

Bowie News Flash

March 2016

News

Callers May Have Trouble Reaching City Government on Evening of March 1st

Upgrades to the City of Bowie telecommunications system on Tuesday, March 1st may cause intermittent telephone outages between the hours of 5 and 10 p.m. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience and ask for your patience as this very necessary upgrade is performed. If there is a police or fire emergency, please call 911. In the event of another type of City emergency, such as a water main break, if you cannot get through to City Hall, please call our answering service at 1-888-296-3821.

Crime Alert from the Bowie Police Department

The Bowie Police Department has recovered cameras and skimmers from the ATM machines at the 7-Eleven stores located at 3570 Crain Highway, 15700 Mount Oak Road, and 6860 Race Track Road. The skimmers had the capability to capture your card's electronic data while the cameras captured your PIN. If you have recently used any of these ATM locations, it is important that you immediately change your PIN and alert your banking institution.

The Bowie Police Department has posted some tips about ATM safety on its website at www.cityofbowie.org/ATMsafety. You can also view information developed by Commonwealth Bank about recognizing skimmers and other illegal equipment on ATM machines at www.theage.com.au/ed_docs/skimmer.pdf.

Volunteer Opportunity this Saturday, March 5, at the Kenhill Center

The Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce and Youth Leadership Bowie are teaming up with Bowie Youth and Family Services and the nonprofit *Stop Hunger Now* to host a meal packing event. *Stop Hunger Now* is an organization that provides meals for the hungry in the US and around the world.

Stop Hunger Now provides the dehydrated foods and all of the supplies that volunteers will need to pack the meals. The more volunteers on hand, the more meals that can be assembled for those in need. According to its website, *Stop Hunger Now* estimates that approximately 10,000 meals can be assembled with 40 - 50 volunteers in the space of two hours.

Help stop hunger now by planning to spend your Saturday morning volunteering for a good cause. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and runs through about 12:30 p.m. We also invite you to bring a nonperishable food donation for our own Bowie Pantry, which supports local needs in our community. Walk-in volunteers are welcome, but it would be helpful for the organizers to have an idea of how many will be participating so that they have enough food and packing supplies on hand. Students can

earn Service Learning Hours by participating in this event. Volunteers will be required to sign a waiver before participating. For more information or to register for this event, please call 301-809-3033.

Help Develop the City's Next Strategic Plan

Please join us at one of the upcoming community meetings to share your thoughts and ideas about where Bowie should be focusing its resources and its attention during the next 3 - 5 years. We want to make Bowie an even greater place to live. What actions might the Council take to make that happen?

Community meetings to solicit input will be held on:

- Saturday, March 12, 9:30 a.m. - noon at the Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr.
- Thursday, March 17, 7 - 9:30 p.m. at Pointer Ridge Elementary School, 1110 Parkington La.

The City of Bowie's strategic plan is being formulated with the help of a consultant who specializes in working with local governments. The final product will include goals to help the Council decide where to focus its attention and City resources. It will also include development of measurable objectives and tactics to help the City achieve its goals. Community input is critical to this process. The City Council last adopted a Strategic Plan in 2005. The goals at that time included enhanced police services, no school enrollments over 100% of capacity, and controlled annexation. For more information about the upcoming meetings or the process of developing the strategic plan for Bowie, please contact John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager at 301-809-3075.

100th Anniversary of the City of Bowie

Did you know that in April the City of Bowie government will be 100 years old? On April 18, 1916 Bowie received a charter from the State of Maryland to operate as an incorporated town, responsible for "*...the preservation of peace and good order; for securing protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the residents of the City and visitors*". In honor of this milestone, the City is planning a yearlong celebration of Bowie's Centennial. It begins with a special ceremony on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 11 a.m. at City Hall and will continue throughout the year with various community events. Please plan to join us behind City Hall on the 16th to kick off the celebration with a short program, followed by a reception inside City Hall. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held indoors at City Hall. For more information about Bowie's Centennial, please contact Pam Williams, Historic Properties Manager at pwilliams@cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3089.

Job Vacancies in City Government

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for the following positions

- Park Aide, Community Services Department (closes 3/2/2016)
- Facility Monitor, Community Services Department (closes 3/2/2016)
- Water Plant Superintendent, Public Works Department (closes 3/18/2016)
- Utilities Superintendent, Public Works Department (closes (3/18/2016)

For more information about these positions, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Zika Virus

You've likely heard about the Zika virus, which is spread through bites from certain types of mosquitoes. It is not mosquito season in Maryland yet, but it will be soon. Get the facts about the virus and how you can protect yourself by visiting www.cdc.gov.

Bowie City Manager Retiring in June

City Manager David Deutsch announced in February that he would be retiring after 23 years at the helm of City government. The City Manager is the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Bowie government. It is the only position in City government to be appointed by the City Council. No timetable has been set yet for the hiring of a new City Manager, but it is expected that Assistant City Manager John Fitzwater will serve as Acting City Manager until a replacement is named. Read more about this announcement in the press release issued by the City at <http://www.cityofbowie.org/pressreleases>.

Youth Art Show

The current City Hall Art Gallery exhibit features youth artists from area schools. The show runs through April 22, 2016. It is free and open to the public (during City Hall hours). The public is invited to a reception on March 16 for the artists. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Nominate an Outstanding Bowie Business

The City of Bowie and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce are celebrating the Ninth Annual Business Recognition Awards program on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. The awards program was created to recognize and celebrate those businesses in the Bowie community that exhibit exemplary efforts to provide outstanding services, products, and facilities to all their customers. Nominations are sought in the following categories: Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Green Business of the Year, Incubator Business of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year and Community Service Award. Please mail nominations to City of Bowie, Attention: John Henry King, Economic Development Director, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716 or fax to 301-809-2315 or email jhking@cityofbowie.org. The nomination deadline is Monday, April 4, 2016.

Bowie Police Host Self-Defense Training for Seniors

The Bowie Police Department is hosting RAD for Seniors, a self-defense class for men and women that will take place Mondays and Wednesdays, from March 21 - April 20. The course offers awareness and defense strategies for older adults in a relaxed environment that is conducive to learning tested instructional techniques, proven tactics, and unique insights about the problems unique to older adults. The program also includes physical defense workouts for technique development and educational components to assist with the development of defensive strategies. The course is not limited to Seniors, but is based on mobility. If you are interested, please contact 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org to sign up for the class.

Bowie's Brightest Educators

Honor an educator at a Bowie school by nominating them for a Bowie's Brightest Educators Award. Information and nomination forms are on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/education. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Education and Arts Scholarship Deadline Approaches

Monday, March 14 is the deadline for students to submit applications for City-funded college Education and Arts Scholarships. Details about the scholarships are available in the Guidance Departments of high schools attended by City residents and are also on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/scholarships. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@citofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

CSA Fair and Organic Gardening Workshop

The Bowie Green Team will host this program at City Hall Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The program will begin with local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers, who sell freshly produced and organically grown food directly to customers. Come meet these farmers and sign up to receive more information. The second part of the program will be a workshop for suburban gardeners and will provide information about organic and non-toxic gardening practices.

Malcolm "Skip" Popp Award

The City is accepting nominations for the Malcolm "Skip" Popp Award. This award recognizes Scouts and/or Scout leaders who have rendered "extraordinary and distinguished" community service within Scout organizations in the City during calendar year 2015.

To be eligible for this award, Scouts or Scout leaders must be affiliated with a Scouting group within the limits of the City of Bowie, and/or a Scouting group of which 50% or more of their youth members are City of Bowie residents. They must also be registered with the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts, USA. Please see the nomination form for details regarding eligibility criteria and information required. This year's deadline is Friday, March 25, 2016. Nomination forms, with the guidelines, may be obtained on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/popp or at City Hall. Questions may be directed to the Popp Award Program Chairperson Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Sally Hein at shein@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3014.

Register for Spring Break Fun Days and Summer Ice Skating Camps

Spring Break Fun Days will be offered for children 6 - 12 years of age. All levels are welcome on March 24 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Preregistration is required. Registration for Summer Skating Camp begins March 15. Camps will be held during the months of July and August. Half-day camps will be offered for children ages 3 - 6, and full-day camps will be offered for children ages 6 - 13. Specialty camps will also be offered for hockey and figure skating. For a detailed listing of camp offerings, please call the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit us online at www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Imagine an Hour that Impacts a Lifetime, Imagine Mentoring

A mentor is an adult volunteer who spends time with a child in a supportive and friendly environment. If you are at least 21 years of age and reside in the Greater Bowie area, you have the power to change your life and the life of a teen. The Bowie Youth & Family Services Teen Mentoring Program can help you do just that. When you volunteer to mentor a Bowie High School student, you will spend one hour a week building a positive relationship with a student. Mentoring has the potential to change the course of a teen's high school experience, his/her life, and your community. For information and to apply, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/ysb or contact Volunteer Coordinator Rhonda Simon at mentor@cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3033.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The 2015 City of Bowie Water Quality Report is now available. Please 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.

City Selling Discounted Compost Bins to Residents for \$20

Compost bins can be purchased at City Hall any time it is open. 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. Residents in the incorporated City limits 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.

Stream Team Cleanup is April 2nd

The City will hold its annual Stream Cleanup on Saturday, April 2, 2016, and we are looking for streams. Is there a stream near you with a lot of trash? Have you seen a stream near your favorite park or your child's school that needs a cleaning? Please contact Tiffany Wright with any locations (twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043) or if you would like to participate on April 2nd.

Pothole Reporting

It's March and hopefully the worst of the snow, ice and sleet are behind us. Unfortunately many potholes caused by the winter weather still remain. Help get local roads back in shape by reporting the potholes that you encounter as you drive around our city.

Potholes on City streets can be reported by calling 301-809-2344. Prince George's County takes pothole reports for their roads at 301-499-8520 and potholes on State roads (usually numbered highways such as 301, 3, 450, 214, 197) can be reported to 301-952-0555 or 301-776-7619. Each jurisdiction also takes online reports. You can find the link to each government's online form on our website at www.cityofbowie.org/potholes. If you're not sure whether you should be contacting the City, County, or State about a particular pothole, please call our Public Works Department and we'll be glad to help.

Black Vultures, Turkey Buzzards and the large American Crow

Some of these birds will stop in Bowie in March while migrating back to the northern states. They can create a nuisance by ripping into trash bags, and scattering food and other garbage in their search for food. The Animal Control Office recommends you place your garbage in plastic or aluminum containers with lids, or into strong plastic bags. Place your trash receptacles at the curb on the day of pickup before 7 a.m. and not the night before. If you should observe these large birds, create a loud noise by banging pans or other loud noise producing utensils to scare them away. For more information, visit the Bowie Animal Control web page at www.cityofbowie.org/animalcontrol.

Events

3/2 – Nature Walk 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

3/3, 3/6, 3/8, 3/16 & 3/24 – Stitch Some History! 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. On these dates individuals, ages 10 and up, are invited to participate in our quilt making project. Those under age 10 can enjoy our kids quilt activities in the sunroom. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/4 - 3/20 – “An Act of the Imagination” at Bowie Playhouse Produced by Bowie Community Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.bctheatre.com or call 301-805-0219.

3/7 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

3/8 – Second Tuesday Lecture – White House Weddings 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/12 – CSA Fair and Organic Gardening Workshop 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at City Hall. Free. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

3/12 – Annual Ladies’ History Day 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Lectures, conversation, and cordial making. Bring your lunch – drinks provided. \$25 per person. Reservations required. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/15 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/18 – “Dance Into Spring” Party at the Senior Center 12:30 - 2 p.m. Register by 3/14. \$4 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

3/20 – Weed Warrior Work Day 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and easily, and is very destructive to native ecosystems. The City of Bowie’s Green Team needs volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. 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. This is a great Student Service Learning activity. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors for more information. To participate, register by contacting Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

3/21 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

3/23 – Sudoku Workshop at the Senior Center 10 and 11 a.m. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

3/28 - 4/1 – Nike Spring Break Basketball Camp at the Bowie Gymnasium. Coed basketball camp for ages 6 – 17. For information, call 1-800-645-3226.

3/30 – “Peter Pan” at Toby’s Dinner Theatre – Senior Center Trip 9:45 a.m. \$54 for residents and \$59 for nonresidents. Guests ages 5 years and older are welcome! For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.