

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM,CPM
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report* DATE: March 29, 2018

Status Report

1. Upcoming Green Events

Please see below for the City's upcoming Earth Month "Green" Events:

Tree Planting Seminar

March 31, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Patuxent Nursery. Come find out about native tree species, learn about the Bowie Tree Rebate program, and have all of your questions about planting and caring for trees answered by Patuxent Nursery's staff arborist.

Spring Cleaning for Streams and Neighborhoods

April 7, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. A great day to get outside with the family and celebrate Earth Month. Prince George's County school students can earn service learning hours. To request bags and gloves for your neighborhood or group to hold a spring cleaning, or for more information, or to register for one of the stream sites, please contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org.

Walk Wednesdays

4/11- 6/6 A fun and social opportunity for residents to get together at specified locations for light exercise. The locations are set in some of Bowie's best outdoor recreation spaces like Allen Pond and Acorn Hill. We meet at 7 p.m. and walk for approximately 45 minutes. Get out and enjoy your Green Bowie! Visit www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie for more information and the calendar of locations.

Bowie Green Expo

April 14, 12 - 4 p.m. at Kenhill Center. Free family-fun event open to the public on all things "green". For information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org, Karl Taschenberger at 240-601-6584, or Ronnie Cervenka at WLCPRES31@verizon.net.

Weed Warrior Work Day

April 21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Whitmarsh Park. Registration limited to first 25 volunteers, and onsite training and tools are provided. Student Service Learning (SSL) hours

available. Contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

Bringing Back Birds, Butterflies and Bees

April 27, at City Hall 7-9 p.m. Dr. Dara Satterfield and Desiree Narango will present on what residents can do on their own property to bring back birds, butterflies, and bees. This serves as a follow-up to last year's seminar by Dr. Doug Tallamy.

Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit

April 28, 7 - 9 p.m. at Samuel Ogle Middle School. The theme of the night is "Move your body, grow your mind, save the earth." Earth-friendly fun for the whole family! Enjoy multiple musical performances as well as art.

Spring Plant Sale

April 28, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Library Parking Lot. Shop a wide variety of native Maryland plants, herbs, annuals, perennials, vegetables and shrubs, while learning about invasive species, pollinators, container gardening and more!

2. Pecan Ridge Conservation Sketch Plan S-18001

The City recently received an informational mailing for a proposed development project known as Pecan Ridge. The applicant submitted a Conservation Subdivision Design Sketch Plan proposing 85 single-family detached dwellings on a 42 acre property located at the bottom of Old Laurel Bowie Road, south of Race Track Road, adjacent to the WB & A Trail. The City was subsequently informed that an informational mailing was not required for a Conservation Sketch Plan, because the review is only a staff level review by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), as an interim step toward the preparation of a Preliminary Plan of subdivision. Upon its submission, the Preliminary Plan will be the subject of public hearings at the City and County level, and proper public notice will be required at that time. In response to the referral of the Sketch Plan, City staff submitted a letter recommending a better prioritization of site characteristics, including the existing pecan grove, farm road and fenced open field views from the WB & A Trail, which could be preserved in an alternative design. Last Friday, the project was evaluated by County staff, which expressed similar concerns for preserving site features and caution about the impacts of constructing the subdivision's entrance road connecting to Old Laurel Bowie Road within the 100 year floodplain of Horsepen Branch.

3. Regional Test of Wireless Emergency Alerts System-April 5th

On Thursday, April 5, 2018 between 10 and 11 a.m., local governments in the National Capital Region will participate in a test of the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) system. WEA alerts are the types of messages that you may have received in the past on your mobile device for an Amber Alert or a Tornado Warning. They do not require you to be subscribed to any type of alerting system such as Alert Bowie.

Emergency Manager Lee Cornwell will be at the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center to observe the County's portion of the test. At present, the City of Bowie does not have authorization to initiate an alert through the Wireless Emergency

Alert system. We intend to apply for this authority in the future, but until then, we will rely on Prince George's County to issue a WEA message if necessary.

This test of the WEA system will be the first of its kind on such a large scale. The region's emergency managers feel it is necessary to conduct this test to ensure the system is capable and has enough capacity to deliver a high volume of alert messages across the National Capital Region in the event of a true emergency.

WEA messages are used to send three primary types of alerts via text-like messages to all WEA-capable mobile devices during emergency situations. The three types of alerts that can be issued are:

- **Presidential** – Alerts issued by the President or a designee during a national emergency.
- **Imminent Threat** – Alerts issued when an imminent threat to life or property exists in your area, including severe man-made or natural disasters. (This category is utilized by Emergency Management agencies).
- **Amber Alerts** – Alerts issued to help law enforcement search for and locate an abducted child. (This category is utilized by State Police).

On the morning of April 5th, individuals with cell phones or other enabled mobile devices throughout Prince George's County will receive the following message:

“This is a TEST of the Prince George’s County Wireless Alerts System. No action is required.”

The alert will trigger a loud audible noise on the mobile devices. Since the alerts are based on one's actual location, the message may be from a different jurisdiction within the National Capital Region, depending on where one is physically located when the alert is issued.

A public awareness campaign is underway over the next week to ensure that those who live, work or are visiting the National Capital Region are aware of the planned test of the alerting system. We are working closely with our regional partners to present a unified information campaign across many communications channels.

Additional information on WEA alerts can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea>.