

Bowie News Flash

April 2019

News

Police Warn Residents to Be Wary of Door-to-Door Solicitors

The Bowie Police Department has received complaints about several individuals walking around neighborhoods claiming to be from BGE. They are attempting to set up meetings with residents, requesting personal information and bills, asking to enter homes, and even going so far as to change light bulbs for homeowners (swapping to LEDs).

We contacted BGE about these complaints and were told that their workers and contractors are required to wear identification. They will never ask to enter a home without an appointment, nor will they ask for personal information at the door. Some of their contractors may be going through the neighborhoods sharing information, but they have no reason to request personal information or enter your home.

Please remember to follow these safety tips when someone comes to your door:

- Don't open the door unless you know the person
- If you did not schedule an appointment with an individual who suddenly arrives at your front door claiming to be from a certain company, do not let them into your home.
- The City requires all door-to-door solicitors to have proper identification and a permit issued by the City. You can ask a solicitor to produce it if you wish to.
- No solicitation is permitted after 7 p.m.
- Never give personal information to anyone who comes to your door.
- If a worker claims to be from BGE, you can verify their identity or the work being done, by calling 1-800-685-0123 or visiting the scam section of their website (www.bge.com).

City Council Agenda Items to Note

- **4/1** Council Meeting – 8 p.m.
- **4/10** Special Council Meeting – 8 p.m. Indoor Court Facility Feasibility Discussion, Introduction of Budget Ordinance and CIP Resolution, Budget Worksession #1
- **4/15** Council Meeting – 8 p.m. Budget Worksession #2

For information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

2019 Election Information

The next City election will be on **November 5, 2019**. The offices of Mayor and six Councilmembers will be up for election. City residents who are registered voters are eligible to file for elected office with the City Clerk. Please call the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 in advance to verify filing eligibility requirements and to arrange a filing date and time. The final day to file as a candidate in the City election is October 4, 2019.

The following individuals have filed as candidates as of 3/28/2019:

- Michael Esteve – District 1 Councilmember
- Ingrid S. Harrison – At-Large Councilmember
- Keith Jackson – Mayor

Hydrant Flushing Begins April 1 for Areas Served by City Water

Hydrant Flushing Schedule:

April 1 & 2 Buckingham, Derbyshire, & Forest Hills

April 3 & 4 Somerset & Bowie Forest

April 5 & 8 Tulip Grove

April 9 & 10 Foxhill & Long Ridge

April 11, 12 & 15 Kenilworth

April 16 Heather Hills

April 17, 18 & 19 Meadowbrook

April 22 Gradys Walk & Glenridge

April 23 Chapel Forge

April 24 Victoria Heights & Race Track Road Townhouses

April 25 Idlewild Section

April 26 Yorktown & Overbrook

April 29 Whitehall

April 30 Rockledge

Reminders:

- When flushing is underway in your area, some discoloration of your water may occur, so clothes washing is discouraged.
- If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices.
- The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored.
- The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment buildup in the water lines and is not harmful and should clear in approximately 24 hours.
- Since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could possibly affect your water as well.

For more information, call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344. Flushing hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the above dates.

Annual Water Quality Report

The City of Bowie Water System has issued its annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2018. The report may be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr.

April is Earth Month – Let’s Celebrate!

- **Annual Earth Day Concert and Art Display April 5** at 7 p.m. Bring the family out for a night of entertainment supporting local acts and local art to kick off Earth Month! This event takes place at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts (BCPA). For information, contact Ashleigh at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.
- **Annual Stream Clean Up April 6**, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Please join us on Saturday for the stream cleanup. We have a park and several streams in need of help. For site locations, please contact Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043. Students in Prince George’s County schools can receive service learning hours, and Scouts will earn a Green Bowie badge.
- **Bowie Green Expo at Kenhill Center April 13**, 12 - 4 p.m. The theme of the 9th Annual Bowie Green Expo is “educate the youth, inspire the future”. Browse green vendors, check out the kids’ zone, collect green giveaways, and much more! For information, contact Ashleigh at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044, or the Bowie Lions Club at 301-262-2665.
- **Spring Plant Sale April 27**, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. The annual native plant sale hosted by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club takes place in the Bowie High School/ Bowie Branch Library parking lot. Learn how to create pollinator gardens with true native plants; instructional program, 10 - 11 a.m. Vegetables, flowers, trees, and shrubs will be available as well.

Community Garden Coming to Bowie

The City is pleased to announce the opening of a community garden in late April or early May of this year. The garden will be at the Kenhill Center. Plots (8 x 4 ft.) will be available only to City residents on a first-come basis. For information, please contact Sheri Beach 301-809-3086.

Budget Review Begins in April

City Council begins reviewing the Proposed FY 20 Budget and Capital Improvements Program in April. This Budget takes effect July 1, 2019. The public is invited to attend all Council Meetings, Public Hearings and Budget Worksessions on this Budget. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. at City Hall.

- **April 10 Budget Introduction, Public Hearing, & Budget Worksession #1** - General Fund Revenues, Capital Improvement Program, and Capital Projects Fund
- **April 15 Budget Worksession #2** - Public Works Department and Water and Sewer Fund
- **April 22 Budget Worksession #3** - Community Services Department
- **April 29 Budget Worksession #4** City Manager’s Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental
- **May 6 Budget, CIP, and Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing**

- **May 13 Budget Worksession #5** - Planning and Community Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, and Appendix, which includes the Plan of Compensation.
- **May 20 Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program**

Bowie Ice Arena

April Learn-to-Skate classes begin **April 4** for all ages and levels. Summer Camp registration is underway for full-day and half-day camps for children 3 years of age and older. The Ice Arena will be closed for annual maintenance in May and June and will reopen in July for summer skating. For information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena or call 301-809-3090.

Electronics Recycling

Saturday, April 6, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the City's Public Works Department, 16350 Annapolis Road. Recycle televisions, computers, phones, etc. for free. On-site hard drive destruction for \$10. For information, contact Carissa Sullivan at 301-809-2339 or csullivan@cityofbowie.org. See the complete list of accepted items at www.cityofbowie.org.

City Gym Spring Break Basketball Camp

April 22 - 26, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. The City Gym will host an instructional basketball camp for boys and girls ages 8 - 14. The cost is \$150 for Bowie residents and \$175 for nonresidents. For information, contact Mike Lonergan at 301-809-2383 or mlonergan@cityofbowie.org.

Film Showing – *Paris to Pittsburgh*

April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Kenhill Center. The Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee will host a showing of the film *Paris to Pittsburgh*, which focuses on the effects of climate change, and what we can do in our own cities and towns to help prepare for and mitigate its effects. Residents are invited to view the film and participate in discussion. For more information, contact Joe Meinert at jmeinert@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3045.

Celebrate Arbor Day!

4/27 at 10 a.m., Acorn Hill Park at Stonybrook Drive and Sage Lane. For information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or rkellner@cityofbowie.org.

National Prescription Drug Take Back

4/27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. Safely dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications at this event. For more information, please call 240-544-5700.

Bike to Work Day – May 17 – Save the Date!

Celebrate Bike to Work Day Friday, May 18, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. at two Bowie Pit Stops - Bowie City Gym (new location) and Old Town Bowie Fire Station. This is a free event full of food, fun and prizes. Register now at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org or 800-745-7433. Free t-shirt to first 20,000 registrants region-wide. For information, contact Frank Stevens at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.

Participate in Bowie's Memorial Day Parade

Bowie's Memorial Day Parade Committee is busy planning this year's parade for **Saturday, May 25**, beginning at 11 a.m. The parade is a great way to salute our service men and women and veterans. There is still time to sign your organization up to participate in this fun and patriotic event. For information and an application, visit www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Education Committee Collecting Children's Books

The Committee is collecting new and gently used books to give to children at BowieFest on **June 1, 2019**. Please donate. For more information, contact Neil Norris at nnorris@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Code Corner – House Numbers

Not only is it important to have visible house numbers for the mail carrier and pizza delivery to find your house, but also to assist first responders in locating you in an emergency. House numbers should be on the front of the house in Arabic numerals no less than four inches (4") in height on a contrasting background clearly visible from the street. The use of words spelling out the house numbers does not satisfy the requirements of the City Code (Sec. 5-7(c)16). For more information, contact Code Compliance at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org.

Wild Animals May Not Act So Wild

Each spring, wild animals become quite active and more visible. This is a friendly reminder to residents that although these animals may appear to be less afraid of humans, please remember they are still *wild animals* and not *companion animals*. Bowie Animal Control asks residents to call and report animals acting abnormally, or that appear to be sick, or in distress. Also, please make sure your pet's rabies vaccine is current in order to prevent any quarantine requirements in the event your pet has contact with a wild animal. For more information, contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Contact the Teen Job Bank for Help

Bowie Youth & Family Services sponsors a Teen Job Bank, where residents can find Bowie youth who are looking for opportunities to make extra money, on either an occasional or a regular basis. Residents may use this service to get help with tasks such as yard work, babysitting, tutoring, shopping, or other chores. The resident and the teen determine the particulars of the job and the fees per hour. To participate, complete the Job Bank Teen application or Resident Application at www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank or call 301-809-3033.

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** 7:30 - 10 p.m. Three courts open.

Report Potholes

It's the season for potholes! You can easily report them on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/potholes.

Keep the Lights On - Report Street Light Outages

The City is responsible for the maintenance of most street lights in Bowie and uses a contractor to perform the repairs. But we need your help to identify and report where the lights are out or malfunctioning. There are several ways you can do this:

- Use our online [24-hour service request system](#)
- Email Dawn Cullins at dcullins@cityofbowie.org
- Call 301-809-2336

No matter what the method you use to report the problem, please be prepared to provide:

- The address nearest the pole
- The pole number (found about five feet up the pole)
- Your name and contact information so we can follow-up with you or obtain further information if necessary.

In general, it is our goal to have street light outages repaired within two business days of them being reported. However, when a pole has been knocked down, it could take up to five business days to get it replaced, and when the repair involves a problem with the underground cable supplying power to the pole, it may take up to seven business days to complete, since it requires locating all the underground utilities in the area before digging can begin.

City Hall Art Gallery

Bowie Crofton Camera Club – Exhibit runs 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 or 240-544-5601. (Next up “Abstracts”)

Jobs

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

- **Boathouse Supervisor** – Community Services (open until filled)
- **Park Aide** – Community Services (open until filled)
- **Ice Arena Attendant** – Community Services (open until filled)
- **Communications Specialist II** – Police Department (open until filled)
- **Police Officer** - Entry level (open until filled)

For more information or to apply, visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Spangler Lane Stormwater Management Pond Restoration

The City has hired SMI Services, LLC for the Spangler Lane Stormwater Management Pond Restoration project. The Spangler Lane stormwater management pond is scheduled for reconstruction beginning in mid-April 2019. The reconstruction of this pond is needed to comply with Maryland Department of the Environment regulations related to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and the region's streams.

The work will include removal of trees, excavation of earth, and hauling materials to and from the site via dump truck. After the work is done, the pond will have new landscaping, new topsoil will be stabilized with seed and straw mulch, and a new fence will be installed. The project is expected to take about five months.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager Pat Rush, at 240-544-5689.

Office Space Available at the Kenhill Center

Looking for office rental space? The Kenhill Center, located at 2614 Kenhill Drive in Bowie, has one office suite available to lease. The space is 1,839 square feet with a large reception/waiting area, five offices, a conference room, and a kitchen area. Free parking and great rental rates are available. Rates are based on whether your organization is a non-profit or a for-profit entity. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development (FY 2020)

The Annual Action Plan reflects the City's funding priorities and identifies projects that the City proposes to implement with funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The City of Bowie will receive an allocation from HUD's CDBG program and proposes to continue to use the funds to support: (1) a Single-family Housing Rehab Program, and (2) a Workforce and Life Skills Training Program. The Action Plan will be discussed at the following meetings:

- April 11: Annual Action Plan Public Hearing #1; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., City Hall
- April 17: Annual Action Plan Public Hearing #2; 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., City Hall

Draft Annual Action Plan FY2020 Public Comment Period is April 20 - May 4

Street Sweeping

City streets are cleaned regularly during the non-winter months. For more information and the schedule, visit www.cityofbowie.org/streetsweeping.

Green Tip of the Month – LED bulbs Will Save You Money Over Time

LED bulbs may cost more to purchase than CFL or incandescent bulbs, but in the long run they will save you money because they use less electricity and last longer. For example, according to the US Department of Energy, the average annual energy cost of a single incandescent bulb is about \$4.80, while an LED bulb will cost only about \$1 per year. It's not a huge difference, but when you add up the number of bulbs in your home, LED bulbs can offer a significant savings. Read more about the Department of Energy's comparison of light bulbs at www.energy.gov/energysaver/save-electricity-and-fuel/lighting-choices-save-you-money/how-energy-efficient-light.

CFL bulbs contain small amounts of mercury and should not be disposed of in regular trash. They can be brought to Home Depot or Lowes for proper disposal. Or...better still, stop by the Green Bowie Expo and turn in up to three CFL bulbs and receive free LED bulbs in exchange.

Events

4/1 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. For information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

4/5 – Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit 7 p.m. at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. Bring the family out for a night of entertainment supporting local acts and local art to kick off Earth Month! For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

4/6 – Electronics Recycling 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Public Works Department (16350 Annapolis Road) Recycle televisions, computers, phones, etc. for free. On-site hard drive destruction for \$10. For information, contact Carissa Sullivan at 301-809-2339 or csullivan@cityofbowie.org.

4/6 – Annual Stream Clean Up 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For site locations, please contact Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043. Students in Prince George’s County schools will receive service learning hours, and Scouts will earn a Green Bowie badge.

4/6 - 4/7 – Negro League Baseball Exhibit 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/9 – Fairy Tale Fun 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Stories, craft and refreshments for ages 2 - 5, with adult. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/9 – Civil War Diaries of John W. Burroughs of Croom MD – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/10 – Special City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Indoor Court Facility Feasibility Discussion, Introduction of Budget Ordinance and CIP Resolution, Public Hearing, Budget Worksession #1. For information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

4/11 – Support Group for Widowed Persons 2 p.m. Preregister. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

4/11 – Art Treasures on Exhibit: Artist Doris Voss Dasenbrock 5 p.m. Reception at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

4/11 – Public Hearing #1 on Annual Action Plan 6 - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

4/13 – Bowie Green Expo 12 - 4 p.m. at Kenhill Center. The theme of the 9th Annual Bowie Green Expo is “educate the youth, inspire the future”. Browse green vendors, check out the kids’ zone, collect green giveaways, and much more! For information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org, or the Bowie Lions Club at 301-262-2665.

4/13 – Archaeology Month 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Learn about the discovery of the late 18th century historic African American burial ground at Serenity Farm. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/15 – Council Meeting and Budget Worksession #2 8 p.m. at City Hall. Public Works Department and Water and Sewer Fund.

4/16 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Ages 1 - 11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/16 – Magic Class: Magician Alex de Tessieres 4:30 p.m. \$10 preregistration required. Ages 10 and older. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

4/17 – Public Hearing #2 on Annual Action Plan 6 - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

4/18 – Fair Housing Symposium 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at City Hall. Learn about the Fair Housing Act, and how it strengthens families, communities, businesses, and the economy through various programs at this symposium hosted by the City of Bowie. Who should attend? Developers, rental property managers, HOA management, real estate brokers, and landlords can benefit from this important information. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to kstarr@cityofbowie.org by April 15.

4/22 – Council Budget Worksession #3 8 p.m. at City Hall. Community Services Department.

4/25 – Arthritis and Joint Health Presentation 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

4/25 – Film Showing – *Paris to Pittsburgh* 6:30 p.m. at Kenhill Center. The Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee will host a showing of the film *Paris to Pittsburgh*, which focuses on the effects of climate change, and what we can do in our own cities and towns to help prepare for and mitigate its effects. Residents are invited to view the film and participate in discussion.

4/27 – Spring Plant Sale 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 at this event sponsored by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the City of Bowie. Information: www.bcgardenclub.org. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

4/27 – Arbor Day 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park, Stonybrook Drive and Sage Lane. For information, contact Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or rkellner@cityofbowie.org.

4/27 – National Prescription Drug Take Back Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. For more information, please call 240-544-5700.

4/27 – The Wonderful World of Herbs 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Learn about the many uses of herbs while making an herbal trinket to take home. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/29 – Public Hearing on Fair Housing Study 6 p.m. at Kenhill Center. The City will present the City of Bowie and the Prince George's County Update to the 2012 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Report (AI) for the City and Prince George's County. Come learn about the report and share your comments. Prince George's County will also hold a public meeting on the study on 4/24.

4/29 – Council Budget Worksession #4 8 p.m. at City Hall. City Manager's Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental

5/1 – Free Legal Clinic: Power of Attorney for Healthcare and Advance Directives at the Senior Center. Appointments are required as space is limited. For appointments and more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.