

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: April 20, 2017

Status Report

1. Bowie Added to Heritage Area

Last Thursday, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) approved the inclusion of the City within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA). The Executive Director of ATHA, Mr. Aaron Markovich, has appeared periodically to brief Council on the progress of the boundary amendment, most recently on March 20TH. The designation process was a three stage process. First, background research was conducted and a proposal developed by ATHA about three years ago. ATHA staff then met with MHAA and discussed potential issues and had a tour. The second stage was to have Prince George's County grant approval through a General Plan amendment. That was recently accomplished in February, when the County Council approved the Resource Conservation Plan. The third and final stage was approval from MHAA. The Authority staff held a public meeting in Bowie a year or so ago. Last Thursday, MHAA voted to give final approval. The City's membership in ATHA will provide avenues for additional funding of activities related to The Bowie Heritage Trail and Bowie museums, as well as providing significant opportunities for publicity and outreach to the community. In fact, many cultural and historic assets in the Bowie area are already being promoted. In addition, the City will have access to some assistance in design and construction funding via grants associated with ATHA. The State also provides tax credits and loan programs for properties located within the Heritage Area boundary. The City's tourism exposure will certainly be enhanced through ATHA's publications and outreach.

2. Bowie's Business Incubator Hosts another Dolphin Tank® Pitch Event

The City's business incubator is hosting another event to strengthen incubator business's ability to present their business to potential investors on Wednesday May 3, 2017, in the Multipurpose Room at Kenhill Center. ALL Bowie businesses are welcome to attend. Here are the details that are appearing in promotional material for this event:

Make new business connections and offer advice to young Prince George's County companies at the first countywide Dolphin Tank® Pitch Event and Reception hosted by the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC) business accelerator, in conjunction

with Springboard Enterprises on May 3rd from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, at Kenhill Center in Bowie, MD. Hear five technology, innovative product and professional service firms from business incubators and accelerators in Prince George's County pitch their ideas and get friendly feedback on business models, marketing and business challenges from a panel of seasoned entrepreneurs and investors. The panelists include **AMY MILLMAN**, Co-Founder of Springboard Enterprises; **SAM MEDILE**, Dingman Angels investor; **MAC CONWELL**, serial entrepreneur and Deal Team Coordinator, Maryland TEDCO and **JULIE LENZER**, Associate Vice President Economic Development and Co-Director UM Ventures-University of Maryland. The young companies pitching are participants in the Bowie BIC Business Accelerator, the Startup Shell at the University of Maryland-College Park and the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Accelerator. Weigh in from the audience to ask questions and offer advice. The Bowie BIC Dolphin Tank® is funded in part by a grant from Maryland TEDCO and the City of Bowie. This is a free event, but registration is required: https://dolphintank_bowiebic2017.eventbrite.com

3. Arbor Day Foundation Free Tree Program

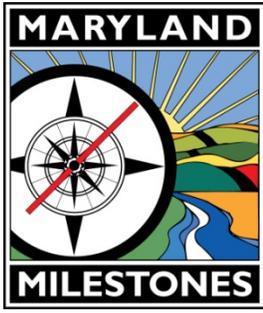
The City of Bowie is now providing 250 free trees to residents through Energy-Saving Trees, an Arbor Day Foundation program that helps conserve energy and reduce energy bills through strategic tree planting. The trees available for the program are fully paid for by BGE. City of Bowie residents can reserve their free trees at www.arborday.org/bowiemd. An online tool on the webpage will help residents estimate the annual energy savings that will result from planting trees in the most strategic location near their homes. Residents can reserve up to 2 trees and are expected to care for and plant them in the location provided by the online tool. The types of trees offered include the following: Bald cypress, Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, and Shadblow Serviceberry. The program will continue until all 250 trees are reserved, and the two-to-four foot tall trees will be delivered directly to participants.

4. Prince George's County Human Relations Commission (HRC)

The HRC is the County's civil rights education and enforcement agency. It has more teeth than many similar commissions around the country in that it not only investigates alleged discrimination, it also can assess fines and damages based on its findings. Commission staff investigates complaints of discrimination in housing, public accommodation, employment, financial lending, real estate, and in the actions of municipal police departments. If the complaint has merit, it can be mediated, and if necessary, heard by the Human Relations Commission. This free service is provided to residents of Prince George's County and to those who may encounter discrimination while they are in the County. More information is provided in brochures included in your package.

The Human Relations Commission is a 13-member volunteer body. A paid staff, including six investigators, supports the Commission. Former City Councilmember Michael Lyles is Executive Director.

April 20, 2017



Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

City of Bowie
c/o Joe Meinert
Director of Planning and Economic Development
15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, MD 20716

Managing Board

Lee Cain, President
Alfonso Navarez, Vice-President
Tracey Toscano, Treasurer
Pat Williams, Secretary

Rose Greene Colby
Jonathan Ebbeler
Laurie Lemieux
Joseph Pruden
Carl Smith
D. Lingua (Gov. Board Liaison)

Executive Director

Aaron Marcavitch

Council and Staff of the City of Bowie,

On behalf of the Maryland Milestones/Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Inc. Managing Board of Directors, I would like to send greetings and thanks for your work on the boundary amendment to the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area to include portions of the City of Bowie, Glenn Dale, and the Town of Cheverly.

Your support was vital to the passage of this boundary change on April 13, 2017. As of the passage of this boundary amendment, your community can now apply for funding to support those portions of the community. Please contact our staff to find out more about potential grant funding and technical assistance.

Your community is now part of a unique program in the State of Maryland – one of only 13 such regions. Your community is invited to send a representative to our Governing Board meetings, held quarterly. Working together we can celebrate and promote our communities and grow this region through heritage tourism and economic development.

Congratulations on joining the Maryland Milestones/Anacostia Trails Heritage Area and we look forward to working together on future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Marcavitch".

Aaron Marcavitch
Executive Director, ATHA Inc.