

Bowie News Update

May 23, 2019

Upcoming Events

- **Start Your Memorial Day Weekend at the Parade!**

Bowie's hometown parade steps off from the Belair Annex on Saturday, May 25 at 11 a.m. The first units usually arrive at the reviewing stand on Stonybrook Drive by around 11:45 a.m. This year's parade features the Bowie High School Band, a pipes and drum band, several dancing groups, the Extravaganza Marching Unit, car clubs, and many other local groups and organizations.

Our Grand Marshall is William Alli, who served in the US Army for 37 years. He is a double Purple Heart recipient, having been wounded twice in combat in Iraq. We are also very proud to be joined by Brigadier General David Blackledge (retired). There are great viewing locations all along the parade route or sit in the bleachers next to the reviewing stand at Acorn Hill Park. Wherever you are, you are sure to be entertained!

The parade begins at the Belair Annex, marches down Belair Drive, turns right on Sussex Lane, then right again on Stonybrook Drive. After passing the reviewing stand, units turn left and ends on Sage Lane. Parking is available on side streets along Belair Drive and Stonybrook Drive and at Bowie Marketplace. Restrooms and vendors will be available at Acorn Hill Park.

Parade video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPujI8eZV_A

- **Sunday Sunset Concert – May 26 at 7 p.m.**

Bowie's summer concert series begins this Sunday at Allen Pond Park. The *US Navy Band Commodores* will be performing a selection of jazz tunes from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. So bring a blanket or lawn chairs, and sit back and enjoy the smooth sounds of this popular military band. Concerts are canceled in the event of inclement weather. See the full concert schedule at www.cityofbowie.org/concerts.

- **Memorial Day Holiday**

On Memorial Day our nation pauses to remember those members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Local veterans groups honor the memory of those lost with a short ceremony at Veterans Park in Old Town Bowie. Monday, May 27, 11 a.m.

City offices are closed for the holiday on Monday and no trash or recycling will be collected.

- **Senior Fair**

Each spring the Senior Center hosts a free fair to bring special entertainment and information to the community. The theme of this year's Information and Referral Fair is "Wiser Together – Intergenerational Partnerships." For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300. Open to the public.

Schedule:

5/29, 10 a.m., "What We Had", AARP movie and discussion

5/30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Senior Services panel discussion; 5 - 7 p.m., Evening Information Vendor Fair

5/31, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Information Vendor Fair.

- **Bowiefest Showcases the Best of Bowie!**

Bowiefest returns to Allen Pond Park on Saturday, June 1 with musical acts on three stages, children's activities, and a variety of delicious food offerings. There will also be an Arts and Crafts Area, a Home and Health Expo inside the Ice Arena, and dozens of community groups participating. Be sure to stop by the Education Committee booth where they will be giving away free books, listen to Police Chief John Nesky perform acoustic rock at the Boathouse Stage starting at 12:45 p.m, and cheer on contestants in the rib eating contest at 4 p.m. at the amphitheater.

Admission to Bowiefest is free. Some parking is available at the park or on streets nearby the park. Better still – park at the Northview Drive Park and Ride Lot and take a free shuttle to the park. Shuttles will run every 20 minutes, between 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. And riders will receive a free coupon for a Chick-fil-a meal from shuttle sponsor Bowie Marketplace Chick-fil-a.

Bowiefest entertainment schedule: www.cityofbowie.org/bowiefest_schedule

Bowiefest video: <https://youtu.be/uBaUDb3ocOg>

- **Bowie Police Department 5K Torch Run – June 6**

The Bowie Police Department is proud to host the 5K Law Enforcement Torch Run on Thursday, June 6. Registration opens at 8 a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. at the Bowie Plaza and ends in the Chick-Fil-A parking lot at Bowie Marketplace.

This event is open to the public. Register to run and receive a t-shirt or simply purchase your 2019 Torch Run shirt or hat in support of Special Olympics MD, by filling out the form here: <https://www.cityofbowie.org/torchrun>

Some have asked why the run takes place on a weekday. The explanation is that Torch Runs will be taking place all over the state during the week leading up to the Special Olympics Summer Games in Towson. Torch Runs symbolize the carrying of the Flame of Hope across the State, culminating in the Flame's delivery to the Opening Ceremonies on Friday. There will be runs across the state on each day of the week leading up to

Friday. For more information, contact cops@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5797.

- **“Belair at Bowie” Exhibit Opening and Reception June 7**

Join us at Kenhill Center on Friday, June 7 at 7 p.m. for the opening reception of the "Belair at Bowie" exhibit. Whether you are learning this homegrown story for the first time or want to walk down memory lane, this exhibit has something for you. Enjoy scrumptious desserts, a fun atmosphere and view professional filmmaker Jeff Krulik's film, "Tales of Belair and Bowie." Be sure to stop by the Oral History Booth to record a video comment or memory about Levitt Bowie while you're there. Experience this exhibit the way it is supposed to be-- with your family, friends, and the Bowie community!

- **Low Cost Rabies Vaccine and Microchip Clinic – June 8**

The City will host a low cost rabies vaccine and microchip (\$10 each, cash only) clinic on Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the City Hall rear parking lot, near the pond. Pets must be at least three months old to receive a rabies vaccine. Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier and under control. Prince George’s County pet licenses will also be on sale. Services will be provided by Dr. James Peterson. The cost for the vaccinations and microchips is \$10 each (cash only). For more information, please contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Meetings

- **Melford Village Apartments**

The City has scheduled several public meetings for the next phases of multi-family apartment development at Melford Village.

Two site plans are proposed:

1. 436 multi-family apartments in nine buildings (in a project called Melford Mansions)
2. infrastructure related to a 472-unit building (similar to the Aspen apartments now under construction)

Meeting Schedule

Stakeholders Meeting - Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.

Bowie Advisory Planning Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m.

City Council Public Hearing - Monday, July 1, 8 p.m.

All meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information, please contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

- **Proposed Zoning Changes Would Allow for Residential Housing at Airport and at Mill Branch Crossing**

Public hearings will take place at the June 3 City Council Meeting on two proposed Zoning Text Amendments for undeveloped property at Mill Branch Crossing (at the corner of Mill Branch Road and US 301) and at Freeway Airport (Church Road at US 50). The final decision in these cases will be made at the County level, but the City is being

asked to provide a recommendation on legislation regarding the type of development that will be permitted at each location. The zoning changes would allow for over 500 homes at Freeway Airport and would permit townhouse and multi-family development in addition to the office, retail, and hotel already permitted under current zoning at Mill Branch Crossing.

Public hearing date: June 3, 2019, 8 p.m. at City Council Meeting

Other News

- **City Election Information**

The next City election takes place on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. All City offices are open for election. Those interested in filing for office should read the information on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/election and then contact the City Clerk at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029 to set up an appointment.

To date, the following individuals have filed for office:

Mayor

Keith Jackson

Len Lucchi

Councilmembers

Michael Esteve - Councilmember - District 1

Mike Byrd - Councilmember - District 3

Adrian Bofo - Councilmember - District 3

Darian Senn-Carter - Councilmember - District 3

Leon Buck - Councilmember - District 4

Ingrid S. Harrison - Councilmember - At-Large

Dustin Kuzan - Councilmember - At-Large

Mayor Robinson announced Tuesday that he will not be running for re-election.

- **Community Garden Plots Available**

Do you like to garden, but don't have the space? Why not consider a plot at the new Bowie Community Garden. Bowie residents can rent plots for the season (8 x 8 plots are \$40 each and 5 x 8 plots are \$25 each).

The garden is located behind the Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive) and water is available on-site for watering plants. For information, contact Sheri Beach at 301-809-3086 or sbeach@cityofbowie.org.

Community Garden video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWVE0X_Wzxs

- **Traffic Calming Work on Belair Drive and Beaverdale Lane**

Traffic calming measures will soon be installed on Belair Drive to reduce speeds and hopefully to discourage some cut through traffic from MD 450 and MD 3. The Belair Drive work will be done in two phases. The first phase, from Beechtree Lane to Kenhill Drive begins May 28 and will include speed cushions, raised crosswalks, and stop signs at Kenhill Drive and at Stonybrook Drive.

Phase 2, which will address new measures from Kenhill Drive to Annapolis Road (MD 450), is still in the planning stages. A Stakeholders Open House on the Phase 2 project is scheduled for **June 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kenhill Center**. Residents are invited to learn about the preliminary plans and offer their input.

More information about these measures to improve the safety of Belair Drive can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/belairtraffic. If you have questions or comments about these measures, please contact Project Manager Michael Schramm at 301-80-2341 or email mschramm@cityofbowie.org.

Learn more about these efforts by viewing a short interview (2:35) with Public Works Director George Stephanos at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pNokrwCIg0>.