



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

December 2017

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Special District 2 Recall Election December 19

The City of Bowie will hold a special recall election on **December 19** for voters of District 2 to determine if Councilmember Diane Polangin should be recalled from office. City Clerk Awilda Hernandez announced the election after the City Board of Elections certified that a recall petition presented to the City contained signatures of more than the required 25% of registered voters in District 2. The ballot will contain a single "yes or no" question: "Do you vote to recall from her City elective office District 2 Councilmember Diane Polangin?" Depending on the outcome of that vote, another election may need to be held in 60-90 days to fill the vacancy. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters may also cast their vote by absentee ballot if they cannot vote in person on December 19th. Only registered voters of District 2 (A & B) are eligible to vote in this election. For information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/election or contact the City Clerk at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Holiday Candlelight and Tree Lighting

The City invites you to bring your family and friends to celebrate the holidays at Belair Mansion beginning at 12 p.m. on **Sunday, December 3, 2017**. Traditional decorations and flickering candles will offer a glimpse of holidays past. The music of "Bedlam" will fill the air at 2 p.m. and the candles will be lit at 3 p.m. Then, bundle up for an outdoor "carol sing-along" with the City Council, tree lighting, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus atop the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck at 7 p.m. Admission is free but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are requested. Please look for the marked Food Pantry containers for your donations. For more information, contact City Hall at 301-809-3011 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Ice Arena Stakeholders Meeting City Council recently approved construction of a new ice arena on Church Road. Residents and other stakeholders are invited to attend a meeting on the project on **December 5, 2017 at 7 p.m.** at City Hall. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the plans, pose questions, and provide input on the design concept thus far.

Melford Village Apartments Stakeholders Meeting

A Stakeholders Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 13, 2017** at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall for a proposed 389 unit, multi-family apartment building at Melford Village. For further information, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

Bowie Police Host Annual "Shop with a Cop"

The Bowie Police Department is pleased to host its annual "Shop With A Cop" event on **Sunday, December 10, 2017**. This is a nationally recognized program that helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. Through donations received, children (referred through local agencies, churches, and schools) are given a spending limit to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones. Children are accompanied by a uniformed officer who will assist them with their holiday purchases at Target. Afterwards, the kids enjoy a delicious lunch made available through contributions received from local restaurants.

We are in need of donors to make this event a success. Please help us help others! Donations may be directed to the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. Make checks payable to the "City of Bowie". All donations are tax deductible. For information about this program, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org.

Donate to Toys for Tots Join the Bowie Police Department to help make this Christmas special for local children. Please donate new unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations will be accepted at the following City locations: City Hall, Bowie Police Station, Gymnasium, Ice Arena, Senior Center and Kenhill Center. Please drop toys off by **December 14, 2017**. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org.

Holiday House Decorating Contest Do you spend hours putting up lights and other displays outdoors for the holidays? Are your decorations the envy of the neighborhood? Then why not enter the City's Holiday House Decorating Contest! Entry deadline is **December 11, 2017 at 5 p.m.** Homes must be within the Bowie municipal limits. For information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Breakfast with Santa!

Plan to bring your children or grandchildren to the Senior Center on **Saturday, December 16, 2017** from 9 - 11 a.m. for a very special morning event! Share pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Enjoy a visit and photo opportunity with Santa, a magic performance by Brandon the Magician, and create a holiday craft with the kids! Admission is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free). Registration is required by **December 8**. For more information or to register, contact the Senior Center at **301-809-2300**. This community event is sponsored by the City and the Bowie Lions Club.

Code Corner - Report Vacant or Abandoned Property

The City Code Compliance Division requests your help in updating our vacant property list. If you are aware of a vacant property, including homes that appear abandoned or occupied fraudulently, please contact Denise Michelle in the Code Compliance office at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org. With your help, this process can minimize the negative impact that vacant and abandoned properties have on our neighborhoods.

Bowie Seeks Green Citizen Award Nominations

The Bowie Green Citizen Award recognizes individuals, schools, or groups that contribute to making Bowie a greener and more sustainable community through innovative practices, educational programs, and community leadership. This award was established to reward members of the community who have actively promoted green living practices in the city and encouraged others to do likewise. Nominations are due by **January 31, 2018**. For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie or contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

Calling All Student Artists!

The City of Bowie is hosting its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest to promote understanding about the lasting legacy of Dr. King. This year's contest theme is "Freedom: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". There are three different categories within the contest, depending on the grade level of the students: K - 2nd grade, coloring contest; 3rd - 5th grade, poster contest; and 6 - 12th grade, video contest. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/MLK for contest details. Students who live within the municipal limits of Bowie (including home schooled students) or students who attend an eligible school in Bowie can participate in the contest. The complete list of eligible schools is located at the web link above. **Entries are due December 4, 2017**. For more information, contact Una Cooper at ucooper@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3032.

Please Note: City Hall lobby will be closed to the public **December 8** from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** for an employee awards/holiday event. During that time, residents will be able to visit the Police Department, pay their water bills, or reach City offices by telephone.

The Man Who Came to Dinner 12/1 - 12/16 at Bowie Playhouse. For tickets: 301-937-7458 or www.pglit.org.

Generations City Hall Art Gallery exhibit. Show runs through February 9, 2018. Free and open to the public (during City Hall hours).

For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

SENIOR CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERT 12/2, 7 p.m. Belair Mansion Free

HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT OPEN HOUSE 12/3, 12 - 6 p.m. Belair Mansion Free Food Pantry donations requested.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING 12/3, 7 p.m. Belair Mansion Free Food Pantry donations requested.

FROSTY FAIRYTALE FRIDAY 12/8, 10 - 11 a.m. Belair Mansion Stories, snack and craft. Ages 2 - 5 Free

KINDERKRISTMAS 12/9, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Blue Sky Puppet Theater at 3 p.m. Ages 1 - 11 Free

VISIT TO WINTERTHUR AND LONGWOOD GARDENS 12/12, 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Friends of Belair/Senior Center trip Fee and reservation required

STOCKING STUFFER SALE 12/17, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion Shop 20% off!

KRINGLE KABOOSE 12/19, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Ages 1 - 10. Free

CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

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.

COED RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SENIOR FIT Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN GYM 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 7:30 - 10 p.m. Three courts open.

SATURDAY FUN WITH SANTA 12/9, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Face painting, music and more Fee: new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or \$3 per child.

ADULTS 55+

Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive
301-809-2300

DAYS & TIMES
M/W/F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
T/TH 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
SAT 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
12/1, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

"TOYLAND" VARIETY SHOW
12/11, 10:30 a.m. Charles County Show Troupe

"FIRE 'N ICE" SENIOR CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERTS 12/13, 4 p.m. and 12/14, 1 p.m. at Senior Center; 12/15, 7:30 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Contact the Senior Center for tickets.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor G. Frederick Robinson
Mayor Pro Tem Henri Gardner
Michael P. Esteve
Courtney D. Glass
James L. Marcos
Diane M. Polangin
Isaac Trouth

CITY MANAGER

Alfred D. Lott
301-809-3030