

Bowie News Flash

February 2017

News

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 20

City offices, the Senior Center and City Museums are closed on this day. The City Gymnasium and the Ice Arena are open. There will be no refuse or recycling collection. Collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day.

Upcoming Development Project Meetings

Melford Village

On Monday, February 6th, City Council will hold a public hearing and then vote on the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for Melford Village. Owner, St. John Properties, Inc. is requesting the City's approval recommendation for a Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for 1,793 dwelling units, including 293 townhouse units, 1,000 multi-family units, 500 senior age-restricted multi-family units and 359,500 square feet of commercial and office uses. This item was postponed from the January 17, 2017 City Council meeting. (A Conceptual Site Plan, allowing up to 2,500 residential dwelling units, was approved in 2014.) Following the City vote, the County Planning Board will hear the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision.

This project is nearing the end of the Development Review Process. Detailed Site Plans must be approved for each parcel in the development, prior to the issuance of building permits. Public hearings will be scheduled by the City and County as each Detailed Site Plan is filed for this project.

- ***City Public Hearing – Monday, February 6, 2017, 8 p.m. at City Hall***
- ***County Planning Board Public Hearing – Thursday, March 2, 2017, 10 a.m. at the County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro (NOTE: This is a change from the original date of this hearing. This case is being added to a full day of hearings. Although the meeting is scheduled at 10 a.m., the Board Chair warns that the case could be placed anywhere on the agenda.)***

Amber Ridge Conceptual Site Plan

The owner of the Amber Ridge property, located on the west side of southbound US Route 301, has filed a Conceptual Site Plan for the site. In September 2014, the Prince George's District Council approved a Zoning Map Amendment to change the property's zoning from C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) to M-

X-T (Mixed Use – Transportation Oriented). The proposal calls for 150 - 200 dwelling units and approximately 20,000 square feet of commercial/retail use on the 19-acre site.

- *Stakeholders Meeting – Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 7 p.m. at City Hall*
- *Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 7 p.m. at City Hall*
- *City Public Hearing – Monday, March 6, 2017, 8 p.m. at City Hall*

Karington Preliminary Plan of Subdivision

In 2004, the Prince George’s County Planning Board approved a Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for the Karington development just south of the City on the west side of US Route 301 and south side of MD 214. The approved project, which includes 1,259 dwelling units, has been on hold for several years, but is now actively being pursued. The owner has requested reconsideration of some of the conditions of the 2004 plan that address the timing of transportation improvements and the types of housing units to be built. In 2004, the City Council voted to recommend approval of the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision. Detailed Site Plans must be approved for each parcel in the development, prior to the issuance of building permits. Public hearings will be scheduled by the City and County as each Detailed Site Plan is filed for this project.

- *County Planning Board Hearing – Thursday, February 16, 2017, 10 a.m. at the County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro. The original date of this hearing was January 26, 2017. The developer requested and was granted a continuance to February 16th.*

State of the City Report

Mayor Robinson presented his annual State of the City Report to the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce on February 1st. He provided a snapshot of the City’s demographics and finances, and highlighted some special programs such as the Police Department’s new Non-Emergency Call Center and the Bowie Business Incubator. He also spoke about the local economy and some of the challenges facing the City government in 2017. The text of the speech is available at www.cityofbowie.org/sotc or may be viewed as a video on demand at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings.

Arts and Education Scholarships

The City of Bowie offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing studies in art related fields. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/arts for the Arts Scholarship application. Excellence in Education scholarships are also awarded by the City of Bowie. Applications are available in the Guidance Department at area high schools. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

“Toys Through the Ages” Exhibit at the City Hall Art Gallery

The “Toys Through the Ages” exhibit runs through February 12, 2017. It is free and open to the public (during City Hall hours). The next exhibit is “Let’s Celebrate” focusing on celebrations and festivals in the U.S. and around the world. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Join the Bowie Solar Co-op

Thinking about solar? Attend an upcoming information session to learn more about joining a MD SUN Solar Co-op. Neighbors in Bowie and surrounding Prince George’s County can join the co-op to save money and get assistance with going solar and. The solar co-op is based on the same principle as buying in bulk, and joining is not a commitment to install panels. Once the group is large enough, the nonprofit MD SUN will help the co-op solicit competitive bids from area solar installers. Co-op members will select a single company to complete all of the installations, and each member will then have the option to purchase or lease panels individually based on the installer’s group rate. By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, each participant generally saves up to 20% off the cost of their system. To register for an information session on February 8 or March 4, visit www.mdsun.org/bowie. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Interested in Buying Locally Grown, Organic Food? Join us at a CSA Food Fair & Native Pollinator Plant Workshop on March 4th

Learn how to purchase fresh food from local farmers and how to landscape with native species at this event hosted by the Bowie Green Team on Saturday, February 25 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at City Hall,. The program will begin with the introduction of local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers, who sell freshly produced and organically grown food directly to customers. Come meet these farmers and sign up to receive more information. The second part of the program will be a workshop on native plantings and enhancement of native food webs in residential communities. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

National Anthem and “Voice of Bowie” Auditions

The City will hold open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, 4th of July and the International Festival. Auditions for the National Anthem will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall (15901 Excalibur Road) on Saturday, March 4th beginning at 9 a.m. Participants must be prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella for a judging panel. Auditions for the Voice of Bowie will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. Candidates will be asked to read from a prepared script for a judging panel. Those selected will be invited to perform at the various City-sponsored special events. For information or to schedule an audition, contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Accepting Nominations for Bowie’s Hall of Honor

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize those citizens of Bowie who have made “major and lasting contributions” to the City. The first inductees were honored in

1994. A nominee to the Hall of Honor must: be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline; have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie; and have been a resident of the City of Bowie either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2017 Hall of Honor is Monday, March 6, 2017 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms.

Do You Know Someone in Scouting Who Deserves Special Recognition?

The Community Outreach Committee is accepting nominations for the Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award. This award recognizes Scouts and/or Scout Leaders who have rendered “extraordinary and distinguished” community service within Scout organizations in the City of Bowie during calendar year 2016. To be eligible for this award, Scouts or Scout Leaders must be affiliated with a Scouting group within the limits of the City of Bowie, and/or a Scouting group of which 50% or more of their youth members are City of Bowie residents. They must also be registered with the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts, USA. Past recipients have demonstrated leadership in Scouting and have made a positive impact on their community and the City. Please see nomination form for details regarding eligibility criteria and information required. This year’s deadline is Friday, March 24, 2017. Nomination forms can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms and are available at City Hall. For more information, contact Popp Award Program Chairperson Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Sally Hein at shein@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3014.

Pet Waste Can Be a Nuisance

Bowie’s Code Compliance Office reminds residents that every pet owner or custodian is responsible for properly disposing of pet waste. Pet owners must frequently clean their yards of pet excrement and when walking your dog or cat, the waste must be cleaned up immediately. Do not toss your pet’s excrement into a storm drain or sewer and do not expect it to dissolve into the ground. Carry a pet waste bag and dispose of your animal’s waste with your other solid waste. Failing to properly dispose of your pet’s waste is a violation of the City Code. Contact Bowie Animal Control with questions or concerns 301-809-3002 or slopez@cityofbowie.org.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City issues a Water Quality Report for those areas of the City of Bowie that are served by the City of Bowie Water and Sewer System. The City and the Maryland Department of the Environment routinely monitor the drinking water to detect contaminants, according to Federal and State laws. This Report, which covers the previous calendar year, provides information about how the system meets Federal and State water quality standards. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/wqr to view the 2016 Drinking Water Quality Report and learn more about the source and quality of your City of Bowie drinking water. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the report, please call 301-809-3060.

Bowie Police Department RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) Training for Women

The Police Department will host RAD training classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings beginning March 13 and March 15, 2017, respectively. The course is a series of six weekly classes, on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. RAD is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. Nationally certified RAD instructors teach the courses and a workbook/reference manual is provided to each student. For more information and to register, contact the Bowie Police Department at 240-544-5777.

Snowfall – Parking and Sidewalks

When a significant snowfall is expected, please move your vehicles off the street and into your driveway to make it easier for the plows to clear your street. If your driveway is too crowded, park your vehicle on the grass on your property, but do not block the sidewalk. After the snow has been cleared, immediately move your vehicle back onto the street. Once snow and sleet have stopped falling you have a responsibility to clear the public sidewalk and the driveway areas adjacent to your property within forty-eight (48) hours. Residents whose property is near public schools should quickly remove the ice or snow for the safety of the school children. If you should be out of town, please arrange with a neighbor, relative or contractor to have your sidewalk cleared in your absence. For more information, contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008.

Jobs

The City of Bowie is seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Grant Writer – City Manager’s Office (closes 2/17/2017)
- Executive Office Manager – City Manager’s Office (closes 2/17/2017)
- Facility Monitor – Community Services Department (closes 2/10/2017)

For more information or to apply, visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Centennial Update

The yearlong celebration of Bowie’s 100 years as a city government continues. On March 5th, Jeff Krulik, documentary film maker, and former Bowie resident, will return to show his film “Tales of Belair and Bowie”. The film was very well received by a standing room only crowd at an earlier screening in the fall. So mark your calendar now to see this fascinating film about the early days of Levitt Bowie. Screenings will be at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

Centennial cookbooks are selling quickly. If you have not purchased yours yet, please stop by the Mansion gift shop or the City Manager’s Office to purchase this keepsake cookbook, filled with recipes from Bowieites past and present, photos, and historic tidbits. (The current price of the cookbook is \$5, but it is expected to increase with the next printing.)

The Centennial celebration will conclude on May 6 at 11 a.m. with a special event at City Hall. During a brief ceremony, a time capsule will be buried, and a Centennial sculpture will be unveiled. Then there will be an old-fashioned celebration with kids’ carnival

rides, a DJ, games, a “touch a truck” event, and an Open House at the Police Department. Look for more details later this spring.

Crime Update

Two very serious crimes occurred in the City over the last week. Early Sunday morning, three males associated with the Blue Sunday Restaurant were shot and killed in an incident involving an employee. Thanks to quick action by the Prince George’s County Police Department, the suspect, who was employed at the restaurant, was arrested in Silver Spring on Sunday.

On Tuesday, two residents of Glen Burnie were shot by an unknown assailant, while in their vehicle near the intersection of Church Road and Urbana Lane. The suspect ran away on foot. Despite a search that involved air and K-9 support, he has not been located. Marijuana and a gun were found in the victims’ car. The Investigative Unit of the Bowie Police Department is pursuing this case.

Neither incident is considered to be a random crime, but residents are reminded to always be vigilant and to report any person or situation that appears suspicious. If it is an emergency situation, please call 911. Otherwise, please call the Bowie Police Department’s Non-Emergency Call Center at 240-544-5700 or if you would like to leave an anonymous tip, please call 240-544-5770.

Mt. Oak Road

Earlier this week, Mt. Oak Road was closed to through traffic at the railroad crossing near the Mullikan bus lot for repairs to the railroad crossing. The City contacted CSX, the track owner, to find out what was going on and to question the lack of advanced notice about the closure. The company has provided assurances that in the future they will do a better job of publicizing any planned work that requires the closure or restriction of traffic on local roads. CSX completed the repairs on Thursday evening and the road has reopened.

Staying Connected

This Bowie News Flash is one of the many ways that we use to communicate with residents. We recognize that different people have different preferences when it comes to how they receive their news about the City. Whatever method(s) you choose, our goal is to make it quick and simple for you to stay in touch with City government - to get the services you need, to get answers to your questions, or to provide feedback to City officials.

Please use any of the following methods to stay in touch; and if you have suggestions about how we can improve our communications with residents, please email publicinfo@cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3032.

- **Alert Bowie** – Receive email and text messages, and in some instances, phone calls about what’s going on in Bowie. Sign up to receive weather alerts, traffic

and crime alerts, news and events, job openings, government closures, and service interruption notices at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts.

- **City website** - View Council meetings, reports, job openings, bidding opportunities, event information, and more at www.cityofbowie.org. You can also pay your City water bill or a speed camera ticket on the site or submit a request for service.
- **Bowie Spotlight** – The monthly newsletter of the City of Bowie is published on the last Thursday of the month in the Bowie Blade-News. This free newspaper is delivered to every Bowie neighborhood. If you are not receiving the Blade each week, please call their circulation office at 410-268-4800 or email circulation@capgaznews.com.
- **Bowie Government Channel (Verizon Channel 10/Comcast Channel 71)** - Tune in to see announcements about upcoming City events or to view City Council meetings.
- **Social Media** – Follow the City government on Twitter (@CityofBowie) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/bowiemd). There are also Facebook pages for Bowie Animal Control, the Bowie Police Department, the Bowie Ice Arena, and Bowie Youth & Family Services and several City Twitter feeds. See the complete list at www.cityofbowie.org/socialmedia.

Events

2/3 – Violin Performance 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Experience the joy of music with Alexander Strachan. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/6 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

2/8 – Solar Co-op Information Session 7 - 8:30 p.m. at City Hall, Room 243.

2/10 – Mardi Gras 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Celebrate Friendship Day at the Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/10 - 2/25 – “Peter and the Starcatcher” at Bowie Playhouse Produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.2ndstarproductions.com or 301-832-4819.

2/11 – Storm Drain Marking Event. Please contact Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043 for details or to register for this event. All ages are welcome, and Prince George’s County students will receive service hours.

2/14 – The Lincoln Cottage – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. Please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org for more information.

2/18 – 2/19 Valentine’s Figure Skating Competition at the Ice Arena. Skaters from Maryland, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware compete in individual and team events for ages 3 to adult. Admission is free for spectators. Call 301-809-3090 for more information.

2/20 – City Holiday. City offices, Senior Center, and Museums are closed. Ice Arena and City Gymnasium are open. No refuse or recycling collection.

2/21 – Kids Kaboose - 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad stories and fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

2/21 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

2/25 - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Food Fair and Native Pollinator Plant Workshop 9 a.m. - noon at City Hall.

2/25 - “Try Hockey for Free” 4:45 p.m. at the Bowie Ice Arena. This event is being held in conjunction with Washington Capitals Kids Club and USA Hockey. Call 301-809-3090 to register.

2/27 – Treasures From Our Trove – Brown Bag Lunch 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. A look at objects from the City Museums collection. Bring your lunch. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.