

Bowie News Flash

September 2017

News

Donations for Hurricane Harvey Victims

The City of Bowie is sponsoring a fundraiser for Houston area flood victims this Saturday, September 2, 2017 from 9 a.m. to noon. Drop off spare change at City Hall and we will collect the proceeds and work with local banks to count it and send it the Greater Houston Community Foundation's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, which was recommended to us by the Mayor and City Council of Houston.

The Bowie Police Department is also collecting a few specific items for their fellow officers in Houston who are on the job, despite having lost their homes to the storm. They need:

- T-Shirts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, etc.)
- Individually packaged snacks and drinks

Donations of these items (only) will be accepted (24 hours a day) at the Bowie Police Department through Saturday, September 2nd at 5 p.m.

Long-term Needs

Individuals in many areas of Texas and in some parts of Louisiana are feeling the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey. Their immediate needs are safety, shelter, and food and water. Local, state, and federal agencies and charitable organizations in the area are working to meet these basic needs. If you would like to help now, please consider making a monetary contribution. None of the local agencies in the area are able to deal with a large influx of donations of clothing or other supplies from the public at this time.

After the immediate crisis has passed, a long period of recovery and rebuilding will begin. As that happens, there will be many ways to help those who have lost everything in the flooding. We will work to share those types of opportunities with the Bowie community as they are announced.

Volunteer Information

If you would like to volunteer, the [National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster website \(https://www.nvoad.org/hurricane-harvey/hurricane-harvey-how-to-help\)](https://www.nvoad.org/hurricane-harvey/hurricane-harvey-how-to-help) has information about volunteering to help victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Labor Day Holiday - Monday, September 4

City offices and facilities, including the Senior Center, the City Gymnasium, the Kenhill Center, and the Ice Arena will be closed for the holiday on September 4. No refuse or recycling collection.

It's Back to School Time – Drive Carefully and Watch Out for Pedestrians

Stay alert, drive within the posted speed limit, and remember to stop for school buses that are loading and unloading.

Salute to America Concert at Allen Pond Park

The Salute to America concert will be held on Sunday, September 3, 2017 from 7 to 8 p.m. The Bowie State University Concert Band will provide a selection of patriotic music. The concert will be held at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather.

Attend the MAGLEV Briefing on Tuesday, September 5

State officials will brief Council and the public about the decision making process for the MAGLEV high speed train project at the next City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 8 p.m. at City Hall. This project has the potential to impact the future of our community as four of six proposed routes would go through some portion of Bowie.

A representative of the Maryland Transit Administration will be present to explain the decision making process for the project, which includes an environmental assessment of the various routes under consideration. Following the presentation, members of the public will have the opportunity to offer comments. To sign up to speak, please contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029 or email ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

For more information about the project, including contact information for those involved in the decision making, visit www.cityofbowie.org/maglev.

Other items on the agenda for discussion and public hearing at the September 5 meeting are the City's Transportation Priorities and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

New City of Bowie Water System Fee

Customers of the City's Water & Sewer System will find a new fee on their bill. The Renewal and Replacement Fee was put into place effective July 1, 2017 to help pay for the replacement of aging pipes in the water distribution system. The City's system was constructed in the early 1960s when much of Levitt Bowie was being developed. Now over 50 years old, it is in need of upgrading.

The system provides service to approximately 7,900 customers, which is less than 40% of all City households. The Water System consists of the water treatment plant, 90 miles of water mains, three water storage tanks and six water wells. The Sewer System consists of the wastewater treatment plant, 85 miles of collection mains and eight pumping

stations. The costs of the system are borne by the system's customers. No tax revenue supports the system. In order to pay for the necessary upgrades, a new quarterly Renewal and Replacement Fee of \$22.75 was imposed. Work on upgrading the pipes will take place this year in Long Ridge and will continue over the next several years throughout the entire system.

There will also be a rate increase for Fiscal Year 2018. The water rate increase is \$.23 per thousand gallons and \$.34 per thousand gallons for sewer services. This will pay for increased costs associated with managing the system. Between the new fee and the rate increase, customers should expect their bill to be approximately \$30 more per quarter.

Midwood Lane Stormwater Pond Improvements

In September 2017, the City will begin construction to improve the stormwater management pond located on Midwood Lane near the Belair Swim and Racquet Club. The improvements will update this pond to current standards that improve the environmental quality of stormwater discharge to streams, rivers and bays. Specifically, modern standards reduce the nitrogen, phosphorous and suspended solids carried by stormwater discharges that are detrimental to the environmental health of downstream waters. The Midwood project is being undertaken to meet requirements specific to improving water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. The contractor is Blueridge Inc. The construction period for this project will run from September 2017 through January 2018.

Sign up for Bowie's Energy Audit Program

Save money and improve the comfort of your home with a no-cost BGE comprehensive energy audit available to Bowie homeowners. Complete an application online at www.cityofbowie.org/eap or in the Planning Department at City Hall, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

Beautify Bowie by Planting a Tree

Add beauty, shade, and privacy to your yard. Tree rebates of \$50 and \$100 are available starting September 1, 2017 for City of Bowie residents who would like to purchase up to two trees to plant on their property. Trees can be purchased at any Maryland nursery or store, and there are 11 native species of trees eligible for rebates. Applications and program details can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate.

Patuxent Nursery is partnering with the City to hold a Tree Planting Seminar on September 30 at 1 p.m. to share information about planting native trees. The seminar is free and will last an hour. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

Thank You!

The Community Outreach Committee thanks those who contributed to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund at the Sunday Sunset Concerts. We remind everyone that the need continues to be great. Donations of nonperishable food, toiletries

and baby supplies can be made at a number of locations around the City, including the Bowie Gym, Bowie Senior Center, and Kenhill Center.

City Gym Maintenance

The City Gym is closed for annual maintenance through September 10. The Gym will reopen September 11. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Volleyball

Recreational Volleyball at the City Gym begins Friday, September 15, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No experience needed. Come out and make new friends, have fun, and get some exercise each Friday. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Meeting Rooms Rentals Available at City Gym

City meeting rooms can accommodate groups of 35 or less. The fee is \$25 per hour. For information and availability, please call 301-809-2388.

Cop for a Day

Experience a day in the life of a Police Officer. Enjoy a thrilling vehicle pursuit, foot chase, conduct a traffic stop, search a building, and more! For ages 9 and older. It takes place Saturday, September 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bowie Town Center. Registration is \$15 (includes a T-shirt) or \$10 (no T-shirt). Lunch will be provided by Mission BBQ. There will also be a free Kid Zone with a moon bounce and other activities. Have fun while raising funds for Special Olympics. Register at www.bowiecopforaday.com.

Attend the Bowie Health Fair

The annual Bowie Health Fair takes place on September 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at various locations on Bowie Health Center Drive. It features screenings and tests, activities, food and drink, and a variety of exhibitors. For information, call 240-485-7165 or 301-262-5511 or visit www.bowiehealthfair.com.

Future of the Indoor Sports Facility Project – September 18

At the September 18 City Council Meeting, there will be a staff presentation and discussion on various options for a new indoor sports facility. The voter ballot question process will also be discussed. For more information on the project, please contact John Fitzwater at 301-809-3075 or jfitzwater@cityofbowie.org. To sign up to speak that night during the public hearing, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029 or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

Celebrate National Senior Center Month

Bowie Senior Center will mark National Senior Center Month on September 26, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Attend our DJ party and celebrate the Center as it cultivates masters of aging! Open to the public. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

Can I Keep Chickens On My Property?

This is a frequently asked question of homeowners living within the municipal limits of the City of Bowie. The City's Animal Control Office also receives an increasing number of complaints regarding neighbors maintaining chickens on their property. Chapter 4, Sec. 4-4 of the City Code states, "The use of any land or building in the City of Bowie, Maryland for the purpose of keeping poultry, cattle or livestock must comply with the provisions of Subtitle 27, "Zoning", of the Prince George's County code." Please call the Prince George's County Zoning Office at 301-952-3208 to determine whether or not you are zoned for this use. For more information, please contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Bowie Youth & Family Services

Bowie Youth & Family Services serves individuals, families and groups in the Bowie community. They offer counseling for all families in the City who have children in the home who are high school age or younger. Other services include outreach activities and a mentoring program for students at Bowie High School. Staff members are licensed clinicians who each hold a graduate degree in a mental health specialty and who have years of training and experience in treating children, teens and their families. Call 301-809-3033 for more information or to arrange for an appointment.

Imagine an Hour That Impacts a Lifetime, Imagine Mentoring

Mentoring makes a difference and now is the time to volunteer. The Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) Teen Mentoring Program can help you do just that. When you volunteer to mentor a Bowie High School student, you will spend one hour a week building a positive relationship with a student and supporting their success in school, in their family and in the Bowie community. For information, contact Program Coordinator Rhonda Simon at mentor@cityofbowie.org, call BYFS at 301-809-3033 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/byfs.

Public Hearing – Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The City of Bowie as an entitlement participant in the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, solicits public participation in the development of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER provides a yearly account to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of funds allocated towards the implementation of the Five Year Strategic Plan. The Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development, and Non-Housing Community Development. The hearing takes place at the City Council meeting on September 5, 2017, 8 p.m. at City Hall.

New Gallery Exhibit

Visit the City Hall Art Gallery to see our latest exhibit, entitled "All I Have is a Photograph". It will feature a variety of scenes by photographers from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The exhibit runs from September 18 to November 17, 2017. It is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are City Hall hours: Monday to

Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Arts & Education Grants

The City offers grants to individuals and groups to support education and the arts in Bowie. The application forms may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Beautification Awards

It's official! This year's entries have been judged, scores have been tallied, and the winners are..... Well, you'll just have to attend the City's Beautification Awards Ceremony on September 21, 2017 at Bowie City Hall where the results will be revealed! A slide presentation and refreshments will begin at 7 p.m. and the awards presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

September is National Preparedness Month

Disasters Don't Plan Ahead, But You Can! As Texas begins to recover from Hurricane Harvey, the City of Bowie would like to remind residents that September is a good time to review preparedness information for severe weather, including hurricanes, and other emergencies that can occur throughout the year. September is both National Preparedness and Maryland Preparedness Month. Government agencies, businesses, community groups, schools and families will all be participating in events to help promote disaster preparedness. Making preparations when threats are not imminent can make communities more resilient.

Several online sources provide good emergency preparedness information for these and additional threats. Keep up with the City and these other organizations all month long for tips on how you can better prepare for an emergency.

- MEMA: <http://mema.maryland.gov>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.ready.gov
- National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/safety

Hall of Honor Ceremony

Bowie's Hall of Honor was established to honor those residents who made a major and lasting contribution to our community during their lifetimes. This year the City is proud to honor the memory of two women who were very active in Bowie and in advocating for the arts and for justice and equality for all. The honorees are Joan Christian and Mary Nusser. Their names will be added to the City's Hall of Honor at a ceremony on September 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. For Information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Avoiding Fraud

Scammers are always looking for new ways to gain access to your personal information or to trick you out of your money. Residents have recently reported receiving calls saying they had failed to report for jury duty and were being fined for their absence. The caller demanded a penalty payment in the form of a money order and threatened arrest if the residents didn't comply. Another scam involves people coming to your door posing as IRS agents. These scammers are persistent and their schemes are endless. Don't become a victim.

Remember every door-to-door solicitor in Bowie must be licensed and must carry and display proof of that license. Report violators to the City's Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008. Trust your instincts. If something does not look right or does not sound right, close the door, hang up, or otherwise disengage. Ask someone you trust, such as friend or family member, before parting with your money, taking any action, or signing a contract.

The Federal Trade Commission offers a great list of tips to help you avoid fraud. The basics are listed below. The full article is at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-things-you-can-do-avoid-fraud.

1. **Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust like a government official, a charity or a company you do business with.
2. **Do online searches for scams,** using words that describe your situation.
3. **Don't believe your caller ID.** It can be easily faked.
4. **Don't pay upfront for a promise.** Be suspicious of offers for a service, a loan, a prize, a job or anything else when you did not initiate an inquiry.
5. **Consider how you pay.** Requests for payment by gift card or wiring money are not normal.
6. **Talk to someone you trust** before making a decision.
7. **Hang up on robocall sales pitches.**
8. **Be skeptical** about free trial offers.
9. **Don't deposit a check you receive in exchange for wiring money to someone.**
10. **Sign up for free scam alerts** from the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/scams.

City Receives Environmentally Responsible Management Award for Allen Pond

The City of Bowie has been awarded an Environmentally Responsible Management Certification, by the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) for the natural grass athletic fields at Allen Pond Park. This award is the first in Maryland and one of 23 in the United States and Spain, showcasing ecological stewardship and sustainable best practices. This prestigious recognition is for the City's three natural fields at Allen Pond: Huston, Murtagh, and the Allen Pond Softball Field. Congratulations to Parks and Grounds Superintendent Ed Hall and his crews for this honor.

Jobs

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

- Animal Control Officer or Officer Trainee (closes 9/8/2017)
- Ice Arena Attendant (open)
- Assistant Director - Public Works Department (open)
- Bus Driver – Senior Center (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level and Lateral (open)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for more information or to apply.

Events

9/2 – Loose Change for Hurricane Victims 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at City Hall.

9/2 – Games People Played 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Enjoy games from the past. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/3 – Salute to America Concert 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. The Bowie State University Concert Band will provide patriotic music. The concert will be held at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

9/4 – Labor Day Holiday City offices and facilities, including the Senior Center, the City Gymnasium, the Kenhill Center, and the Ice Arena will be closed for the holiday on 9/4. No refuse or recycling collection.

9/5 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda topics are the MAGLEV train project, the City's transportation priorities, and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for the Community Development Block Grant program.

9/7 – Healthy Weight Basics (Nutrition 101) 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

9/7 – Back to School Ice Skating Lessons begin at the Bowie Ice Arena. Call 301-809-3090 for information.

9/8 – Fairy Tale Friday 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 2 - 6. Enjoy stories, a craft and refreshments. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/9 – Weed Warrior Work Day at Whitemarsh Park 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The City's Green Team is in need of volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and is very destructive to

native ecosystems. This is an outdoor activity that requires cutting the ivy vines at eye-level and foot-level, then pulling them back about two feet from the base of the tree to bag them. To participate, please register by contacting Ashleigh Armentrout at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors.

9/9 – General Rochambeau’s March Through Bowie 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Reenactments and activities. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/12 – Researching Founding Fathers’ Mysteries – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/16 – Bowie Health Fair 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at various location on Health Center Drive. Free.

9/16 – Cop for a Day 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bowie Town Center. Register at www.bowiecopforaday.com.

9/18 – City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall. The Indoor Sports Facility Project, a Charter Amendment regarding recall, and a presentation by the Ethics Commission are on the agenda for this meeting.

9/19 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 - 11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/21 – Registration for October Ice Skating Lessons at the Bowie Ice Arena begins today. Call 301-809-3090 for information.

9/21 – Beautification Awards Ceremony 7 p.m. at City Hall.

9/23 – Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony 7 p.m. at City Hall.

9/26 – Celebrate Senior Center Month 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. DJ Party. Open to the public. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300

9/29 – Board Game Session 3 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

9/30 – Fall Plant Sale 8 a.m. -12 p.m. at the Bowie Library on Annapolis Road. Prepare for the fall planting season with the fall plant sale held in the parking lot of the Bowie Library on Annapolis Road. It is organized by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and co-

sponsored by the City. This event offers a wide variety of native Maryland plants, herbs, vegetables, and houseplants. Visit www.bcgardenclub.org for more information.

9/30 – Weed Warrior Work Day at Whitemarsh Park 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. To participate, please register by contacting Ashleigh Armentrout at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors.

9/30 – Native Trees Planting Seminar 1 p.m. at Patuxent Nursery, located at 2410 Crain Highway. This free, 1-hour seminar will teach you about the planting of native trees that are eligible for City rebates. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

10/5 – 11/9 Support Group for Widowed Persons Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/7 – Bowie International Festival 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Experience a variety of world cultures through music, dance, and exhibits at this free annual event.