

# Bowie News Flash

**February 2019**

## **News**

### **District 3 Vacancy**

Twenty-seven residents applied to fill the vacancy in the District 3 Councilmember seat. The vacancy was created when Ms. Courtney Glass resigned from her seat in early December.

Each of the candidates will have the opportunity to make his or her case for selection in short interviews with the City Council. The interviews will take place in closed sessions over the next week on February 2, February 5, and February 6. After the final interview on February 6, Council will reconvene in open session to make its selection. The interviews will be recorded. They will be available for viewing on the City website ([www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings)) on February 7.

### **Your Input is Needed at the Trails Master Plan Workshop – February 2**

The Planning Department is updating the City's 2002 Trails Master Plan. We welcome your input, ideas, and suggestions for the future of our City's trail network. Please join us at this workshop on Saturday, February 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kenhill Center to help identify issues and concerns about bicycling and walking in Bowie. (Snow date February 9, same time and place). For more information about the process, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/trailsmasterplan](http://www.cityofbowie.org/trailsmasterplan).

### **Redevelopment of the Sears Property**

Approximately 75 residents attended a Stakeholders Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to learn about the future of the parcel formerly occupied by Sears. Current owner, Seritage Growth Properties, would like to redevelop the property with an "upscale" mixed-use project that could include apartments, office space, restaurant, hotel, and some service-oriented retail. No specific plans or proposals have been submitted to the City or County yet. The Stakeholders Meeting was held to obtain input from residents early in the process. For more information about this site, please contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3047. There is a link to a video of the meeting at [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings).

### **City Council Meetings to Note**

- **February 4** - City Council Meeting, 8 p.m.  
Agenda items:
  - AECOM Presentation
  - Amendment to Prince George's County Water and Sewer Plan (#18/W-07 for The Redeemed Christian Church of God/Victory Temple).  
*Public Hearing/Eligible for Action*
- **February 19** - City Council Meeting, 8 p.m.  
**Agenda items:**
  - Update on Environmental Initiatives
  - Mid-Year Budget Report

Also, as stated above, there will be three Special Meetings on February 2, 5, and 6 regarding the District 3 vacancy.

### **Upcoming City Holiday – Presidents' Day**

City offices, the Senior Center, and City museums will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019. There will be no refuse or recycling service on the holiday; collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day. The Ice Arena and the City Gym will be open.

### **“Thanks!” from Animal Control**

The Animal Control Office always strives to improve its service. Much of our work could not be accomplished without the many dedicated volunteers who assist with the trap and release program and cleaning and feeding duties. Thank you for all your work!

Thank you also to the residents who call us with information or questions. You help us to better educate pet owners and ensure the safety of all animals. We also appreciate the patience and kindness that City residents have demonstrated when dealing and coexisting with wild animals. We look forward to continuing our work with the public and other humane agencies. For information about Bowie Animal Control, please call 301-809-3002.

### **Code Corner – First Time Landlords and Tenants**

Bowie is experiencing an increase in the number of single-family rental properties, creating questions and concerns from new landlords and tenants. There are several items to consider before you rent:

- If the house being rented was built before 1978, a lead paint inspection and status certificate are required.
- The landlord and tenant should conduct an inspection of the property to create a written list of its condition. Outstanding problems or concerns should be addressed before occupancy.
- Prepare a written lease and understand the lease before it is signed. Know your responsibilities!
- Be sure a City of Bowie rental license has been issued. (No license is necessary if one of the owners lives at the property)

- Communication is very important between landlord and tenant. If a disagreement should occur that cannot be resolved, mediation or civil litigation may be necessary.

For more information, contact City Code Compliance Officer Dennis Murphy at 301-809-3005 or [fmurphy@cityofbowie.org](mailto:fmurphy@cityofbowie.org).

### **Bowie Ice Arena Events**

Learn-to-skate classes are offered for those 18 months of age through adults, starting February 2, 2019. Public skating sessions are offered daily. The monthly calendar can be viewed online. For information: call 301-809-3090 or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/icearena](http://www.cityofbowie.org/icearena).

Please note that there are **no public skating sessions on February 16 and February 17** due to the Valentine Figure Skating Competition.

### **Snow Removal**

A **Snow Emergency** is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two (2) inches. All vehicles must be removed from the City streets during a snow emergency, and parked in driveways. If driveway space is unavailable, you may park your vehicle on the grass on your property, but do not block the sidewalk. Parking on the grass is acceptable only during the snow or ice event, therefore once the snow has been cleared, the vehicle should be moved back to the street immediately.

The City begins plowing when the snow depth reaches two (2) inches. All main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. Plowing continues until all streets have been cleared.

### **Snow Removal Time Waiver**

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 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).

### **Contact the Teen Job Bank for Help with Shoveling and Other Chores**

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 regular basis. Residents may use this service to find teens who can help with tasks such as **snow shoveling**, yard work, babysitting 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.

### Remaining 2019 City Holidays

- **Presidents' Day** Monday, February 18, 2019
- **Memorial Day** Monday, May 27, 2019
- **Independence Day** Thursday, July 4, 2019
- **Labor Day** Monday, September 2, 2019
- **Veterans Day** Monday, November 11, 2019
- **Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 28, 2019
- **Day after Thanksgiving** Friday, November 29, 2019
- **Christmas Day** Wednesday, December 25, 2019

### What's Bouncing at the City Gym?

- **Morning Walking** Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m.
- **Pickleball** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Learn to play!
- **Coed Recreational Volleyball** Fridays, 12 - 2 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.

### National Anthem and "Voice of Bowie" Auditions – March 2, 2019

The City will hold open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, Fourth of July, and the International Festival.

Auditions for the National Anthem will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall (15901 Excalibur Road) begin at 9 a.m. on March 2. Participants must be prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella for a judging panel. Auditions for the Voice of Bowie will begin at approximately 11 a.m. Candidates will be asked to read from a prepared script for a judging panel. The chosen performer(s) will be invited to perform at various City-sponsored special events. For information, or to schedule an audition, contact Special Events Manager Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

### City Accepting Nominations for Hall of Honor

The Hall of Honor was developed to recognize those citizens of Bowie who have made "major and lasting contributions" to the City. A nominee must be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline, have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie and, have been a resident of the City either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death. For information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org). Nomination forms are available at [www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms](http://www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms). The nomination deadline is 5 p.m. **March 4, 2019** at City Hall.

### **Student Scholarships**

The City Council believes it is important to recognize and help students through our scholarship programs.

- **Art Scholarship** – This scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing studies in an arts-related field.
- **Education Scholarship** – Scholarships are awarded to Bowie students who have excelled during their high school career. Students should contact the Guidance Department at their high school as soon as possible in order to be considered for this scholarship.

For information about either scholarship program, please contact Neil Norris at [nnorris@cityofbowie.org](mailto:nnorris@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601.

### **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 be 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.

### ***Chess, The Musical* at Bowie Playhouse**

The show runs weekends through February 16. For ticket information, contact 301-832-4819 or visit [www.2ndstarproductions.com](http://www.2ndstarproductions.com).

### **City Hall Gallery Exhibits**

***Reflections*** runs through February 16, 2019. After that, **Bowie Crofton Camera Club** photographs will be on display through April 2019. The gallery is free and open to the public during City Hall hours. For more information, please contact Neil Norris at [nnorris@cityofbowie.org](mailto:nnorris@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601.

### **Jobs**

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

- Senior Services Assistant Manager (closes 2/15/19)
- Ice Arena Attendant (open)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)
- Police Cadet – (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level (open)

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

### **No-cost Energy Audits**

Save money and improve the comfort of your home with a no-cost BGE comprehensive energy audit available to Bowie homeowners. Complete an application online at [www.cityofbowie.org/eap](http://www.cityofbowie.org/eap). Questions? Please call 301-809-3044.

### **New Groups Starting Soon**

Bowie Youth & Family Services will be starting new series of the following programs soon:

- **Calm Confident Kids** - A group for kids who worry too much that helps return some of the fun of childhood. Meetings will be on Thursdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- **Girls Count** - Empowerment group for high school-aged girls will meet on Mondays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- **ADHD Group for Parents and Kids** – A group for kids (grades 2 - 5) who are living with ADHD. There is a required parents' group that runs concurrently.

Call 301-809-3033 for more information.

### **Congratulations to MLK Art Contest Winners!**

Thanks to all of the students who participated in this year's MLK Art Contest. The Diversity Committee had a tough job selected the winners from among the many excellent entries.

This year's winners are below:

#### **Coloring Contest (K-2)**

- 1st Place - **Rida Syed**, 2nd Grade, Pointer Ridge Elementary School
- 2nd Place - **Teygan Johns**, 2nd Grade, Heather Hills Elementary School
- 3rd Place - **Azaria Vaaltyn**, 2nd Grade, Pointer Ridge Elementary School

#### **Poster Contest (3-5)**

- 1st Place - **Anna Newman**, 5th Grade, Heather Hills Elementary School
- 2nd Place - **Joseph Harrison, IV**, 4th Grade, St. Pius X Regional School
- 3rd Place - **Gavin Miles**, 5th Grade, Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School

#### **Video Contest (6-12)**

- 1st Place - **Jocelyn Gross**, 7th Grade, St. Anne's Episcopal School
- 2nd Place - **Chizaram Ugboh**, 12th Grade, Bowie High School
- 3rd Place - **Naimah Edward**, 6th Grade, Benjamin Tasker Middle School

## Events

**2/2 – Trails Master Plan Workshop 9 a.m. to noon at the Kenhill Center.** Please join us at this workshop to help identify issues and concerns about bicycling and walking in Bowie. (Snow date February 9, same time and place). For more information about the process, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/trailsmasterplan](http://www.cityofbowie.org/trailsmasterplan).

**2/2 – Special City Council Meeting – Council Interviews**

**2/4 – Regular City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda items: AECOM; Amendment to Prince George’s County Water and Sewer Plan (#18/W-07 for The Redeemed Christian Church of God/Victory Temple)

**2/5 – Special City Council Meeting – Council Interviews**

**2/6 – Special City Council Meeting – Council Interviews**

**2/7 – Ebony Images in Film** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/11 – Black History Trivia: Entertainers** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/12 – Fairy Tale Fun** 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. For ages 2 - 5, with an adult. Stories, snack and a craft. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**2/14 – Friendship Day: Performer Charles Sullivan** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/15 – Jazz Vocal Performance** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/18 – Presidents’ Day Holiday** City offices are closed. There will be no refuse or recycling service; collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day.

**2/19 – Kids Kaboose** 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad stories and fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**2/19 – Movie: Black Panther** 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/19 – Regular City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Update on Environmental Initiative; Mid-Year Budget Report.

**2/20 – Violin Performance by Alexander Strachan** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/23 – Black History Month Presentation – Meet W.E.B. Dubois, A Man of His Times** 12 - 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**2/23 – Black History Month Presentation – Benjamin Banneker: Man of Science** 2 - 3 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).