

Bowie News Flash

November 2017

News

Halloween Trick or Treat - Tuesday, October 31

Halloween is Tuesday, October 31. Suggested hours for trick or treating are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Bowie Police Department reminds trick or treaters and their parents to watch out for cars, carry a flashlight, and check all treats carefully. If you are on the roads on Halloween, drive carefully and watch out for pedestrians.

Prescription Drug Take Back – October 28

Dispose of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe manner on Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road. For more information, contact 240-544-5700 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/police.

Halloween on Ice – October 28

Celebrate Halloween at the Ice Arena on October 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Wear a costume AND bring a canned good for free skate rental too. Costume contest, treat bags and lots of skating fun for the whole family! For information, call the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Curbside Leaf Collection Begins October 30

The City's leaf collection service begins October 30. Each neighborhood will have two collection dates. Residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of their grass for pickup. Do not rake or blow leaves into the street. If you have a storm drain close to your house, please keep the storm drain and curb clear of leaves to prevent them from blocking water flow and flooding the roadways. Also, please do not park cars or place trash in front of the leaves as this makes it difficult for City crews to maneuver equipment to reach the leaves.

Collection will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. according to the schedule posted at www.cityofbowie.org/leaves. Crews will work rain or shine. In the event of snow or ice storms, leaf collection will temporarily be suspended, as the trucks and crews will be redeployed to salt or plow City streets. For information, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

Upcoming Family Events at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts invites residents to three free events next week:

- 10/31 - Costume Night at the Center 6 - 8 p.m.
- 11/1 - Egypt National Folkloric Dance Troupe 7 p.m.
- 11/3 - The Naval Academy Band's Superintendent's Combo and Alumni Big Band Concert 7:30 p.m.

The Center is located next to Bowie High School on Annapolis Road. It is supported, in part, with funding from the City of Bowie. For information about these events, visit www.bowiecenter.org or call 301-805-6880.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 5th

Eastern Standard Time goes into effect on Sunday, November 5th at 2 a.m. when we “fall back” an hour. When you are changing your clocks, why not take the opportunity to check all of the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home; it may just save your life.

Use the hour you gain to:

- Test all the smoke alarms in your home by pushing the test button.
- Replace any batteries that have expired.
- Plan two escape routes from your home and practice using them with your family.
- Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.
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Working smoke alarms in your home are a simple and effective way to protect your family and reduce your risk of death or serious injury if you have a fire in your home.

Belair Drive Traffic Improvements

More than 75 residents attended a recent stakeholders meeting about four proposed traffic calming measures for the segment of Belair Drive between MD 3 and Kenhill Drive. The measures were required of St. John Properties as conditions of approval for the Melford Village project, to slow and deter traffic from Melford onto Belair Drive. As a result of the comments offered at that meeting, staff continues to work with the developer to explore and evaluate various options, including speed humps. A video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0RIHrjTZU>.

If you wish to offer suggestions or comments about how to accomplish the goal of slowing speeds and deterring traffic on Belair Drive, please contact Public Works Director George Stephanos at 301-809-2336 or email gstephanos@gmail.com.

MAGLEV Update

Federal and State officials have narrowed down the list of potential routes for the proposed MAGLEV train project. The routes along the WB&A trail and through Rockledge, Saddlebrook, and Belair Greens are no longer under consideration.

Four options remain:

1. No build
2. Modified Amtrak (known as the E-1 route)
3. Baltimore Washington Parkway East
4. Baltimore Washington Parkway West

The Modified Amtrak route is the remaining route of concern to Bowie. The proposed path would be parallel Lanham Severn Road and the train tracks through Old Bowie on its way north through Anne Arundel County to Baltimore. There is also a large maintenance facility proposed across from Bowie State University. Detailed analysis of the remaining options will occur over the next several months by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of Maryland. The City remains opposed to any routes through Bowie and will continue to monitor the matter closely. More details and maps of the remaining routes can be found at www.bwmaglev.info.

Rabid Bat Found at Allen Pond

On Sunday, October 15, at approximately 5 p.m. Animal Control was dispatched to Allen Pond Park concerning a bat confined to the women's brick bathroom. The bat was captured and **tested positive for rabies**. If any park visitor or their pet came into contact with this bat, please call one of the following for further instructions:

- Bowie Animal Control: 301-809-3002 or
- Prince George's Health Department: 301-583-3750 (24-hour line: 240-508-5774)

The rabies virus is transmitted primarily by warm blooded animals such as bats, raccoons, foxes, and skunks. Some animals will appear sick or behave differently if they have rabies. Other times, such as in the case of bats, it may be difficult to tell if an animal is infected, so it is important to use caution when you encounter any wild animals and to make sure that your pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. For more information about rabies visit:

- www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/251/Rabies
- www.cdc.gov/rabies

Fighting Hunger

This month, families will be shopping, baking, and making plans to gather around the table for Thanksgiving. Please take a few minutes to remember those in our community who are struggling to put food on the table or to make ends meet. The Bowie Pantry helps those in need all year long, but in November they also collect items for Thanksgiving meals and accept donations of complete Thanksgiving baskets. See the list of items on the pantry's website at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Walk Bowie

As part of an initiative to promote walking and the wonderful parks and green spaces that we have in Bowie, we invite residents to share images of the City's green spaces on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtags #greenbowie and #walkbowie. Enjoy the weather while it's still comfortable and join in on the fun!

City staff are getting in on the act by participating in the "Walk This Way" walking challenge. We have 24 teams competing over the next several weeks to see who can cover the most ground. After just one week, our participants have walked over 51 million steps!

November is Municipal Government Works Month

As the level of government closest to the people, local government offers its citizens the best opportunity to be heard and to influence the course of the community. We invite you to take the time to learn more about how your government works, join a City committee, visit City Hall, attend one of the many event going on this month at the Mansion, follow us on social media, or ask that question you've always wondered about. Your city government is here to serve and we welcome your input, your attendance at meetings and events, and your civic involvement. Learn more about staying connected by visiting www.cityofbowie.org/connected.

Upcoming City Holidays

- **Veterans Day** Friday, November 10, 2017
- **Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 23, 2017
- **Day After Thanksgiving** Friday, November 24, 2017

City offices will be closed on the dates listed above. There will be no refuse or recycling service on these dates; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

Bowie Art Exhibits

The *All I Have is a Photograph* exhibit at the City Hall Art Gallery runs until November 18. Please stop by to view the exhibit any time City Hall is open. For more information, contact Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Trees and Storms

We hope for a moderate storm season this winter. While snow is the biggest issue, wind is a close second in terms of causing damage. Not only does wind produce snowdrifts, it also causes trees to uproot and topple over, as well as damage the canopy of many trees causing dangerous and unsightly outcomes. City staff is ready for whatever Mother Nature has in store for us, and will address any storm damage, in cooperation with residents. Report storm-related hazardous tree damage as soon as possible; contact City Hall at 301-262-6200 or the City's Parks and Grounds Division at 301-809-2353 or after hours, call the Non-Emergency Call Center at 240-544-5700.

Additional sources of information related to tree and storm damage:

- BGE - 1-800-685-0123 - tree power line issues
- BGE - 1-877-778-2222 - power outage issues
- M-NCPPC - 301-218-6800 - tree issues in M-NCPPC parks
- Prince George's County - 301-499-08530 - tree issues on County roads
- Maryland State Highway Administration - 301-513-7300 - tree issues on State roads and highways

Green Bowie

- **Rain Barrels Across Bowie** Do you live in Bowie and have a rain barrel? We'd like to know! The City's Planning Department keeps track of rain barrels that are installed at residents' homes to estimate stormwater reductions for the City's stormwater permit. If you haven't "registered" your rain barrel, please contact the City's Watershed Manager Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043 with your address (for mapping) and how many gallons your rain barrel holds.
- **Certify Your Yard as a Wildlife Habitat** Celebrate the first anniversary of Bowie's National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat certification by joining the cause. Certified habitats provide critical habitat for birds and pollinators. For more information or to certify your yard, visit www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat. If you are already certified, consider opening your yard to your neighbors for the spring habitat tour next year. For more information, contact Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.

What's Bouncing at the City Gym?

- **Morning Walking** Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m.
- **Basketball Open Gym** Weekdays, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- **Pickleball** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Learn to play!
- **Coed Recreational Volleyball** Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. No experience needed. Come out and make new friends, have fun and get some quality exercise.
- **Senior Fit** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 - 10 a.m. Hosted by Holy Cross Hospital at the Gym. Participants must register with Holy Cross. For information and registration, call Sara McKechnie at 301-754-7895.
- **Meeting Room Rentals Available** Rooms can accommodate groups of 35 or less. \$25 per hour. Call 301-809-2388 for availability.

For more information on any of these programs, contact the City Gym at 301-809-2388.

Bowie Youth & Family Services Groups

Bowie Youth & Family Services is located at the Kenhill Center. They are offering the following groups this fall: ADHD Group for Children and Parents (Thursdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.) and Active Parenting (Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m.). Please call 301-809-3033 for details or to register.

Drivers, Watch Out for Deer

The danger of colliding with deer is greatest during the early morning or evening hours, and especially on those streets with wooded areas of limited visibility. At these times and places, drivers should be most attentive to their surroundings. Slow down, drive with your headlights on, and be prepared to stop at a moment's notice. Remember, if you see one deer, another usually follows. Drivers should consider purchasing a deer whistle for each vehicle owned. These small devices are inexpensive, very easy to install, and are proven to greatly reduce the number of deer collisions. For more information, contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Wild Animals Prohibited as Pets

Wild animals are not allowed to be kept as pets in Prince George's County. With very few exceptions, wild animals are difficult or impossible to care for. They often grow to be larger, stronger and more dangerous than owners expect or can manage. Their nutritional and social needs are generally unknown, and recognizing medical problems is difficult for one not trained. They can even pose a danger to human health and safety through disease and parasites. For more information, contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Snow Removal

Do you have a limitation that may prevent you from removing ice and snow from the public sidewalk or driveway quickly? The City provides additional time for people with factors such as age, physical handicap or disability but you must submit a waiver application and be approved. The application is available on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org.

Teen Job Bank

Teens are needed for snow shoveling this winter. Bowie Youth & Family Services sponsors a Teen Job Bank, where residents can find Bowie youth who are looking for opportunities to make extra money, either on an occasional or a regular basis. Residents may use this service to find teens who can help with tasks such as snow shoveling, yard work, babysitting, tutoring, shopping or other chores. The particulars of the job and the fees per hour are determined by you and the teen. Access this program by completing the Teen Job Bank resident application found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank or call 301-809-3033.

Jobs

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

- Assistant City Manager (closes 11/10/17)
- Information Technology Technician (closes 11/3/17)
- Building Maintenance Worker I – Part Time (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

10/28 – Prescription Drug Take Back 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bowie Police Department. Dispose of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe manner. For more information, contact 240-544-5700 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/police.

10/28 – Halloween On Ice 1 - 3 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Costume contest, treat bags and lots of skating fun for the whole family! For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

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10/31 – Halloween Trick or Treat 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Bowie Police Department reminds trick or treaters and their parents to watch out for cars, carry a flashlight, and check all treats carefully. If you are on the roads on Halloween, drive carefully and watch out for pedestrians.

10/31 – Costume Night at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts 6 - 8 p.m. Free

11/1 – Nature Walk Exploration - Senior Center Program 10 a.m. at Bowie Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

11/1 – Egypt National Folkloric Dance Troupe 7 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Free.

11/3 - 11/19 – “A Tuna Christmas” at Bowie Playhouse. Tickets: 301-805-0219 or www.bctheatre.com.

11/3 – The Naval Academy Band’s Superintendent’s Combo and Alumni Big Band Concert 7:30 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Free.

11/5 – Books About Bowie Book Fair 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/6 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

11/7 – Paint and Sip Night 7 - 9 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Reservations required. \$30 per person. For reservations and more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/9 – Senior Center Program: National Memory Screening Program 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Senior Center. Preregister. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

11/9 – Honoring Our Veterans at the Senior Center 12:30 p.m. at Bowie Senior Center. We invite all veterans and members of the community to join us for a special celebration program. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

11/10 – Veterans Day Holiday. City offices closed. No trash or recycling collection.

11/11 – Meet America’s First Veterans 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. First Maryland Regiment. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/12 – Games People Played 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Drop in for heritage games. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/13 – Senior Center Program: Fashionable After 60 12:30 p.m. at Bowie Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

11/13 – University of Maryland Medical System Information Session 7 p.m. at City Hall. The ownership of the Bowie Health Center, Prince George’s Hospital, and certain other medical facilities in Prince George’s County is transitioning from Dimensions Healthcare to the University of Maryland Medical System. Come learn about what this will mean for the Bowie Healthcare Campus and medical care in our county at this meeting hosted by the City Council and County Councilmember Todd Turner.

11/14 – Annual History Day 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Four speakers. Lunch included. Reservations and fee. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/14 – Marine Aviators of WWI – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/16 – Group Skating Lessons Registration Begins at Bowie Ice Arena. Classes start 12/7. Classes for children 18 month of age to adults. Ask about beginner and family discounts. For more information, please contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

11/19 – Taste of the Past 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Share our ancestors' history and sweet tooth cravings! Sample some 18th and 19th century holiday goodies at the Mansion.

11/20 – Fall Fairy Tales 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 2 - 5. Stories, craft and refreshments. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/20 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

11/21 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

11/23 & 11/24 – Thanksgiving and Day after Thanksgiving. City holidays. City offices closed. No trash or recycling collection on either day.

11/27 – Trainspotting Day at Bowie Railroad Museum 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. This is AMTRAK's busiest day of the year – heavy rail traffic and unusual rail cars. Visit with Santa. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Save the Dates...

12/3 – Holiday Tree Lighting 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free candlelight tours of the Mansion from noon to 6 p.m.

12/5 - New Bowie Ice Arena Stakeholders Meeting 7 p.m. at City Hall. Design of the new Bowie Ice Arena on Church Road has begun. Residents and other stakeholders are invited to attend a meeting to learn about the preliminary design concept, to pose questions, and to provide input on the design concept thus far.