

# Bowie News Flash

**December 2017**

## News

### **Special District 2 Recall Election – December 19, 2017**

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 19<sup>th</sup>. Only registered voters of District 2 (A & B) are eligible to vote in this election. District 2A votes at Christian Community Presbyterian Church and the polling place for District 2B is the Kenhill Center.

District 2A consists of the following neighborhoods: Belair Town, Bowie Forest, Fairview, Glenridge, Grady’s Walk, Highbridge Park, Meadowbrook (only the streets south and west of Millstream Drive), Somerset, Stewart’s Landing, and Tulip Grove. District 2B neighborhoods include Buckingham, Derbyshire, Forest Hills, Foxhill, Longridge, and Kenilworth.

Absentee ballot applications and other election information can be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/election](http://www.cityofbowie.org/election). Seniors needing a ride to the polls should contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2324 by December 15.

### **Belair by Candlelight and Holiday Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion**

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.

**Calling All Student Artists! Deadline for MLK Art Contest is Monday, December 4**

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: coloring contest (K - 2nd grade); poster contest (3rd - 5th grade); and video contest (6 - 12th grade). Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/MLK](http://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. Finalists will be selected in December and their work will be featured at the City's Martin Luther King program on January 13, 2018. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category in February. For more information, contact Una Cooper at [ucooper@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ucooper@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3032.

**Ice Arena Stakeholders Meeting – December 5 at 7 p.m.**

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.

**Public Hearing: New Bowie Ice Arena Annexation – January 2, 2018 at 8 p.m.**

On Tuesday, January 2, 2018, City Council will conduct a public hearing on a proposed annexation of a 20-acre property owned by the City, and located on the east side of Church Road, north of US 50. The new Bowie Ice Arena project will include two ice rinks in a 78,000 square foot structure. Annexation of the parcel will allow the City's Police Department to provide services and will allow the facility to be constructed under the City's Stormwater Management Ordinance. The City Council meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

**City Hall Lobby Closed December 8, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

The lobby of City Hall 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.

**Melford Village Aspen Apartments Stakeholders Meeting – December 13 at 7 p.m.**

St. John Properties, the developer of Melford Village, will present its plans for a multi-family apartment building containing 389 dwelling units and a parking garage containing 587 parking spaces. The 25-acre site is located on the west side of Curie Drive, north of Melford Boulevard. This will be the first residential development at Melford Village, which received Conceptual Site Plan approval in 2014 and Preliminary Subdivision approval in 2016. Under the approved Annexation Agreement, the developer must obtain

City Council approval of their Detailed Site Plan before they can submit it to the County. The Detailed Site Plan under consideration includes building plans, landscaping plans and architecture for a four-story, 389 unit multi-family apartment building and parking garage. The Stakeholders Meeting begins at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 13, 2017** in the Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

### **Shop with a Cop**

The Bowie Police Department will 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 will be accompanied by a uniformed officer who will assist them with their holiday purchases at Target. Afterwards, the kids enjoy a delicious lunch made possible through contributions received from local restaurants.

Donors are needed to make this event a success. Please help us help others! Donations may be mailed or dropped off at 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](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

### **Holiday House Decorating Contest Deadline is December 11, 2017**

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

### **“Fire ‘N Ice” Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert**

“Fire ‘n Ice,” presents a contrast of the warmth of the holidays with the snowy, sparkling landscape. The songs performed by the 100-member chorale capture the joyful spirit of the holidays in traditional songs, new expressions of the majesty of the winter season, and innovative musical compositions. Audiences will hear the popular “Sleigh Ride,” *Winter Wonderland*,” and “The Christmas Song,” and can snuggle to “Winter Weather” and “I’ve Got My Love to Keep Me Warm.” There is the inspiring “Winter Pathetique” based on the famous Beethoven composition, the moving “Candlelight Canon,” and more seasonal delights accompanied by talented pianist Paula Sparks.

The chorale will perform at the Senior Center on December 13 and 14. The only evening performance will be at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, at 7:30 pm on Friday, December 15. Tickets are \$8 and must be purchased in advance at the Senior Center. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

### **Donate to Toys for Tots**

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, Kenhill Center, and Senior Center. Please donate toys **by December 14, 2017**. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5700 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

### **Breakfast with Santa**

Plan to bring your children or grandchildren to the Senior Center on Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 9 to 11 a.m. for a very special morning event! Share pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Enjoy a visit and photo opportunities 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). Preregistration is required by December 8. For more information and to register, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300. This community event is sponsored by the City and the Bowie Lions Club.

### **Upcoming City Holidays**

- **Christmas Day** Monday, December 25, 2017
- **New Year's Day** Monday, January 1, 2018

City offices will be closed on the dates listed above. There will be no refuse or recycling service on Christmas Day and no refuse collection on New Year's Day. There will, however, be recycling collection on New Year's Day for those neighborhoods on the regular Monday recycling schedule.

### **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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie) or contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or [aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org](mailto:aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org).

### **Keep Pets Inside in Cold Weather**

Dogs and cats should be kept inside during cold weather. It's a common belief that dogs and cats are more resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but this is not true. Like people, dogs and cats are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia and should be kept indoors. Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of the cold weather; but no pet should left outside for long periods of time in freezing temperatures. Bowie Animal Control will continue to be proactive in ensuring no pets are kept outdoors in the cold. For more information, contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

### **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 any home that appears abandoned or occupied fraudulently, please contact Denise Michelle in the Code Compliance office at 301-809-3008 or [dmichelle@cityofbowie.org](mailto:dmichelle@cityofbowie.org). With your help, this process can minimize the negative impact that vacant and abandoned properties have on our neighborhoods.

### **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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

### **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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver). For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or [dmichelle@cityofbowie.org](mailto: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 the resident and the teen. To participate, complete the Job Bank Teen application or Resident Application found on the City website at [www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank) or call 301-809-3033.

### **Christmas Tree Pickup**

It may seem a little early for this announcement, but by the end of December, after all of the festivities of the season, you may be wondering how to dispose of your Christmas tree. The Public Works Department will pick up Christmas trees every Wednesday in January with yard waste. Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m. Do not place tree in a plastic bag.

### **City Hall Art Gallery**

The *Generations* exhibit at the City Hall Art Gallery runs until February 9, 2018. Please stop by to view the exhibit any time City Hall is open. For more information, contact Matt Corley at [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3078.

### **Jobs**

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

- Theater Technician (closes 12/6/17)
- Building Maintenance Worker I – Part Time (open)
- Bus Driver – Senior Center (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level and Lateral (open)
- Family Counselor (closes 12/15/2018)

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobs](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs) for more information or to apply.

### **Free Tutoring**

Free tutoring is available for first through twelfth grade students through Bowie Youth & Family Services. Limited slots are available. Please call 301-809-3033 to register.

### **Santa Rides 2017**

Santa will be making his annual visit through Bowie neighborhoods on the top of a firetruck this month, courtesy of the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department. The Department hopes to be able to cover all of the main streets and some of the side streets in each Bowie neighborhood. They will also be accepting canned food donations for the Bowie Pantry as they pass by. See the schedule on their website at [www.bowiefire.org](http://www.bowiefire.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. The “grandparent scam” is one that is showing up throughout the region. It involves callers claiming to be a person’s grandchild in need of money to get out of jail. They ask for payment in gift cards and prey upon loyal grandparent’s desire to help their grandchildren discretely, by telling them to talk to no one about the situation and by requesting payment in gift cards. The scammers use social media to obtain names, locations and other details to make their calls seem plausible.

Remember to be suspicious of any telephone calls that you do not initiate or that ask for money or other form of payment. Stop and think before acting. Ask yourself or someone you trust, “Does this make sense?”

The Federal Trade Commission works to combat fraud and keep consumers informed about how to avoid becoming the victim of a scam. They offer the following tips:

1. **Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust like a government official, a charity, a company you do business with, or someone you know.
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](http://www.ftc.gov/scams).

## Events

**12/1 - 12/16 – “The Man Who Came to Dinner” at Bowie Playhouse** For ticket information: 301-937-7458 or [www.pglt.org](http://www.pglt.org)

**12/3 – Belair by Candlelight** 12 - 6 p.m. **and Holiday Tree Lighting** 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion. 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.

**12/4 – MLK Art Contest deadline.** See contest details at [www.cityofbowie.org/mlk](http://www.cityofbowie.org/mlk).

**12/4 – City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall.

**12/5 – Ice Arena Stakeholders Meeting** 7 p.m. at City Hall. 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.

**12/8 – City Hall lobby Closed 11 a.m. - 2p.m.** for an employee awards event/luncheon. Residents may still call City offices or visit the Police Department or pay a water bill during this time.

**12/8 – Frosty Fairytale Friday** 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Stories, snack and craft. Ages 2 - 5 Free For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/9 – Saturday Fun with Santa** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. Facepainting, music and more. The cost is \$3 per child or a donation of an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

**12/9 – KinderKristmas at Belair Mansion** 12 - 4 p.m. Special tours, crafts and refreshments for children ages 1 - 11. The Blue Sky Puppet Theater will perform at 3 p.m. Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are welcome. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/9 – Holiday Jingle Skate With Santa** 1 - 3 p.m. at the Bowie Ice Arena. Admission is FREE with an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. The Ice Arena will also be collecting canned food for the Bowie Food Pantry. There will be free mini-lessons, crafts, a bake sale, holiday music and door prizes. Santa will be on the Zamboni and then skate with the children. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

**12/11 – Holiday House Decorating Contest Deadline.** Please submit your application to City Hall by 5 p.m. to be a part of this competition. For details, please visit [www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating](http://www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating).

**12/11 – “Toyland” Variety Show at the Senior Center** 10:30 a.m. Performed by the Charles County Show Troupe. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/12 – Visit to Winterthur and Longwood Gardens** 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. This is a Friends of Belair/Senior Center trip. Fee and reservation required. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/13 – “Fire ‘N Ice” Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert at the Senior Center** 4 p.m. For tickets and more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/13 – Melford Village Apartments Stakeholders Meeting** 7 p.m. at City Hall. A Stakeholders Meeting will be held for a proposed 389-unit, multi-family apartment building at Melford Village. For further information, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

**12/14 - Toys for Tots Donation Deadline.** Your donation of a new unwrapped toy will go to a needy child in our area. Drop off locations: City Hall, Bowie Police Department, Kenhill Center, City Gym, Ice Arena, and Senior Center.

**12/14 – “Fire ‘N Ice” Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert at the Senior Center**  
1 p.m. For tickets and more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/15 – “Fire ‘N Ice” Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts** 7:30 p.m. For tickets and more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/16 – Breakfast with Santa** 9 - 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Reservations required by December 8. Call the Senior Center for details. \$5/per person.

**12/17 – Stocking Stuffer Sale** 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion Shop 20% off! For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/19 – Special Recall Election for District 2.** Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 pm. Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/election](http://www.cityofbowie.org/election) or call 301-809-3029 for information.

**12/19 – Kringle Kaboose** 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Railroad Museum. Join us for a special holiday Kids Kaboose. For more information, please contact 240-544-5677 or 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/25– Christmas Holiday** No refuse or recycling collection. All City facilities closed.

**12/29 – Noon Year’s Party** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Avoid the rush and celebrate the New Year just a little bit early!

**1/1 – New Year’s Holiday** City offices closed. No refuse collection, but there will be recycling pickup for those on the regular Monday recycling schedule.

**1/2 – City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Public hearing on annexation of property for new Bowie Ice Arena.