

# Bowie News Flash

**December 2018**

## News

### **Belair by Candlelight (12 – 6 p.m.) and Holiday Tree Lighting (7 p.m.)**

Bring your family and friends to celebrate the holidays at Belair Mansion beginning at 12 p.m. on **Sunday, December 2, 2018**. 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.

### **City Council Meeting to Note – December 3**

City Council Meeting, 8 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall. Agenda items: FY 2020 Budget Guidance; South Lake (Karington) Annexation Resolution R-71-18; South Lake (Karington) Development District Resolution Introduction; South Lake (Karington) Special Taxing District Resolution Introduction; and South Lake (Karington) Ordinance Introduction. For information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or [ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org).

### **Holiday Craft Fair at the Senior Center – December 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

This fair offers a dazzling array of unique and often one-of-a-kind holiday crafts created by members of the Center. Join us for this annual event that is always a welcome part of the season. The craft fair is open to the entire community. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

### **Saturday Fun with Santa at the Gym – December 8, 10 a.m. - noon**

This annual event takes place at the City Gymnasium on Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Have your picture taken with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and have fun with the moon bounces, face painting and live holiday music. Admission is \$3 or free for each child 10 and under who brings a new unwrapped toy. The unwrapped toys collected at the event will be donated to the annual Toys for Tots campaign hosted by the Bowie Police Department. The event is for children age 10 years and younger. For more information, please contact the City of Bowie Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

**Bowie Ice Arena Learn to Skate Lessons** - Classes begin December 6. Save \$10 with early bird registration by December 1. Call 301-809-3090 for information.

**Santa's Jingle Skate – December 8, 1 - 3 p.m.**

Activities include skating with Santa, free mini-lessons, on-ice games and lots of skating fun for all ages. Free admission with a donation of a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Skate rental is \$3. The Ice Arena will also be collecting food items for the Bowie Community Pantry. For more information, call 301-809-3090 or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/icearena](http://www.cityofbowie.org/icearena).

**Shop with a Cop**

The Bowie Police Department is hosting its annual “Shop with a Cop” event on Sunday, December 9. This is a nationally recognized program that helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. Due to the generosity of donations from local businesses and residents, children from local families in need will receive a day filled with holiday fun, including a shopping spree at Target, a delicious lunch, photos with Santa, and more!

Please help us help others! We are in need of donors to make this event a success. Donations may be directed to the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. Make checks payable to the “City of Bowie”. Your donation may be tax deductible. For information about this program, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5792 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

**Holiday House Decorating Contest Deadline - December 10**

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! The entry deadline is **December 10, 2018 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).

All contest entrants are invited to a **Holiday Awards Reception** at City Hall on Monday, **December 17, 2018** at 7 p.m.

**City Hall Lobby Closed December 14, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

City Hall will be closed to the public December 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an employee awards/holiday event. During that time, residents will still be able to visit the Police Department.

**Donate to Toys for Tots**

Join the Bowie Police Department to help make this Christmas special for 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 donate toys by **December 14, 2018**. For more

information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5792 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

### **“A Celestial Celebration” Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert**

The Senior Chorale will be performing a concert entitled “A Celestial Celebration” in December. Two shows at the Senior Center are already sold out, but tickets are still available for the **December 14** show at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets and more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

### **Breakfast with Santa!**

Plan to bring your children or grandchildren to the Senior Center on **Saturday, December 15** from 9 to 11 a.m. for a very special morning event! Share pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Enjoy roving magicians, a visit and photo opportunities with Santa, 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 and to register, contact the Senior Center at **301-809-2300**. This community event is sponsored by the City and the Bowie Lions Club.

### **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.
- **Saturday Fun with Santa** 12/8 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. 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.

### **Upcoming City Holidays**

- **Christmas Day** Tuesday, December 25, 2018
- **New Year’s Day** Tuesday, January 1, 2019

City offices will be closed on the dates listed above. There will be no trash service on these dates; service will resume on the next regularly scheduled day. There will be no recycling service on Christmas Day (December 25), however there will be recycling service on New Year’s Day, January 1, 2019, for those neighborhoods on the regular Tuesday recycling schedule.

### **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. The theme for this year’s contest is **“Living the MLK Legacy”**. 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. Cash prizes are awarded to the

first, second, and third place winners in each category. 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 January 4, 2019.** Finalists will be selected and their work will be featured at the City's program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King on **Saturday, January 19, 2019** at City Hall. For more information, contact Una Cooper at [ucooper@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ucooper@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3032.

### **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.

### **Prepare for Winter Weather**

Each City resident and commercial property owner is responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their property within 48 hours of cessation of a snowfall.

Are you a resident who has a limitation which may prevent you from being able to remove ice and snow from your sidewalks? The City provides additional time for people with considering factors such as age, physical handicap or disability, but you must submit a waiver application. The Snow/Ice Clearing Waiver application may be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms](http://www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms). For more information, please contact the City's Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or [dmichelle@cityofbowie.org](mailto:dmichelle@cityofbowie.org).

### **Teens Needed for Snow Shoveling**

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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank) or call 301-809-3033.

### **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 Teen Mentoring Program can help you do just that.

When you volunteer to mentor a Bowie High School student, you agree to 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. Mentors must be willing to: make a commitment to meet weekly with a teen for the entire academic year; agree to security screening and fingerprinting; and participate in mentor training and group events. To apply, contact Program Coordinator Tia Younger at [mentor@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mentor@cityofbowie.org) or 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.

### **Reflections**

The exhibit in the City Hall Art Gallery runs from December through mid February. Please stop by to view the exhibit any time City Hall is open. For more information, contact Neil Norris at [norris@cityofbowie.org](mailto:norris@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601.

### **Jobs**

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

- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (closes 12/31/18)
- Gymnasium Supervisor – Part Time (closes 12/31/18)
- Police Officer – Entry Level and Lateral (open)
- Police Cadet (open)
- Stormwater Management Supervisor (closes 12/14/2018)

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

### **Santa Rides**

Santa will visit local neighborhoods on a fire truck courtesy of the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department from December 9 to 19 between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. See details and schedule at [www.facebook.com/39watchdawgs](http://www.facebook.com/39watchdawgs). Donations to the Bowie Pantry will be collected as Santa passes by.

### **Curbside Vacuum Leaf Collection Continues**

Leaf collection is still underway. Each neighbor has two collection dates. See schedule at [www.cityofbowie.org/leaves](http://www.cityofbowie.org/leaves).

## Calendar

### **12/2 – Belair by Candlelight and Holiday Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion**

Belair Mansion open house is from noon to 6 p.m. 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 the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/3 – City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. See agenda details at [www.cityofbowie.org/agenda](http://www.cityofbowie.org/agenda). For information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or [ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org).

**12/4 – High Energy Magic of Speed at the Senior Center** 12:30 p.m. Magic show for all ages. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/7 – Holiday Craft Fair – Senior Center** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This event is open to the public and a welcome part of the holiday season. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/8 – Saturday Fun with Santa** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. Photos with Santa, 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.

**12/8 – KinderKristmas at Belair Mansion** 12 - 4 p.m. Special tours, crafts and refreshments for children ages 1-11, with adult. The Blue Sky Puppet Theater will perform at 2:30 p.m. Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are requested. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/8 – Santa’s Jingle Skate** 1 - 3 p.m. at the Bowie Ice Arena. Admission is FREE with an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Also collecting canned food for the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

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

**12/10 – House Decorating Contest Deadline**

**12/14 – City Hall Closed 11 a.m. - 2p.m.** for employee awards ceremony/luncheon.

**12/14 – Toys for Tots Donation Deadline**

**12/14 – Fairy Tale Holiday Fun** 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 2 -5, with adult. For more information, please contact 240-544-5677 or 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/14 – “A Celestial Celebration” 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.

**12/15 – Breakfast with Santa at the Senior Center** 9 - 11 a.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Children 2 and under are free. Registration is required at the Senior Center by December 7th (or until filled). For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/17 – Holiday House Decorating Awards Reception** 7 p.m. at City Hall. All contest entrants are invited to attend. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

**12/18 - Kringle Kaboose** 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Old Bowie Welcome Center. Free.

**12/20 – Holiday Party at the Senior Center** 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Registration and fee required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

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

**12/31 – Noon Year’s Party at the Senior Center** 12:30 - 2 p.m. Registration and fee required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**1/1 – New Year’s Holiday** City offices closed. No refuse collection. Recycling service will take place for those neighborhoods on the regular Tuesday recycling schedule.