



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

December 2016

Holiday Candlelight and Tree Lighting

The City invites you to bring your family and friends to celebrate the holidays at Belair Mansion beginning at 12 p.m. on **Sunday, December 4, 2016**. Traditional decorations and flickering candles will offer a glimpse of holidays past. The music of "Bedlam" will fill the air at 2 p.m. and the candles will be lit at 3 p.m. Then, bundle up for an outdoor "carol sing-along" with the City Council, tree lighting, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus atop the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck at 7 p.m. Admission is free but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are requested. Please look for the marked Food Pantry containers for your donations. For more information, contact City Hall at 301-809-3011 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie is 95th NWF Certified Community Wildlife Habitat

Bowie has become the fifth community in Maryland and the 95th in the country to become a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Thank you to the 240 residents and organizations that became certified for helping us meet this goal. Bowie Gardens 4 Wildlife and the City's Green Team invite you to a reception on **Monday, December 5** at 7 p.m. in the lobby at City Hall. Please RSVP by December 2 to 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Police Host Annual "Shop With A Cop"

The Bowie Police Department is pleased to host its annual "Shop With A Cop" event on **Sunday, December 11, 2016**. This is a nationally recognized program that helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. Through donations received, children (referred through local agencies, churches, and schools) are given a spending limit to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones. Children are accompanied by a uniformed officer who will assist them with their holiday purchases at Target. Afterwards, the kids enjoy a delicious lunch made available through contributions received from local restaurants.

We are in need of donors to make this event a success. Please help us help others! Donations may be directed to the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. All donations are tax deductible. For more information about this program, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org/giving.

Donate to Toys for Tots

Join the Bowie Police Department to help make this Christmas special for local children. Please donate new unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations will be accepted at the following City locations: City Hall, Bowie Police Station, Gymnasium, Ice Arena, Senior Center and Kenhill Center. Please drop toys off by **December 16, 2016**. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org/giving.

Holiday House Decorating Contest

Do you spend hours putting up lights and other displays outdoors for the holidays? Are your decorations the envy of the neighborhood? Then why not enter the City's Holiday House Decorating Contest! The entry deadline is **December 12, 2016 at 5 p.m.** Homes must be within the Bowie municipal limits. For entry forms and information, visit www.cityofbowie.org and search Holiday House Decorating Contest or contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Breakfast With Santa!

Plan to bring your children or grandchildren to the Senior Center on **Saturday, December 17**, from 9 - 11 a.m. for a very special morning event! Share pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Enjoy a visit and photo opportunities with Santa, a magic performance by Brandon the Magician, and create a holiday craft with the kids! Admission is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free). Preregistration is required by December 9. For more information and to register, contact the Senior Center at **301-809-2300**. This community event is sponsored by the City and the Bowie Lions Club.

Bowie Ice Arena

Learn-to-Skate Classes Offered for 18 months of age through adults. Registration underway. Classes start **December 1**. Ask about beginner and family discounts!

Public Skating Session Offered daily. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena to view schedule.

Holiday Jingle Skate Saturday, December 17 from 1 - 3 p.m. With a visit from Santa! FREE admission with a donation for Toys for Tots.

For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

Code Corner

Early December is an excellent time to prepare your property for winter and snow. Clean your yard of toys, fallen tree branches and landscaping/decorative objects which could become a trip hazard under the cover of snow. Clean the gutters and tighten them to the house. Cover the top of the air conditioning unit so heavy ice and snow will not bend the fan blades. Replace your furnace filter and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Have a snow shovel and environmentally safe deicing materials available. If you will be away, assign someone to shovel the snow off the sidewalks and move your car off the street during a snow event.

New Bowie Green Citizen Award

Start implementing green practices and let us know about your achievements. The Bowie Green Citizen Award recognizes individuals, schools, or groups that contribute to making Bowie a greener and more sustainable community through innovative practices, educational programs, and community leadership. This award was established to reward members of the community who actively follow green living practices and encourage others in the City to do likewise. Go to www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie for a nomination form. Nominations are due **January 31, 2017**. Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Veterans Corner

Need help with benefits - Service Officer available every Tuesday 7 - 9 p.m. at the DAV.

Need general information - American Legion (301-464-9814), 9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie MD 20715. Meets monthly, fourth (4th) Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The following organizations meet at the DAV Post (8205 Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie MD 20715):

- Marine Corps League (301-706-2491) - Meets monthly, second (2nd) Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
- VFW Post 8065 (301-464-3730) - Meets monthly, first (1st) Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- DAV Post #7 (301-464-8899) - Meets monthly, second (2nd) Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

For information on legislation, benefits and programs, tune to the Veterans Forum on Bowie Cable TV Channel 11 (Verizon) or 77 (Comcast). Consult the guide for time.



Foxfire 12/2 - 12/18 at the Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-805-0219, boxoffice@bctheatre.com or www.bctheatre.com.

The Tin Woman 1/13 - 1/28 at the Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-937-7458 or www.pglt.org.

Toys Through the Decades City Hall Art Gallery exhibit. Show runs through February 17, 2017. Free and open to the public (during City Hall hours).

MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

SANTA'S BIG BROADCAST Friday - Sunday through December National Capital Radio & Television Museum Free

BELAIR BY CANDLELIGHT AND HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING 12/4 12 - 8 p.m. Belair Mansion Free Food Pantry donations requested.

HOLIDAY PAINT NIGHT AT BELAIR! 12/7, 7 p.m. Belair Mansion Paint a picture and enjoy refreshments. Advance registration and \$30 payment required.

KINDERKRISTMAS 12/10, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Blue Sky Puppet Theater at 3 p.m. Ages 1 - 11 Free

HOLIDAY TODDLER TIME TRAVELERS 12/19, 10 - 11 a.m. Belair Mansion Ages 2 - 5 Free

KRINGLE KABOOSE 12/20, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Ages 1 - 10. Free

CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

SATURDAY FUN WITH SANTA 12/10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Face painting, music, moon bounce, games, giveaways and more! Admission: new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or \$3 per child.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 12/26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Information: 1-800-REDCROSS or www.redcrossblood.org.

PICKLEBALL Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m.

RECREATIONAL COED VOLLEYBALL Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Gym will close at 4 p.m. on 12/24 and 12/31. The Gym will be closed Christmas, 12/25 and New Year's Day, 1/1.

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.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
12/2, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SENIOR CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERTS 12/7, 4 p.m. and 12/8, 1 p.m. at Senior Center; 12/16, 7:30 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Call the Senior Center for tickets.

HOLIDAY PARTY 12/16, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$10 residents, \$12 nonresidents

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 12/17, 9 - 11 a.m. Open to the public. Call Center for tickets.

NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY 12/30, 12:30 p.m. \$4 residents, \$5 nonresidents

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

ACTING CITY MANAGER

John L. Fitzwater
301-809-3030