

Bowie News Flash

October 2016

News

Non-Emergency Call Center Expands Service October 3

On March 7, 2016, the Bowie Police Department welcomed ten Call Takers to the Department. The Call Takers received comprehensive training. In April 2016, the Call Center began staffing the Center on a 24-hour basis. This allowed the services of the Police Department to expand by allowing public access 24 hours, 7 days per week. In addition to providing greater public access, the Call Takers function as the primary point of contact for citizens in need of City services after-hours. Based upon the nature of the after-hours issue, the Call Takers notify the agency responsible for the issue of concern. Examples of after-hour emergencies include trees down, power outages, water main breaks, etc.

The Call Center will begin handling non-emergency Police calls for service on October 3. The contact number for the Police Department is **240-544-5700** for non-emergencies as well as administrative services. For emergencies, all residents should call **911**.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Bowie Police Department, in conjunction with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office and other municipalities, will light up the front of the City's Police Department with purple light to raise awareness of the problem of domestic violence in our communities. For more information, contact the Bowie Police Department at 240-544-5700 or visit the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website at www.ncadv.org .

Bowie Health Fair – Saturday, October 15th, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Bowie Health Fair offers a variety of screenings, activities, and informational sessions for residents of all ages. The Fair will take place at multiple locations along Health Center Drive, including the Firehouse, Senior Center, Gym and several medical buildings. There will be free flu shots for the first 200 adults, as well as medical screenings such as high blood pressure and cholesterol. Attendees can also consult with a physician, and gather information from the many different medical professionals and health and wellness vendors who will be present. Free shuttle buses will take attendees between the various fair locations on Health Center Drive. For more information, visit www.bowiehealthfair.com.

Green Bowie Events

Wetland Cleanup Saturday, 10/8, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join the City and the staff of the EZ Storage at the wetland on Gallant Fox Lane (near 197 and Old 450). We will be working

around the wetland and on two nearby City properties to remove trash and recyclable items. Supplies provided. Please RSVP to Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.

Weed Warrior Work Day Saturday, 10/29, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Whitemarsh Park. 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 with Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044. More information: www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors.

Plant a Tree Rebates of \$50 and \$100 are available for City residents who would like to purchase up to two trees to plant on their property. Trees can be purchased at any Maryland nursery or store this year, and there are 11 species of trees eligible for rebates. Applications and details at www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate. Information: Contact Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

Leaves

Leaves are already falling this season! However, the City's leaf collection program will not begin until early November. Leaves raked now must be placed in paper bags and left at the curb for Wednesday collection. When leaf vacuum collection begins in November, residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of the grass for pickup. Please do not rake leaves into the street as that can clog storm drains and is considered a City Code violation. For information, contact the Bowie Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or visit www.cityofbowie.org.

Bowie's Centennial

The celebration of Bowie's 100th anniversary continues with a couple of events this month - the Books About Bowie Book Fair on October 16 and Oktoberfest at Bowie's Farmers' Market on October 23. 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

Submit your Bowie 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

Donate canned fruits and soups. Fresh fruits and vegetables, and financial contributions are needed as well! Donations are accepted at the Pantry (2614 Kenhill Drive), City Gym, Bowie Library (Rt. 450), PNC Bank (Rt. 450), Parcel Express (Hilltop) and Every Second Counts (Hilltop). For more information, contact the Pantry at 301-262-6765 or www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Youth Employment Fair

On Saturday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the City Gym and Bowie Youth & Family Services will host a job fair at the Gym for 16 - 24-year-olds looking for employment. Employers looking to hire, contact Duncan Churches at the Gym at 301-809-2384.

City Gym Closed for Early Voting October 27 – November 3

The City Gym will close for the General Election Early Voting from October 27 to November 3. The Gym will reopen November 4. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Halloween On Ice

Celebrate Halloween at the Ice Arena on October 29 from 1 - 3 p.m. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Wear a costume AND bring a canned good for free skate rental too. Costume contest, treat bags and lots of skating fun for the whole family! For information, call the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org.

Lost Pets

The steps you take in the first 24 hours can make a difference. Once your pet is out of sight, file a lost report with Bowie Animal Control (301-809-3002) and the Prince George's County Animal Management Division (301-780-7200). You will be notified if an animal matching the description was reported running loose, contained by a neighbor, or picked up by an Animal Control Officer. Canvass the area on foot or by car. Enlist the aid of neighbors and friends. Post a current photo and message on the Bowie Animal Control Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BowieAnimalControl. Post fliers at local veterinary offices and animal related businesses. Create an ad on a lost pet website: Petfinder.com, Lostpetusa.net. Information: Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 or slopez@cityofbowie.org.

Top Gardens Honored

The lovely yard of Lauren Ragsac captured the top award for the 2016 Distinguished Yard at the 21st Annual Beautification Awards held at City Hall. This event was cosponsored by Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton. Thanks to the nominees, whose hard work and creativity have made Bowie a beautiful place to live, and to the sponsors, Patuxent Nursery and Frank's Garden Center, who provided prizes and decorations. For a complete list of winners visit www.cityofbowie.org.

Outreach Grants Awarded

The City's Community Outreach Committee (COC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2016-2017 Grant Program. This year's recipients are: Take Charge Pride Basketball Program; Rescuing Homeless Single Mothers and Children at Alpha House; and Rescuing Homeless Mothers and Babies in Bowie. Additional information on the Committee's mission and projects supported by them can be found on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

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. The first, **Calm, Confident Kids**, is designed to help school-age children develop strategies for managing worries. The second fall group, **The Active Parenting Program**, is open to parents with school-aged children or teens. Our third group, **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 BYFS at 301-809-3033 or visit www.cityofbowie.org (Community Services/Youth & Family Services).

Bowie Art Exhibits

Earth Elements City Hall Art Gallery exhibit open until November 11. It features artwork that depicts fire, water, air and earth. Meet the artists reception on October 6, 7 – 8 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 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. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at 240-544-5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

General Election Early Voting October 27 – November 3 at the City Gym

The Bowie City Gym will be open for Early Voting Thursday, October 27 – Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. For more information, visit the Maryland Board of Elections website at www.elections.state.md.us.

Need Help Getting to the Election Polls?

The Bowie Senior Center bus transportation service will be available for Seniors 55 and older, and for disabled adults living within the Bowie City limits, for the General Election. **Early Voting** will take place at the Bowie City Gymnasium – please call for an appointment for bus service. **On General Election Day, November 8**, bus service will be provided to the Pin Oak, Evergreen and Willows communities from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. For others, service will be provided by appointment from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Please call the Senior Center at **301-809-2324** by Friday, November 4th to schedule a ride.

Events

10/1 – Bowie International Festival 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. For more information, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org or contact Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

10/3 – City Council Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/5 – Queenstown Outlets and Cracker Barrel Restaurant Senior Day Trip Cost: \$22 residents/\$25 nonresidents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/5 – Guitar Music and Sing Along 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/6 – Group Skating Lessons Begin Bowie Ice Arena. Classes for children 18 months of age to adults. Register at the Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

10/8 – Wetland Cleanup 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join the City and the staff of the EZ Storage at the wetland on Gallant Fox Lane (near 197 and Old 450). We will be working around the wetland and on two nearby City properties to remove trash and recyclable items. Supplies provided. Please RSVP to Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.

10/11 – Outfitting Outlander: Costumes, Props and Maryland Archaeology - 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/15 – Bowie Health Fair - 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at multiple locations on Health Center Drive. For more information, visit www.bowiehealthfair.com.

10/16 – Books About Bowie Book Fair - 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/17 – City Council Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/18 – 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.

10/18 – Hot Topics: Preparing for an Emergency 5:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. Open to the public. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/21 – 11/19 – “H.M.S. Pinafore” at Bowie Playhouse. Tickets: 301-832-4819 or www.2ndstarproductions.com.

10/26 – Tales From Belair and Bowie Preview - 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Documentary film showing. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/28 – “Falling in Love ... In the Fall” Performance 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Fee and registration required. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/29 – 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.

10/29 – Halloween On Ice 1 - 3 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Wear a costume AND bring a canned good for free skate rental too. Costume contest, treat bags and lots of skating fun for the whole family! For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

10/30 – “Oktoberfest” 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. Free scarecrow making (participants supply a long-sleeve shirt and trousers) and free pumpkin painting

(pumpkins available for purchase) starting at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.