the plant in order to maintain plant health.

When In Doubt: Get a book from the library. Use the internet. Or, call the Forester!

Call me anytime for more information or for a site visit. I can be reached at **301-809-3061**. Enjoy the beauty! Rick Kellner, Community Forester

Accepting Nominations for the Hall of Honor

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize those citizens of Bowie who have made "major and lasting contributions" to the City. The first inductees were honored in 1994. A nominee to the Hall of Honor must: be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline; have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie; and, have been a resident of the City of Bowie either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death.

Once a nomination is received, forms and information are sent to the City's Community Outreach Committee for review. The Committee then makes recommendations to the City Council for final approval. Once an honoree is approved, a reception is held in the inductee's honor and a plaque is hung in the lobby of City Hall.

For more information, contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2016 Hall of Honor is 5 p.m. Monday, **March 7, 2016** at City Hall.

'Tis the Season for Giving!

Give us your feedback by taking a quick survey that will help find ways to make our community even better. The City and M-NCPPC need your input about existing community resources and the things you value most about our City in order to help us plan for its future. Go to www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie to fill out the survey online or contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 for a paper copy of the survey.

Christmas Trees

Trees will be picked up every Wednesday in January with yard waste. Please make sure that all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Do **not** put the tree in a plastic bag. Place the tree at the curb by 7 a.m.



Help Available to Residents at Teen Job Bank

Bowie Youth & Family Services sponsors a Teen Job Bank, where residents can find hard-working and eager Bowie youth who are looking for opportunities to make extra money, either on an occasional or a regular basis. Residents may use this service to find teens who can help with tasks such as snow shoveling, yard work, babysitting, tutoring, shopping or other chores. The particulars of the job and the fees per hour are determined by you and the teen. You may access the program by completing the Job Bank resident application on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org or by calling us at 301-809-3033.

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.



Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike 1/8 - 1/23 at the Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-937-7458 or www.pgl.com.

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

Arts and Education Scholarships Applications for high school seniors with Bowie addresses will be available mid-January 2016.

For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

STITCHES FOR TIME 1/6, 1/13, 1/22, 1/28, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Take part in the Quilt Project and make history. Ages 10 and over. Quilting related fun for kids under 10. Free

18TH CENTURY LADIES' STAYS - SECOND TUESDAY LECTURE 1/12, 7:30 p.m. Belair Mansion Free

GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED 1/16, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Fun games from the past. Free

KIDS KABOOSE 1/19, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Ages 1 - 10. Free

AT THE SIGN OF THE HORSE AND SADDLE 1/30, 7 - 9 p.m. Belair Mansion Tavern night. Music from Bedlam and light refreshments. \$30 per person. Reservations required.

CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

CHRISTMAS EVE BLOOD DRIVE 12/24, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Information: 1-800-REDCROSS or 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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 1/2, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For appointment: 1-800-733-2767

SUDOKU WORKSHOP 1/20, 10 a.m.

DIABETES AND YOU 1/28, 10:30 a.m.

A LOOK BACK AT SLAVERY TO IMPACT OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE 2/4, 12:30 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP DAY: MOTOWN SHOW WITH CHARLES SULLIVAN 2/14, 12:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

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

CITY MANAGER

David J. Deutsch
301-809-3030