



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

February 2016

National Anthem & "Voice of Bowie" Auditions

The City will hold open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, 4th of July and the International Festival.

Auditions will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall (15901 Excalibur Road) on Saturday, February 27, 2016 beginning at 9 a.m. for the National Anthem. Participants must be prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella for a judging panel. Auditions for the Voice of Bowie will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. Candidates will be asked to read from a prepared script for a judging panel. The chosen performer(s) will be invited to perform at the various City-sponsored special events.

For information or to schedule an audition, contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Can the Grease to Prevent Sewer Backups

Pouring cooking grease down the kitchen drain can lead to costly (and messy) sewer backups when the grease turns solid and clogs the sewer pipes. To prevent blockages, pour cooled grease into a can (a soup can works great) and throw it in the trash. Sewer blockages can also be caused by personal hygiene products and diapers flushed down the toilet. Use the wastebasket instead! Sometimes vandalism or illegal disposal of debris into the sewer system can cause sewer overflows. With over 130 miles of sewer pipe throughout the City, the Utility Division appreciates prompt notification if you see wastewater coming from a manhole cover site. Call 301-809-2344 during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, and 301-262-6200 after hours if you experience a sewer backup at your residence or to report a suspected sewer overflow.

Snowfall - Parking and Sidewalks

When a significant snowfall is forecasted, move your vehicles off the street. Park them in your driveway. If your driveway is too crowded, park your vehicle on the grass on your property, but do not block the sidewalk. Once the snow has been cleared, immediately move your vehicle back onto the street.

Once snow and sleet have stopped falling you have a responsibility to clear the public sidewalk and driveway areas adjacent to your property within forty-eight (48) hours. Residents whose property is near public schools should quickly remove the ice or snow for the safety of the school children. If you should be out of town, make arrangements with a neighbor, contractor or relative to clear the sidewalk. For more information contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008.

Pet Licensing

All companion pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) in Bowie are required to have a current Prince George's County license. The annual pet license fee is \$5 per spayed or neutered pet or \$25 for unaltered pets. Proof of current rabies vaccination is necessary. Residents 65 years of age and older may obtain two free pet licenses provided their animal(s) is spayed or neutered. Pet licenses are available at Bowie City Hall. For more information contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Water Quality Report

The 2015 City of Bowie Water Quality Report is available. Go to www.cityofbowie.org/wqr to view it and learn more about the source and quality of your City of Bowie drinking water. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please call 301-809-3060.

ImagineBowie

Come to Kenhill Center Saturday, **February 13**, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and share your thoughts on a Sustainable Bowie. Lunch provided. Register at www.imaginebowie2016.eventbrite.com.

Questions? Call Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044.

Citizens' Police Academy

The Police Department will host its second Citizens' Police Academy beginning **March 1**. The ten-week training session is a way to open up the lines of communication between the police department and the community it serves. Participants will learn from police officers and other members of the criminal justice system through interactive classes and facilitated discussion. There will be a variety of topics covered, including but not limited to internal investigations, tactical training technique, judgment enhanced training, citizen/police interaction and media relations. The sessions meet at the Bowie Police Department once a week on **Tuesday evenings, 6 - 9 p.m., March 1 - May 3, 2016**. To apply, please visit www.cityofbowie.org. Participants must be Bowie residents and 18 years of age or older. For more information, contact cops@cityofbowie.org.

Parenting Can Be Easier

Bowie Youth & Family Services offers a video-based program led by a family counselor called **Active Parenting** for parents of children 5 - 16 years old. **Active Parenting** focuses on discipline, communication, anger management and family enrichment. Join with other parents to learn practical skills to develop cooperation, self-esteem, and responsibility in your children. For information, contact Debby Shipler at 301-809-3033. Program offered Tuesdays, 7 - 9 p.m. beginning February 2016. \$60 per family.

Teen Mentors Needed

Volunteers are needed for the City's Youth & Family Services Teen Mentoring Program. Spend one hour a week with a Bowie High School student and make a tremendous impact! You can help by contacting Program Coordinator Rhonda Simon at 301-661-0573 or mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Bike to Work Day 2016

Friday, 5/20, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. at two Bowie Pit Stops - Bowie Town Center Food Court and Old Town Bowie Fire Station. A free event full of food, fun and prizes. For information, contact Frank Stevens at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.

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 & programs, tune to the Veterans Forum on Bowie Cable TV Channel 11 (Verizon) or 77 (Comcast). Consult the guide for time.



The Philadelphia Story 2/5 - 2/20 at the Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-832-4819 or www.2ndstarproductions.com.

Seasons City Hall Art Gallery exhibit. Show runs through February 12, 2016. Free and open to the public (during City Hall hours). Up next is a Youth Art Show featuring artists from area high schools, middle schools and elementary schools.

Arts and Education Scholarships Arts Scholarship applications are on the City's website under arts, www.cityofbowie.org. Education Scholarships are available at area high schools.

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

MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

STITCH SOME HISTORY! 2/3, 2/6, 2/9, 2/19, 2/24, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Join the fun, make history and sew some stitches on our quilt. Instructions provided. Ages 10 and over. Quilting related fun for kids under 10. Free

BEAUTY AND THE BED: A BED TURNING 18TH - 20TH CENTURY QUILTS - SECOND TUESDAY LECTURE 2/9, 7:30 p.m. Belair Mansion Free

KIDS KABOOSE 2/16, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Ages 1 - 10. Free

CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL Fridays, 11 a.m. Drop in, co-ed.

PICKLEBALL

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

WALKING PROGRAM

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

SENIOR FIT

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 - 10 a.m. For information, call Sara McKechnie at 301-754-7895.

ROOM RENTAL

The Gym has rooms available for rent for parties or meetings. \$25 per hour.

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.

A LOOK BACK AT SLAVERY

2/4, 12:30 p.m. Dr. Ellen Sistare shares stories and poems from the lives of slaves.

FRIENDSHIP DAY: MOTOWN SHOW WITH CHARLES SULLIVAN

2/14, 12:30 p.m.

REMINISCE, SITES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMORIES IN MARYLAND

2/22, 12:30 p.m.

SLAVERY AND RACE: THE NON-PC TOPIC

2/23, 12:15 p.m. Presented by Chris Haley.

THE RIGHT TO DREAM

2/29, 9:45 a.m. Trip to Prince George's Publick Playhouse

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
301-809-3030