

Bowie News Flash

April 2017

News

Hydrant Flushing Begins April 3

The Bowie Public Works Department will soon begin the annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing will take place from approximately 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., according to the following schedule:

APRIL 3 & 4	Buckingham, Derbyshire, and Forest Drive
APRIL 5 & 6	Somerset & Bowie Forest
APRIL 7 & 10	Tulip Grove
APRIL 11 & 12	Foxhill & Long Ridge
APRIL 13, 14 & 17	Kenilworth
APRIL 18	Heather Hills
APRIL 19 – 21	Meadowbrook
APRIL 24	Gradys Walk & Glenridge
APRIL 25	Chapel Forge
APRIL 26	Victoria Heights & Race Track Road Townhouses
APRIL 27	Idlewild
APRIL 28	Yorktown & Overbrook
MAY 1	Whitehall
MAY 2	Rockledge

When flushing is underway in your area, some discoloration of your water may occur, so clothes washing is discouraged. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment buildup in the water lines and is not harmful. The discoloration should clear in approximately 24 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could possibly affect your water as well. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

New High Speed Train Study Getting Underway

The Federal Railroad Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation are evaluating the environmental impacts of constructing and operating a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) train system that would operate between Baltimore and Washington, DC and possibly pass through Bowie. The agencies will host an open house on the project at the Bowie Community Center, located at 3209 Stonybrook Drive, on April 5, 2017. Although there will not be a formal presentation, residents are invited to stop by the open house between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. to review and comment on the routes under consideration, the decision making process, and engineering, community, and environmental issues associated with the project. Information about the proposed project can be found at <http://baltimorewashingtontscmaglevproject.com>.

Join the City's Food Waste Collection Pilot

Residents that live in the Victoria Heights, Yorktown, or Overbrook neighborhoods can sign up to participate in a new food waste collection program sponsored by the City of Bowie. Food waste is uneaten food that typically is thrown in the trash. It includes banana peels, apple cores, eggshells, coffee grounds, bones, etc. About 20% of the waste collected from households in Bowie is food waste, so there is a lot of potential to reduce what goes to the landfill by turning food waste into compost.

The Food Waste Collection Program is a voluntary 6-month pilot, and is free to participants. Each participating household will be given a small food scrap collection bin for their kitchen, a small curbside bin, and a set of 60 compostable bags. The food waste pilot will run from April 19th to October 18th. The collected food waste will be sent to the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility where it will mixed with yard waste and turned into compost and then sold to farmers and gardeners. The pilot program is limited to the first 150 households to register. Residents interested in participating in this free program should sign up at www.cityofbowie.org/foodwaste or by calling Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 as soon as possible.

Northridge Temporary Intersection Closure

The City has contracted with Priority Construction Corporation to rebuild the brick paver intersection at Quill Point and Quarterhorse Drives in the Northridge neighborhood. The work began March 20th. The intersection will remain closed during construction, which is expected to take no more than 60 days. We regret the inconvenience to the community; however a public street route will be available to all properties during the construction period and residents will have continual access to their driveways. Work will take place Monday thru Friday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. The City will have an inspector assigned to this project to observe the daily work and the contractor will have a superintendent on site during construction. We appreciate your patience during this temporary disruption. Please contact Jackie Tayman at 301-809-2332 or jtayman@cityofbowie.org if you have questions or concerns about this project.

Many Hands Help Create Quilt for Belair Mansion

On April 2, at 12:30 p.m., the City of Bowie Museums will hold a short ceremony to welcome a new "old" quilt to Belair Mansion. The quilt will enhance the interpretation of a 19th century bedroom at the Mansion, known as "Rosalie's Room".

The quilt is based on early 19th century designs and was created with period-correct fabric by the Southern Comforters Quilt Guild of Bowie and visitors to the Mansion. The actual fabrication and stitching of the quilt took over 2,000 hours. For more information about this event, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Youth and Family Services ADHD/ADD Group Starts April 10

An ADHD/ADD Group for 7-11 year-old children and their parents will be offered through Bowie Youth and Family Services, beginning April 10, 2017. This four-week evening program will provide information and support for both parents and kids who are managing ADHD/ADD, including strategies for dealing with school issues and hints for helping kids develop social skills. Please call 301-809-3033 to register.

City Council Begins Fiscal 2018 Budget Deliberations in April

The City Council will begin its annual review of the Proposed Budget for the coming fiscal year and the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2018 - 2023 with a series of Budget Worksessions. The sessions take place at City Hall at 8 p.m. on the dates listed below. They are open to the public. The public is also invited to comment on the proposed budget at public hearings on April 12th and May 1st.

- ***Special City Council Meeting - Budget Introduction, Public Hearing, & Budget Worksession #1 – April 12.*** General Fund Revenues, Capital Improvement Program, and Capital Projects Fund will be reviewed.
- ***Budget Worksession #2 – April 17.*** The Public Works Department budget and the Water and Sewer Fund will be discussed.
- ***Budget Worksession #3 – April 24.*** The budget of the Community Services Department will be reviewed.
- ***Public Hearing – May 1.*** Staff will discuss the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and Constant Yield Tax Rate.
- ***Budget Worksession #4 – May 2.*** Discussion will focus on the budgets of the City Manager's Office, the Police Department, the Finance Department and the Nondepartmental budget.
- ***Budget Worksession #5 – May 8.*** The final Budget Worksession will include a review of the budgets for the Department of Planning and Economic Development, the Information Technology Department, the Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, and the Appendix, which includes the Plan of Compensation.

Earth Month Events

In recognition of Earth Month, Bowie has planned a variety of event. Unless otherwise specified, please contact Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044 for information about the events listed below.

- ***Tree Planting Workshop - April 1, 1 - 2 p.m. at Patuxent Nursery***
Looking to beautify your yard, create shade or privacy but need some direction? Then this city-sponsored workshop at Patuxent Nursery (on US301 north) is for you! Learn about best practices for tree planting and about the 11 species of trees that can qualify City residents for a \$50 and/or \$100 rebate. Register at www.bowietreeworkshop.eventbrite.com.
- ***Bowie Green Expo - April 8, 12 - 4 p.m. at Kenhill Center***
The Bowie Green Expo is a free family-fun event open to the public. Activities include Kids Zone with make and take activities and over 50 vendors showcasing their environmental friendly products and services. This year's Green Expo theme is "Educating for a Greener Tomorrow." The event is hosted by the Bowie Lions Club, the City of Bowie, and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. Come join us for a day of discovery, and learn from our exhibitors how it can be easy to go green. Visit www.bowiegreenexpo.org.

- ***Rain Barrel Workshop - April 19, 7 p.m. at City Hall.***
Learn about the many benefits of rain barrels and how to install and maintain them. Attendees will also be able to purchase a rain barrel from the Lions Club to take home. For information visit www.cityofbowie.org/rainbarrels or contact Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.
- ***Bringing Nature Home: Landscaping Presentation - April 21 - 7 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.***
Dr. Doug Tallamy will explain how residents and communities can landscape with and for nature at this event hosted by the Prince George's Soil Conservation District, Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee. Register at www.dougtallamytalk.eventbrite.com.
- ***Earth Day Concert & Art Exhibit - April 22, 7 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.***
Bowie's Green Team will host its third annual Earth Day Concert & Art Exhibit on April 22nd, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free so that all may enjoy. No tickets are required, but you may register at www.bowieearthday.eventbrite.com. The theme of the night is "Best of Bowie" in honor of the City's Centennial year. Enjoy live musical performances by Tulip Grove Elementary School Choir, Suzuki Cello Studio, The Family, The Bulldog Funk Band, and Duns & Drummer. Artwork by the Bowie High School Green Team, Robotics Club, and Art Club, Krista Setera Photography, and Samuel Ogle Middle School will be on display.
- ***Spring Plant Sale - April 29, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Bowie Library Parking Lot.***
Join the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Green Team for the 2017 Spring Plant Sale. This year it will feature a new selection of native plants and pollinator plants to support birds, bees, and butterflies. Also available will be houseplants, herbs, annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, and shrubs. Special activities for children. Master Gardeners will be available for consultation. Visit www.bcgardenclub.org for more information.
- ***Arbor Day Ceremony - April 29, 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park.***
Bowie's annual Arbor Day ceremony will include presentation of a Tree City USA award for the 25th consecutive year as well as the Maryland PLANT award to the City of Bowie. These awards are granted annually to those communities meeting prescribed objectives in the planting, maintenance, and preservation of the urban forest. For information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or rkellner@cityofbowie.org.

Development Update

- ***Marketplace***
Earlier this month, Berman Enterprises, developer of Bowie Marketplace, took the next step in the development review process for housing at the shopping center when it filed a Detailed Site Plan application with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. This is the same plan that the City Council approved in January. It calls for a multifamily development in three stories for the portion of the building facing existing single-family homes on Scarlett Lane and four stories facing the parking lot of the shopping center. The plan is for up to 225 dwelling units, 20% of which must be age-restricted units,

to be built behind the existing retail center. The Prince George's County Planning Board is expected to review the case in the next few months.

- ***Amber Ridge***

On March 23rd, the Prince George's Planning Board reviewed the Conceptual Site Plan (CSP) application for the Amber Ridge Development. The Plan proposes a mixed-use project of 150-200 attached residential units and approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of retail/commercial space on the site. The Board approved the CSP with conditions that noise and additional vehicular and pedestrian connections be addressed at preliminary plan of subdivision, and that site design issues, such as building architecture, site amenities, lighting, buffering/landscaping and internal pedestrian connections, be addressed at the time of detailed site plan.

Prescription Drug Take Back

The Bowie Police Department's Prescription Drug Take Back Day is back! The Department is partnering with the US Drug Enforcement Administration to collect prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications that are expired or are no longer needed. Medicines may be dropped off at the Bowie Police Department on Saturday, April 29th, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, please contact Cpl. Moten at rmoten@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5774.

Teen Mentors Needed

The City's Teen Mentoring Program is accepting applications for the 2017 - 2018 academic year. Adult mentors provide support to high school students and assist them in building confidence and strategies to navigate high school and beyond. It is a great opportunity to make a meaningful impact on a student's life! For more information, contact Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033 or mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Earns Top Bond Ratings!

Two bond ratings agencies recently completed reviews of the City of Bowie's financial situation and credit worthiness. Moody's Investor Services awarded the City a *Aaa* bond rating and Fitch Ratings gave it a *AAA* rating, which are their highest rankings. Both agencies noted strong fiscal management, a diverse regional economy, low debt, substantial reserves, and a predictable revenue stream as factors in their ratings. The Moody's announcement, made on March 2, 2017, said that, "Bowie's credit position is outstanding..." and Fitch noted that, "The City retains an exceptional capacity to manage risks associated with a normal economic cycle." More details on the assessments can be found at www.cityofbowie.org.

Beautification Awards

The City is now accepting nominations for this year's program recognizing outstanding gardens of homes, businesses and schools. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/beautification or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie's Education Committee is Collecting Books for Bowiefest

The Committee will give away children's books at Bowiefest on June 3rd. Thousands of books are needed! For information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

No Unmanned Aircraft on City Property –

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN REMOVED BECAUSE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WAS INCONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW. For information about the use of drones in City of Bowie parks, please contact the Park Operations Division at 301-809-3086 (1/2018).

Where is Your Cleanout?

The backup of sewage through the drains in your home is an unpleasant prospect. There are steps you can take to protect your property. The first question you will hear from a plumber or City Utilities crew when they respond to a sewage backup is, “Do you know where your cleanout is?” Most people do not realize the importance of having a sewer cleanout; however, it could save you considerable money in the event of a backup. A cleanout is a pipe in your yard that rises from your sewer line to about 4 inches above ground level and is capped. A cleanout makes the sewer line accessible, and without a cleanout, it is impossible to clean the line. If you do not have a cleanout, you should seriously consider having a plumber install one as close to your house as possible. Check your homeowner’s insurance policy to determine if you are covered for a sewage backup. This insurance is relatively inexpensive for the coverage and peace of mind it provides. If you are not covered for sewage backups, call your agent for information on cost and coverage options. Finally, if you experience a backup, save all receipts related to any repair, cleaning, or damages.

Yard Maintenance

The grass and weed mowing season has begun. Grass and weeds are not permitted to exceed 8 inches in height. Schedule your lawn service to place bagged yard waste and grass clippings at the curb on Tuesday afternoon for the regular scheduled Wednesday morning pickup. Spring is also time for many home improvement projects. Carefully read and review home improvement contracts. Make certain your contractor is a licensed professional. Get the required County and City building permits before construction starts. For more information, call 301-809-3008 or visit our Code Compliance and Building Permit webpages at www.cityofbowie.org.

Let’s Celebrate

The City Hall Art Gallery exhibit entitled “*Let’s Celebrate*” features scenes of parades, festivals, parties, and other celebrations and runs through April 21, 2017. The exhibit is free and open to the public during City Hall hours. Up next, the “Blooms” exhibit will focus on floral themes. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Street Sweeping

City streets are swept free of dirt and debris between spring and early fall each year. View the sweeping schedule on the City’s website at www.cityofbowie.org/sweep and please try to remove parked cars from the street when sweeping is scheduled for your neighborhood. For more information, call the Department of Public Works at 240-544-5686.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The 2016 City of Bowie Water Quality Report is now available. Please go to www.cityofbowie.org/wqr to view it and learn more about the source and quality of your City of Bowie drinking water. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please call 301-809-3060.

Events

4/1 – Stream Cleanup 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. To register or for more information, contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org.

4/1 – Tree Planting Workshop 1 p.m. at Patuxent Nursery. For information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

4/2 – Our Quilt Comes Home! 12:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/3 – 5/2 Hydrant Flushing in neighborhoods served by Bowie Water Service. Details at www.cityofbowie.org/flush.

4/3 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

4/4 – White House Easter Egg Roll Memories 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

4/5 – High Speed Train (SCMAGLEV) Information Open House 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Bowie Community Center. Visit <http://baltimorewashingtontscmaglevproject.com> for more information.

4/8 – Music Through the Decades 12 - 3 p.m. at Huntington Community Center. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/8 – Green Expo 12 - 4 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. Hosted by the Bowie Lions Club, the City and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce. Free family-fun event open to the public. For more information, visit www.bowiegreenexpo.org.

4/11 – Senior Center Fireside Chat: Captioned Telephone Service for Adults Having Difficulty Hearing Phone Conversations 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

4/11 – Second Tuesday Lecture: Colonial Cats 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/12– City Council Budget Introduction and Budget Worksession #1 – 8 p.m. at City Hall. General Fund Revenues, CIP and Capital Projects Fund.

4/13 – Bowie’s Centennial Celebration – 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

4/14 – Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the City Gym. For an appointment, call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code “Bowie Gym”.

4/17 - 4/21 – Coed Nike Spring Break Basketball Camp at the City Gym for ages 6 - 17. For information: 1-800-NIKECAMP or www.USSportsCamps.com/basketball

4/17 – City Council Meeting and Budget Worksession #2 8 p.m. at City Hall. Public Works, Water and Sewer Fund

4/18 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/18 – Senior Center Hot Topics: Café Chat 5:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

4/19 – Sunroom Funroom – Games People Played 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/19 – Rain Barrel Workshop 7 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org.

4/20 – Rails for Kids 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/21 – Bringing Nature Home Presentation 7 - 9 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Learn about landscaping with and for nature.

4/22 – Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit 7 - 9 p.m. at Bowie Center for Performing Arts. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

4/24 – City Council Budget Worksession #3 8 p.m. at City Hall. Community Services

4/25 – Capital Reeds Performance 6 - 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

4/28 - 5/13 – *The Uninvited* at Bowie Playhouse Produced by Prince George's Little Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets, visit www.pglit.org or call 301-937-7458.

4/29 – Spring Plant Sale 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Library on Annapolis Road. Sponsored by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Green Team. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org or visit www.bcgardenclub.org.

4/29 – Prescription Drug Take Back 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. Dispose of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe manner. For more information, please email cops@cityofbowie.org.

4/29 – Arbor Day 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park. For more information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or rkellner@cityofbowie.org.