

Bowie News Flash

September 2016

News

It's Back to School Time – Drive Carefully and Watch Out for Pedestrians

Public schools opened in late August and everyone will be back to school by the first week in September. Stay alert, drive within the posted speed limit, and remember to stop for school buses that are loading and unloading.

Salute to America Concert at Allen Pond Park

The Salute to America concert, featuring the Bowie State University Concert Band, will be held on Sunday, September 4th from 7 - 8 p.m. The band will perform patriotic music at this final Sunday concert of the season. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. The concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

Labor Day Holiday - Monday, September 5

All City offices and facilities, including the City Gymnasium, the Ice Arena, the Kenhill Center, City Museums, and the Senior Center will be closed for the holiday on September 5th. No refuse or recycling collection.

Walk Wednesdays September

Walk Wednesdays are a fun and social opportunity for Bowie residents to get together for light to moderate exercise that highlights nature and the many beautiful local walking trails in our city. The group gathers at specified locations at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. Please wear appropriate attire, bring water, and arrive no later than 7:05 p.m. if you would like to walk with the group. September schedule:

***September 7** - Allen Pond Park (3330 Northview Drive) - The group will meet at the edge of the parking lot at the start of the walking path. 30 - 40-minute walk.*

***September 14** - David Kerr Nature Trail (Kinderbrook Lane) – Turn onto Kinderbrook Lane from Kembridge Drive. The trail is on the wooded side of the road and is marked by a sign. Park on the street. The group will meet by the sign for the trail. 30-minute walk.*

***September 21** - Whitmarsh Park (6300 Crain Highway) - The group will park in the parking lot by the head of the trail. 40-minute walk.*

***September 28** - Governor Bridge Trail (7600 Governor Bridge Road) - The group will meet by the sign in the parking area before proceeding onto the trails. 30 - 40-minute walk.*

Bowie's Centennial

The celebration of Bowie's 100th anniversary continues with several events this month. They include a lecture on September 8 about local Rosenwald Schools which provided educational opportunities to African American students in the area in the early 20th Century, a tour of Bowie's Houses of Worship on September 18, and a lecture on Vintage Auto Travel in Maryland on September 13. Details about these events and more can be found in the *Bowie Centennial Celebration - The Next 100 Days* brochure, which is available at all City facilities or can be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org/centennial. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Contribute to the Bowie Centennial Cookbook

The Centennial Committee is collecting recipes. Please submit one or two of your recipes for the Centennial Cookbook. Email to museums@cityofbowie.org or mail to Bowie Cookbook, Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715.

Centennial Essay Contest

The City of Bowie has partnered with The Law Offices of Gabriel J. Christian & Associates to sponsor a Centennial Essay Contest for high school students. The firm has generously offered cash prizes of \$300 and \$200 to the first and second place winners who write an essay of at least 750 words about the past, present, and future of Bowie. Contest details can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/centennial. The deadline is October 28, 2016 and the contest is open to high school students living within the municipal limits of the City of Bowie.

Sign Up for Bowie's Energy Audit Program

Bowie homeowners can save money and improve the comfort and safety of their homes by completing a home energy audit. The first 100 eligible homeowners to submit an application to the City will receive a no cost BGE Home Performance with Energy Star Energy Audit (\$100 value). Learn more and complete an application at www.cityofbowie.org/eap. Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Donate to the Food Pantry

Please consider donating canned fruits and soups to the Bowie Pantry. Fresh fruits and vegetables, and financial contributions are needed as well. Donations are accepted at the Pantry (at the rear of 2614 Kenhill Drive), City Gym (4100 Northview Drive), Bowie Library (Rt. 450), PNC Bank (Stonybrook Drive), Parcel Express (Hilltop), Every Second Counts (Hilltop) or at the Sunday Sunset Concert at Allen Pond Park. For more information, contact the Pantry at 301-262-6765 or www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Fences

If you are erecting a new residential fence or replacement fence 4-feet or greater in height, Prince George's County now requires all support posts, both horizontal and vertical, face the interior of the yard. For more information, contact the Bowie Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 and visit www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance.

Water and Sewer Lines

Some residents received a recent mailing about water and sewer pipe insurance. The City does not recommend or endorse any particular company to provide this service. Decisions about the need for pipe insurance are up to homeowners. City of Bowie water customers can learn more about the issue at www.cityofbowie.org/pipeinsurance.

City Gym Maintenance

The City Gym is closed for annual maintenance August 30 - September 9. The Gym will reopen September 10. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Recreational Volleyball Returns to the City Gym

Adult volleyball starts up on Friday, September 16, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. No experience needed. Come out and make new friends, have fun and get some quality exercise each Friday. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Flea Market and Children's Swap Meet

The City Gymnasium will host its first City-wide Flea Market and Children's Swap Meet on Saturday, September 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This event will be conducted rain or shine. The flea market will offer local residents an opportunity to clear out their homes and garages of any excess items and hopefully make a little money! They can also sell or trade children's items at the swap meet. Our location, at the corner of Health Center and Northview Drives and directly across from the Bowie Town Center, provides a premium, high visibility location for this City-wide event. A 6 x 8-foot space is available for \$10. A 6-foot table can be included for an additional \$10 fee. Refreshments will be available. Please contact the Gym for table space availability at 301-809-2388.

Ticks

Ticks are active during the months of April through October. Tick bites can cause human disease including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. You can reduce the chance of tick bites by wearing light-colored clothes, avoiding woody or brushy areas, and using repellents containing 20% - 30% DEET (10% for children) on your skin and clothing. After outdoor activity, inspect your body and your pet's for ticks. Use tweezers to remove ticks. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/ticks.

Bowie Senior Center is Back Home!

The Bowie Senior Center reopened for patrons at its Health Center Drive location on Monday, August 15. Programs that were temporarily housed at the Kenhill Center due to a lack of air conditioning at the Senior Center facility have returned to the permanent location at 14900 Health Center Drive. The City Council and the Senior Center staff would like to thank all Senior Center patrons for their understanding and patience over the last several weeks as emergency work on the air conditioning system was performed.

National Senior Center Month: Find Balance at Your Center

Visit the Senior Center to see the opportunities that are available to help balance your life. Find your balance and whole person wellness through our many programs: exercise, literature, languages, art, history, music, computer classes and much more! For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

Bowie Youth & Family Services

Bowie Youth & Family Services serves individuals, families and groups in the Bowie community. We offer counseling for all families in the City who have children in the home who are high school age or younger. Other services include outreach activities and a mentoring program for students at Bowie High School. Our staff members are licensed clinicians who each hold a graduate degree in a mental health specialty and who have years of training and experience in treating children, teens and their families.

We will be accepting registrations for four groups this fall. *Calm, Confident Kids* is designed to help school-age children develop strategies for managing worries. *Active Parenting Program* is open to parents with school-aged children or teens. *Girls Count* is an after-school program for 9-12th grade girls. Finally, our popular *ADHD Group*, for 7-11-year-old children with Attention-Deficit Disorder and their parents, will begin in October. Families are encouraged to call 301-809-3033 for more information or to arrange for an appointment.

Imagine an Hour That Impacts a Lifetime, Imagine Mentoring

Mentoring makes a difference and now is the time to volunteer. The Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) 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 and supporting their success in school, in their family and in the Bowie community. For information, contact Program Coordinator Rhonda Simon at mentor@cityofbowie.org, call at 301-809-3033 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/byfs.

Draft CAPER Available for Review and Comment Through September 6

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) provides a yearly accounting of funds allocated for the implementation of the goals and objectives outlined in the Five Year Consolidated Plan for Community Development (Con Plan). For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org.

Bowie City Hall Art Gallery Exhibits

- ***Sampler: Artists Pick*** Exhibit runs through September 16.
- ***Earth Elements*** Exhibit opens September 19. It features artwork that depicts fire, water, air, and earth.

Art Gallery hours are the same as City Hall hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Exhibits are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at 240-544-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

Arts & Education Grants

The application forms may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at 240-544-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

Beautification Awards

It's official! This year's entries have been judged, scores have been tallied, and the winners are... Well, you'll just have to attend the City's Beautification Awards Ceremony on September 22 at City Hall to learn the results! A slide presentation and refreshments will begin at 7 p.m. and the awards presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Jobs

The City of Bowie is currently seeking applicants for the following job openings in the Community Services Department:

- Code Compliance/Animal Control Supervisor (closes 9/16/2016)
- Ice Arena Supervisor (open until filled)

Details and an employment application can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Learn to Skate Lessons Begin September 1

Back to School lessons begin September 1st and run for 5 weeks on Thursday afternoons through September. Classes are available for children 18 months of age through adults. Fee is \$60 for residents and includes: 5 half-hour lessons, skate rental during the lessons and a pass for four admissions to public sessions to practice.

Bowie International Festival is October 1

Bowie's annual celebration of world cultures takes place at Allen Pond Park on October 1. There will be children's activities, musical entertainment on two stages, and vendors selling items and food from around the globe. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

National Emergency Preparedness Month

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. It's also the peak of hurricane season and a great time to take stock of your emergency supplies and disaster plans. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/emergencyprep for checklists and other resources to help you be prepared.

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over the water and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October.

Before, during and after a disaster, being informed is critical. When disasters strike with little or no warning, access to critical information will provide you with important information such as potential hazards/risks, road closures, power-outages and shelter locations.

Get up to the minute local emergency information through Alert Bowie 2.0, a free service available to individuals who live or work in the Bowie area. Individuals choose how they want to receive emergency alerts – text messages, mobile app, emails, and in certain cases via calls to the home and mobile phones. You can also sign up to receive a variety of informational messages from the City of Bowie. To sign up visit www.cityofbowie.org/alerts or call 301-809-3032.

Events

9/3 – American Red Cross Community Blood Drive 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Bowie Senior Center. To make an appointment, please call 1-800-733-2767.

9/4 – Salute to America Concert 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. The Bowie State University Concert Band will provide patriotic music. The concert will be held at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather.

9/5 – Labor Day Holiday City offices are closed for the holiday and there will be no trash or recycling collection on Monday.

9/6 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

9/7 – Walk Wednesdays – Allen Pond Park (3330 Northview Drive) 7 p.m. 30 – 40-minute walk. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

9/8 – Lecture: Rosenwald Schools in Bowie and Prince George's County 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/10 – General Rochambeau’s Troops Visit Belair 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/13 – Vintage Auto Travel in Maryland – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/14 – Walk Wednesdays – David Kerr Nature Trail (Kinderbrook Lane) 7 p.m. 30-minute walk. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

9/15 – Comedy Magician and Illusionist 7 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Experience the high energy magic and comedy of Speed, one of the East Coast’s premiere entertainers. He is known for his fast-paced, fun, and modern performance style. For ticket information, visit www.bowiecentertix.com.

9/16 – Senior Trip to Fort McHenry and Inner Harbor Cost: \$30 residents/\$34 non-residents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

9/17 – Veterans Appreciation Day 12 - 5 p.m. at the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post on Laurel-Bowie Road. Veterans and their families are invited to this fun event hosted by local veterans organizations. There will be food, fun, children’s games, and information about veterans’ benefits. For information, call 301-464-9814.

9/18 – “Farm Day” at Bowie Farmers’ Market 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School. Farm animal petting zoo, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

9/19 – City Council Regular Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

9/20 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 - 11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/21 – Walk Wednesdays – Whitemarsh Park (6300 Crain Highway) 7 p.m. 40-minute walk. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

9/22 – Beautification Award Program 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Winners of the annual Beautification Awards will be announced at this event.

9/24 – Weed Warrior Work Day at Whitemarsh Park 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The City's Green Team is in need of volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and is very destructive to native ecosystems. 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. To participate, please register by contacting Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors.

9/24 – Children's Swap Meet and Flea Market 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the City Gym. For information or to reserve a space, call 301-809-2388.

9/24 – 1860s Picnic at Belair 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers' Aid Society will be hosting an 1860s picnic at the Mansion. Join the members in typical picnic activities of the time period, including games for both children and adults. Admission is free.

9/24 – Dance Performance by *Fundacion Elena Ballet Folklorico* 7 p.m. Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. The City of Bowie is sponsoring this 90-minute show which will feature dances from various Mexican states, including Yucatan, Guadalajara, Jalisco, San Luis, and Oaxaca. *Fundacion Elena Ballet Folklorico*, also known as "FE" is a non-profit organization, founded in May 2012 for children, teens, and adults. For more information, call 202-821-2459.

9/28 – Walk Wednesdays – Governor Bridge Trail (7600 Governor Bridge Road) 7 p.m. 30 - 40-minute walk. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

10/1 – Bowie International Festival – Allen Pond Park 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.