



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

April 2016

One Hundred Years of Growth, Unity & Progress

In 1870, a small railroad village called Huntington City sprang up around a railroad depot called Bowie Station. It was named in honor of Maryland Governor Oden Bowie, a local resident instrumental in bringing the railroad to the area. That small town flourished, with lovely homes, shady streets, businesses, shops and places of worship. Huntington was incorporated in 1874 and in 1882 was renamed Bowie. The railroad village continued to be referred to as Huntington or Huntington City by its residents and to this day the area is known as Huntington or Old Bowie.

In the early 20th century, residents began the process that incorporated the Town of Bowie. That process came to fruition on April 18, 1916. R. P. Watts, William Luers, and Thomas P. Littlepage were the town's first commissioners. Initially, town meetings were held in the Knights of St. John Hall, which still stands today, and in residents' homes. For many years, the area south of the railroad village remained largely agricultural. Then...in 1957...the face of Bowie began to change forever.

South of Bowie, the Belair Farm, in business since the 1740's, was sold as a consequence of the death of its owner, William Woodward, Jr. Acquired by developer William J. Levitt, the land quickly became a suburban development known as Belair at Bowie. In 1959, Belair at Bowie was annexed by the Town. The beginning of today's City of Bowie had begun.

Today the City of Bowie operates under the same charter (with later amendments) created in 1916. April 18, 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary – the Centennial – of our City Charter. Bowie has grown from a small railroad village to become the fifth largest city in Maryland, with a population of approximately 56,000. Its area has expanded to include newer, later developments, but the feeling remains the same as it was long ago. Bowie is a vibrant hometown where people put down roots. It is a City of diversity and economic opportunity, and has a strong and varied faith community. We're not getting older, we're getting better! **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!

April is Earth Month - Let's Celebrate!

“Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose” Bowie Green Expo 4/9, 12 - 4 p.m. at Kenhill Center. Activities include a Kids' Zone with live entertainment, an electric car display, and over 50 vendors with environmental-friendly products and services. Hosted by the Bowie Lions Club, the City, and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. Free event. Visit www.bowiegreenexpo.org.

Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit 4/24, 7 - 9 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Come celebrate our local landscape with a short

film “Centennial Celebration of Nature” by local filmmaker Kali Belden. Live performances by the Capital Reeds, Waso Taiko and Walidanés. Artwork by local artist Nathaniel Scott and the Bowie Green Expo Poster Contest winners.

Spring Plant Sale 4/30, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Library. 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 for more information.

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/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 in Upper Marlboro. For more information, visit the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Code Corner - Yard Maintenance

The grass and weed mowing season has begun. Grass and weeds are not permitted to exceed 8” (eight inches) in height. Schedule your lawn service to place bagged yard waste and grass clippings at the curb on Tuesday afternoon for the regular scheduled Wednesday morning pickup. Spring is also 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 our Code Compliance and Building Permit webpages at www.cityofbowie.org.

Cop for a Day 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: cops@cityofbowie.org.

Prescription Drug Take Back Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road. Dispose of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe manner. For information: cops@cityofbowie.org.

Celebrate Arbor Day! 4/23 at 10 a.m., Acorn Hill Park at Stonybrook Drive and Sage Lane. For information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or rkellner@cityofbowie.org.

Memorial Day Parade Saturday, 5/28, 11 a.m. There is still time to sign your organization up to participate in this fun and patriotic event!

Importance of Mental Health Seminar 4/13 and 4/20, 6 - 8 p.m. at City Hall. Free. For information, call NAMI at 301-429-0970 or visit the website, www.namipgc.org.

Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers counseling for families in the City with children in the home who are high school age or younger. For information, call 301-809-3033.

Bike to Work Day 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. Register at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org or call 800-745-7433. Preregister by 5/13 for free T-shirt & bike raffle. Information: Frank Stevens at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.



Nominate an Outstanding Bowie Business for the Ninth Annual Bowie Business Recognition Awards. The nomination deadline is **Monday, April 4, 2016**. For information, contact Bowie Economic Development Director John Henry King at jhking@cityofbowie.org.

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.

The Mousetrap 4/15 - 4/30 at the Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information - 301-937-7458 or www.pglf.org.

City Hall Art Gallery The current show, which runs through 4/22, is the work of students, kindergarten - 12th grade, from Bowie area schools.

Bowie's Brightest Educators Nominate an educator at a Bowie school. Information and nomination forms are on the City's website under Education, www.cityofbowie.org.

Education Committee Is Collecting Books to give away to children at Bowiefest on 6/4. The Committee needs thousands of books!

For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

TOPPING IT OFF: LADIES' 18TH CENTURY HAT DECORATING CLASS

Saturday, 4/2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. \$60 per person. Bring your lunch, drinks provided. Reservations required.

STITCH SOME HISTORY 4/3, 4/6, and 4/12, 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Manison. Help complete our 19th century quilt. Free.

BOWIE CENTENNIAL OPENING CEREMONY

4/16, 11 a.m. at City Hall. Refreshments after the ceremony

KIDS KABOOSE

Tuesday, 4/19
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bowie Railroad Museum

CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

COED RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL

Drop in and get some exercise, meet new friends and have fun. Fridays, 11 a.m.

PICKLEBALL

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Offered in partnership with the Senior Center. Similar to tennis, but with a lower net and a plastic wiffle-type ball.

SUMMER CAMP FAIR

Saturday, 4/2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive). Sponsored by Chesapeake Family Magazine.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, 4/8, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For appointment: 1-800-RED-CROSS or www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code “Bowie Gym”.

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.

AARP CAR FIT

Thursday, 4/14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

AN EVENING OF WELLNESS

Thursday, 4/28, 5 - 6:30 p.m. Holistic approach to pain management.

SENIOR CHORALE CONCERT, “NO MUSIC LIKE SHOW MUSIC”

Wednesday, 5/18 and Thursday, 5/19 at the Senior Center. Wednesday, 5/25 at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts.

INFORMATION FAIR: AGING IN AMERICA - IT'S OKAY

Wednesday, 5/25 - Friday, 5/27.

Contact the Senior Center for a complete list of programs.

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