

# Bowie News Flash

**April 2016**

## News

### **Time is Running Out to Complete Your Survey on Bowie's Future**

If you were not able to attend one of the recent community meetings on planning for Bowie's future, you can still share your thoughts with the City Council by completing our short Strategic Planning Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/surveyBowiesfuture>. The survey closes at the end of the day on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hydrant Flushing Begins April 4**

The Bowie Public Works Department will begin the annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing will occur during daylight hours from approximately 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., according to the following schedule:

April 4 & 5	Buckingham, Derbyshire, and Forest Drive
April 6 & 7	Somerset and Bowie Forest
April 8 & 11	Tulip Grove
April 12 & 13	Foxhill & Long Ridge
April 14, 15 & 18	Kenilworth
April 19	Heather Hills
April 20 - 22	Meadowbrook
April 25	Gradys Walk & Glenridge
April 26	Chapel Forge
April 27	Victoria Heights & Race Track Road Townhouses
April 28	Idlewild
April 29	Yorktown & Overbrook
May 2	Whitehall
May 3	Rockledge

Some discoloration of your water may occur, therefore washing clothes is discouraged when hydrant flushing is taking place nearby your home. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment buildup in the water lines and is not harmful. The discoloration should clear in approximately 24 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent neighborhoods could affect your water as well. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

## **Celebrate One Hundred Years of Growth, Unity & Progress**

April 18, 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary, the Centennial, of our City government. Bowie has grown from a small railroad village of approximately 650 people in 1916 to become the fifth largest city in Maryland, with a population of approximately 56,000.

Join us on April 16 at 11 a.m. at Bowie City Hall as we kickoff our Centennial celebration with an opening ceremony and reception at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road. And plan to explore our history and heritage at one of the many Centennial events planned for the coming year! View the First 100 Days of Centennial Events on our website at [www.cityofbowie.org/centennialevents](http://www.cityofbowie.org/centennialevents).

## **Bowie Green Expo - Saturday, April 9**

The Bowie Green Expo is a free, family event open to the public. Activities include a Kids' Zone with live entertainment, an electric car display, and over 50 vendors showcasing their environmental friendly products and services. This year's Green Expo theme is "Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose." The event is hosted by the Bowie Lions Club, the City of Bowie, and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. Come join us for a day of discovery, and learn from our exhibitors how it can be easy to "Go Green". Visit [www.bowiegreenexpo.org](http://www.bowiegreenexpo.org).

## **Cop for a Day**

Experience what it is like to be a Cop for a Day on Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Prince George's Stadium (home of the Bowie Baysox). Ride in a police car, chase a bad guy, handcuff a suspect, and find evidence at a crime scene. Learn something new and have fun while raising funds for Special Olympics. For information, email [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org) or visit [www.bowiecopforaday.org](http://www.bowiecopforaday.org) to register. The fee is \$20.

## **Prescription Drug Take Back**

Dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs in a safe manner on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. For information, email [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org) or call 240-544-5700.

## **Bowie's Brightest Educators**

Nominate an educator at a Bowie school for doing an outstanding job. Information and nomination forms are on the City's website at [www.cityofbowie.org/education](http://www.cityofbowie.org/education).

## **Education Committee is Collecting Books**

The Bowie Education Committee welcomes your donations of books to give away to children at Bowiefest on June 4. The Committee needs thousands of books! For information, contact Annette Esterheld at [aesterheld@cityofbowie.org](mailto:aesterheld@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601.

## **Plant a Tree This Spring**

Tree rebates of \$50 and \$100 are available on a first come, first served basis for City of Bowie residents who would like to purchase up to two trees at Patuxent Nursery (2410 Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD). There are 11 species of trees eligible for rebates as well as lowered delivery/planting rates for program participants. Details of this program can be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate](http://www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate) or applications are available at the nursery. There are still plenty of rebates available!

### **Is Your Trash Safe?**

Safety is a top priority for the City of Bowie and it is a shared responsibility that starts right at your trash can and recycling cart. A properly filled, maintained, and serviced can or cart is crucial in keeping residents and City employees free from harm. Objects such as metal strips, wooden stakes, nails and screws, broken bottles and glass, and improperly discarded medical waste and needles all pose safety hazards. These items should be secured in closed containers with lids before being put out for trash or recycling. Before you discard anything, please think about the health and safety of the City employee handling the material at pickup time.

The City and the County prohibit the disposal of oil-based paint, antifreeze, gasoline, used motor oil, and hazardous chemical containers in regular trash. These items may be dropped off at the Prince George's County Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site at Brown Station Landfill. For more information about Bowie's trash and recycling program, see [www.cityofbowie.org/trash](http://www.cityofbowie.org/trash). Learn more about disposing of hazardous waste at the Brown Station Landfill in Upper Marlboro by visiting <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/wastemanagement/services/recycling/hazardouswaste>.

### **Tips from the Code Compliance Office**

The grass and weed mowing season has begun. Grass and weeds are not permitted to exceed 8" (eight inches) in height. Place bagged yard waste and grass clippings at the curb on Tuesday afternoon for the regularly scheduled Wednesday yard waste pickup.

Spring is also the time for many home improvement projects. Carefully read and review home improvement contracts. Make certain your contractor is a licensed professional. Get the required County and City building permits before construction starts. For more information, call 301-809-3008 or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance](http://www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance).

### **City Selling Discounted Compost Bin to Residents**

Compost bins can be purchased for \$20 at City Hall, during open hours. Cash or check payments are accepted during business hours, 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/compost). Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

### **Create a Backyard Habitat**

Give birds, butterflies and other wildlife in Bowie a place to live. The City has joined the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitats program where residents and communities can collaborate to help provide the missing requirements of all wildlife: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. To learn how to participate and certify your yard, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/habitat](http://www.cityofbowie.org/habitat). Every certification in Bowie supports our community goal, which is a minimum of 200 homes, 6 community sites (office buildings, parks, places of worship, homeowner associations, etc.), and 5 schools certified. We are very close to achieving our goal! Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

### **Celebrate Arbor Day!**

The City's annual Arbor Day ceremony is Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park, located at the intersection of Stonybrook Drive and Sage Lane. For information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or [rkellner@cityofbowie.org](mailto:rkellner@cityofbowie.org).

### **Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit at Bowie Center for Performing Arts**

Bowie's Green Team will host their 2nd annual Earth Day Concert & Art Exhibit on Sunday, April 24, 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free so that all may enjoy! Come celebrate our local landscape with a short film "Centennial Celebration of Nature" by local filmmaker Kali Belden. Live musical performances by the Capital Reeds, Waso Taiko (Japanese Drums) and Walidanés (Women's African Drums). Artwork by local artist Nathaniel Scott featuring repurposed building materials as well as the Bowie Green Expo Poster Contest winners.

### **Spring Plant Sale**

Buy your annual and perennial flowers and plants on Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Library on Annapolis Road. The Spring Plant Sale is organized by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and co-sponsored by the City of Bowie. This event offers a wide variety of native Maryland plants, herbs, vegetables, yard and houseplants. Butterfly Garden Kits will be featured for setting up your Monarch Waystation! Visit [www.bcgardenclub.org](http://www.bcgardenclub.org) for more information.

### **Early Voting Begins April 14 for Presidential Primary**

Maryland's Presidential Primary is on April 26, 2016. Voters can vote on Election Day or can take advantage of early voting, which runs from April 14 - 21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The City of Bowie Municipal Gymnasium, located at 4100 Northview Drive, is one of eight early voting locations in Prince George's County. If you have questions about voter registration, absentee balloting, early voting for the Primary or General Election, please contact the County Board of Elections at 301-341-7300 or visit <http://elections.mypgc.us>.

To find your polling place, view your sample ballot, or obtain more information about your voter registration, visit the Voter Lookup page on the Maryland Board of Elections website at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>.

### **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

The 2015 City of Bowie Water Quality Report is now available. Please go to [www.cityofbowie.org/wqr](http://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 Mixer on Tiny Houses** - On Thursday, April 14th there will be a mixer about tiny houses at Old Bowie Town Grille from 6 - 8 p.m. Come meet new people and learn about tiny houses from someone who built one. Tiny houses are typically under 500 square feet and are a way to live simply. They are affordable and environmentally friendly. Food and drink will be available for purchase during the talk. Register at [www.tinyhousemixer.eventbrite.com](http://www.tinyhousemixer.eventbrite.com). Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

## City of Bowie Job Vacancies

The City of Bowie is currently seeking applicants for the following positions:

- **Temporary Building Maintenance Worker** – Community Services Department  
(Open until filled)
- **Senior Information Technology Technician** – Information Technology Department  
(Closes 4/8/2016)
- **Solid Waste Driver/Collector** – Solid Waste Division, Public Works Department  
(Closes 4/8/2016)
- **Assistant Director - Community Services Department**  
(Closes 4/22/2016)

For more information about the positions listed above or to apply online, please visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobs](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs).

## Prince George's County Mulch Madness

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment is giving away free mulch to County residents on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility, located at 6601 SE Crain Highway in Upper Marlboro (from Crain Highway, proceed on Maude Savoy Brown Road and follow signs to the Visitors Center.) For more information, call County Click 3-1-1.

## Events

**4/2 – Stream Team Cleanup** 9 a.m. – noon. Cleanup takes place at six sites across the City. Contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or [twright@cityofbowie.org](mailto:twright@cityofbowie.org) to participate. PGCPs students will receive Service Learning hours.

**4/2 – Topping It Off: Ladies' 18<sup>th</sup> Century Hat Decorating Class** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. The cost is \$60 per person. Bring your lunch, drinks provided. Reservations required. For reservations and more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**4/2 – Summer Camp Fair** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Kenhill Center. Sponsored by Chesapeake Family Magazine and co-sponsored by the City of Bowie.

**4/3, 4/6, 4/12, and 4/16 – Stitch Some History** 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Help complete our 19<sup>th</sup> century quilt. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**4/4 – Regular City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. To view the agenda for this meeting go to [www.cityofbowie.org/agenda](http://www.cityofbowie.org/agenda).

**4/6 – 5@55 Workshop** 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. This workshop helps you learn about the five essential legal tools everyone should have by the age of 55.

**4/8 – Red Cross Blood Drive** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the City Gym. For an appointment, call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code “Bowie Gym”.

**4/9 – American Red Cross Community Blood Drive** 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for appointment.

**4/9 – Green Expo** 12 - 4 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. Hosted by the Bowie Lions Club and sponsored by Bowie’s Green Team. This event focuses on presenting information, practices, and products dedicated to helping us all lead greener lives. For more information, visit [www.bowiegreenexpo.org](http://www.bowiegreenexpo.org).

**4/11 – City Council Budget/CIP Introduction and Budget Worksession #1** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Topics include General Fund Revenues, CIP and Capital Projects Fund.

**4/12 – Art at Riversdale Mansion - Second Tuesday Lecture** 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free.

**4/14 – AARP Car Fit** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

**4/14 – ImagineBowie Mixer on Tiny Houses** 6 - 8 p.m. at Old Bowie Town Grille. This event is sponsored by the Bowie Green Team. Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or email [klarson@cityofboiwe.org](mailto:klarson@cityofboiwe.org). Register at [www.tinyhousemixer.eventbrite.com](http://www.tinyhousemixer.eventbrite.com).

**4/15 – 4/30 – The Mousetrap 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 Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets, visit [www.pglt.org](http://www.pglt.org) or call 301-937-7458.

**4/16 – Bowie Centennial Opening Ceremony** 11 a.m. behind City Hall. Free. Refreshments in the lobby of City Hall after the ceremony.

**4/18 – City Council Meeting and Budget Worksession #2** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Public Works, Water and Sewer Fund.

**4/19 – Kids Kaboose** 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun, trainspotting and games for youngsters ages 1-10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**4/19 – Professional Tips on Planning a Vacation** 5:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. This event is open to the community.

**4/23 – Cop for a Day** 9 - 1 p.m. at Prince George’s Stadium (home of the Bowie Baysox). For more information, [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

**4/23 – Celebrate Arbor Day** 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park. For more information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or [rkellner@cityofbowie.org](mailto:rkellner@cityofbowie.org).

**4/24 – Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit** 7 - 9 p.m. at Bowie Center for Performing Arts. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

**4/25 – City Council Budget Worksession #3** 8 p.m. at City Hall. The budget of the Community Services Department will be reviewed.

**4/28 – Ten Early Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s** 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. Free, no registration required.

**4/28 – An Evening of Wellness** 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Holistic approach to pain management. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

**4/30 – Spring Plant Sale** 8 a.m. at Bowie Library on MD Rt. 450. Sponsored by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Green Team. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

**4/30 – Prescription Drug Take Back** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. Dispose of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe manner. For more information, [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).