

Bowie News Flash

December 2016

News

Belair by Candlelight and Holiday Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion

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, please call 301-809-3089 or 301-809-3011 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Names New City Manager

The City Council is pleased to announce that Alfred D. Lott has been selected as Bowie’s new City Manager. He comes to Bowie after 22 years in the United States Army and several years in municipal government. He is currently Director of the Impact Aid Program, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the US Department of Education. Mr. Lott assumes his duties on December 19, 2016. John Fitzwater has been Acting City Manager since June when David Deutsch retired after 23 years as Bowie’s City Manager. You can read more about Alfred Lott in a press release on our website.

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 went through the certification process to help Bowie meet this goal. Bowie Gardens 4 Wildlife and the City’s Green Team invite all residents to a reception on Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m. in the lobby at City Hall. Please RSVP by December 2 to Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org.

Upcoming Hearings on Residential Development

Bowie Marketplace - On January 3, 2017, the Bowie City Council will hold a public hearing and vote on the proposal to build a 288-unit apartment building and a parking garage at the rear of Bowie Marketplace at their meeting. (Please note this meeting is on a Tuesday, since Monday, January 2nd is a City holiday.) On November 15, 2016, the

Bowie Advisory Planning Board voted unanimously to accept the staff recommendation of disapproval of all three applications related to the apartment project.

Melford – Also up for a vote in January is the Preliminary Plan for Melford Village. Owner, St. John Properties, Inc. is requesting the City’s approval recommendation for a Preliminary Plan of subdivision containing 1,793 dwelling units, including 293 townhouse units, 1,000 multi-family units, 500 senior age-restricted multi-family units and 528,500 square feet of commercial and office uses. The City’s recommendation will be considered when the Prince George’s County Planning Board ultimately makes the decision on this request. The Planning Board approved the Conceptual Site Plan, an earlier step in the development review process, for Melford Village in March of 2015. This meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

Students: Enter the MLK Art Contest and Win Cash Prizes

The City of Bowie invites students, in kindergarten through high school to participate in its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest. The contest is organized each year by the City’s Diversity Committee as a way of teaching young people and stimulating discussion about the lasting impacts of Dr. King’s efforts. The theme of this year’s contest is “Speaking Out for Justice.” The deadline is December 16, 2016. There are three contest categories: Coloring Contest: Kindergarten – Second Grade; Poster Contest: Third – Fifth Grade; and Video Contest: Sixth – Twelfth Grade. Cash prizes are awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each category. The contest is open to all school-aged children who live within the municipal limits of Bowie or who attend an eligible school in Bowie. Details about the contest can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/mlk.

Shop with a Cop

The Bowie Police Department is helping to make the holidays special for some local children in need. On Sunday, December 11, 2016 officers will escort the children on a shopping trip for their loved ones, courtesy of local merchants and donations from the public. It’s not too late to make a donation to help a family this holiday season. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org.

Holiday House Decorating Contest Deadline is December 12, 2016

Are you particularly proud of your outdoor light display this year? Then why not enter Bowie’s Holiday House Decorating Contest! Homes must be located within the Bowie municipal limits. Entry forms, contest rules, and information are available at www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating. Entry forms and information may also be obtained by contacting Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Forms must be returned to City Hall by Monday, December 12, 2016 at 5 p.m.

Internet Safety Poster Contest

The City of Bowie is looking for Kindergarten - 12th grade students to create original artwork that demonstrates Internet safety. The City will select five winners from each age

group (K - 5, 6 - 8, 9 - 12) to move on to the national level. Winners at the national level will have the honor of having their artwork replicated into a poster calendar which will be distributed throughout the country and may also be used in campaigns to raise awareness among children of all ages about Internet and computer safety. The contest deadline is December 15, 2016 at 4 p.m. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/internetsafetycontest to download the form.

Donate to Toys for Tots

Please donate new, unwrapped toys to the Bowie Police Department's Toys for Tots drive. Donations will be accepted at the following locations until December 16: City Hall, Bowie Police Station, Gymnasium, Ice Arena, Senior Center, and the Huntington Community Center. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org.

Breakfast with Santa!

There's a new holiday event this year, sponsored by the City of Bowie and the Bowie Lions Club. Residents are invited to bring their children or grandchildren to the Senior Center on Saturday, December 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. for a very special morning event! Share pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Enjoy a visit and photos 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.

Children can also meet Santa at the Bowie Gymnasium at Saturday Fun with Santa on Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m. to noon or at the Holiday Jingle Skate with Santa at the Bowie Ice Arena on December 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. Details on the Gym and Ice Arena events with Santa can be found in the Calendar section below.

Don't Be a Target for Thieves

The Bowie Police Department encourages you to take some sensible steps to minimize your chances of being targeted by thieves this winter:

- **Don't leave your car unattended while it heats up.** It's against the law and makes it too easy for those looking to steal a car.
- **Don't leave valuables in plain sight in your car.** Remove valuables from your car at night and store packages out of sight when you're out shopping.
- **Lock your car.** Make it a habit to always lock your car when you leave it for a minute or overnight. It lessens your chances of being the victim of burglary or auto theft.
- **Protect your packages.** If you are ordering online, consider having your packages shipped to a store or a service like Amazon locker or having them delivered to a neighbor who is home during the day.

Holiday Closings

All City facilities are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Monday, December 26 and January 2 are City holidays. City offices, the Senior Center, and City Museums

are closed on these dates, however the Gymnasium and the Ice Arena will be open for business. There will be no refuse or recycling collection on December 26 and no trash pickup on January 2, but there will be recycling pickup on January 2 for neighborhoods on the normal Monday recycling collection schedule.

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.

Prepare for Winter and Snow

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 that could become a trip hazard when covered with 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 de-icing materials available when the snow begins to fall. If you will be away, arrange with someone to shovel the snow off the sidewalks and move your car off the street if it snows.

Teen Job Bank

Teens are needed for snow shoveling and other tasks this winter. If you know a teen interested in signing up for occasional work, including housework, babysitting, leaf raking, yard work and snow shoveling, please call for an application at 301-809-3033. It's a great way for a teen to earn a few extra dollars. Bowie residents who want to hire a teen, please call 301-809-3033 for more information.

Christmas Tree Pickup

It may seem a little early for this announcement, but by the end of December, after all of the festivities of the season, you may be wondering how to dispose of your Christmas tree. The Public Works Department will pick up Christmas trees every Wednesday in January with yard waste. Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m. Do not place tree in a plastic bag.

Bowie Branch Library Closing for Renovations

The Bowie Branch Library on Route 450 will be closing for long-term renovations at the end of December. The last day that the library will be open is Thursday, December 29th. The work will involve major renovations to the children's area, new restrooms, new customer service desks, more electrical outlets throughout the building, new lighting, and new carpeting. It is expected to take approximately six months to complete. As an

alternative, library patrons are encouraged to use the South Bowie Branch, located at 15301 Hall Road.

Events

12/2 – Holiday Craft Fair – Senior Center 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This event is open to the public and a welcome part of the holiday season. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

12/4-12/20 – “Foxfire” at Bowie Playhouse For ticket information call 301-805-0219 or visit www.bctheatre.com.

12/4 – Belair by Candlelight and Holiday Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion
12 - 8 p.m. 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, please call 301-809-3089 or 301-809-3011 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

12/5 – Certified Community Wildlife Habitat Celebration at City Hall 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

12/7 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert at the Senior Center 4 p.m. Tickets are \$2 or a food donation to the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

12/7 – Holiday Paint Night at Belair Mansion 7 p.m. Paint a holiday picture, enjoy a glass of holiday spirit and snacks. The cost is \$30 per person. Reservations and advanced payment required. For reservations and more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

12/8 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert at the Senior Center 1 p.m. Tickets are \$2 or a food donation to the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

12/10 – Saturday Fun with Santa 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. For ages 10 and under with an adult. Have your picture taken with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Enjoy games, a moon bounce, face painting, music, giveaways, and more. The cost is \$3 per child or a donation of an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

12/10 – Kinder Kristmas at Belair Mansion 12 - 4 p.m. Special tours, crafts, and refreshments for children ages 1 to 11. The Blue Sky Puppet Theater will perform at 3

p.m. Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are welcome. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

12/16 – Holiday Party at the Senior Center 11:30 a.m. Join us for the Center’s annual holiday party! Enjoy lunch and DJ music. Register by December 6 at the Center. The cost is \$10 for residents/\$12 for nonresidents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

12/16 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert – Bowie Center for the Performing Arts 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per person and may be purchased at the Senior Center. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

12/16 - Toys for Tots Donation Deadline – The Bowie Police Department will be accepting donations of unwrapped toys through December 16 at most City facilities.

12/17 – Holiday Jingle Skate With Santa 1 - 3 p.m. at the Bowie Ice Arena. Admission is free with an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

12/19 – Holiday Toddler Time Travelers at Belair Mansion 10 - 11 a.m. Fun for children ages 2 to 5. Stories, games and crafts. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

12/20 – Kringle Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Railroad Museum. A special holiday Kids Kaboose on the new caboose! For more information, please contact 240-544-5677 or 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

12/26 – American Red Cross Blood Drive 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. Give the “Gift of Life” this holiday season. To register, go to www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RedCross. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

12/26 – Christmas Holiday (observed) No refuse or recycling collection. All City facilities closed.

12/30 – Noon Year’s Eve Party - Bowie Senior Center 12:30 p.m. \$4 residents/\$5 nonresidents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/2 – New Year’s Holiday (observed) City offices closed. No refuse collection. Recycling collection will be provided.