

# Bowie News Flash

**December 2019**

## News

### **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Happy Thanksgiving from the City of Bowie!

- **Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 28, 2019
- **Day After Thanksgiving** Friday, November 29, 2019

City offices are closed on the dates listed above. There is no trash or recycling service on these dates; service will resume on your next regularly scheduled day.

### **Let the Season Begin at Belair!**

Join us as we open the holiday season on **December 1** at Belair Mansion. From **12 to 6 p.m.**, tour the mansion decked out in all its finery, enjoy scrumptious goodies and revel in the live holiday music. For more information, contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

### **Holiday Tree Lighting Moved to City Hall Lobby**

Join us on Sunday, December 1 at **7 p.m. at City Hall**, for the annual tree lighting ceremony and a very merry visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are appreciated. Please look for the marked Food Pantry containers for your donations. For more information, contact 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

PLEASE NOTE: The venue for the tree lighting has been changed to City Hall due to the inclement weather forecast for this weekend.

### **Bowie Police Host Annual “Shop With a Cop”**

The Bowie Police Department will host its annual “Shop With A Cop” event on Sunday, December 8, 2019. This nationally recognized program helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. Through donations received, children from 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 more information about this program, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5792, or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/police](http://www.cityofbowie.org/police).

### **Holiday House Decorating Contest**

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! Entry deadline is **December 9, 2019** at 5 p.m. Homes must be within the Bowie municipal limits. For information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating](http://www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating) or contact Matt Corley at [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3078.

### **Breakfast with Santa**

Plan to bring your children or grandchildren to the Senior Center on Saturday, **December 7, 2019** from 9 - 11 a.m. for a very special morning event! Share pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Enjoy roving magicians, a visit and photo with Santa, and create a holiday craft with the kids! Admission is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free). Space is limited so register soon. For more information or to register, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 or [ccofod@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ccofod@cityofbowie.org). The City and the Bowie Lions Club sponsor this community event.

### **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 drop toys off by **December 13, 2019**. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5792 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org) or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/police](http://www.cityofbowie.org/police).

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

- **December 2** Council Meeting, 8 p.m. South Lakes Detailed Site Plan, Glenn Dale Golf Course Redevelopment

For information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or [ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org)

### **Green Bowie**

**What do we have in common with Cooperstown, NY?** The Chesapeake Bay. Yes, that's right! Stormwater (rain that doesn't soak into the ground) from each city flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Would your school, HOA, civic association, church, or homeschool co-op/group like to learn more about the largest estuary in the U.S. and Bowie's streams and the Patuxent River? Contact the City's Watershed Manager, Tiffany Wright, at 301-809-3043 or [twright@cityofbowie.org](mailto:twright@cityofbowie.org) to schedule a visit.

**Green Tip of the Month** This holiday season, consider purchasing and using LED lights for better energy efficiency, as well as a timer for the lights to automatically go off. Also, consider using less paper and boxes, and reuse old bags for gift-wrapping.

### **Winter City Holidays**

- **Christmas Day** Wednesday, December 25, 2019
- **New Year's Day** Wednesday, January 1, 2020

City offices will be closed on the dates listed above. There will be no trash service on these dates; service will resume on your next regularly scheduled day.

There will be no recycling service on Christmas Day. However, there will be recycling service on New Year's Day, January 1, 2020, for those neighborhoods on the regular Wednesday recycling schedule.

### **Cold Weather Tips for Dogs**

Bundle up! Dogs are closer to the ground than humans and get cold more quickly. Clean their pads; snow can gather and harden in between your dog's toes and also get ingested which may harm your pet. Take your dog for walks during the warmest part of the day, and for shorter walks if your dog is cold. For more information, please call the City's Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002.

### **"Flushable" Wipes Can Cause Costly Sewer Repairs**

The next time you go to toss that "flushable" wipe in the toilet, you might want to consider a request from the City's sewer utility: **Don't**. Sewer agencies in the Washington area and across the country say the rapidly growing use of pre-moistened wipes are clogging pipes and jamming pumps.

Utilities struggling with aging infrastructure have wrestled for years with the problem of "ragging", when baby wipes, dental floss, paper towels and other items not designed for flushing entangle sewer pumps. The latest menace, officials say, is that wipes and other products are being marketed as "flushable." Unlike toilet paper, these items do not break down. Over time, they can cause a blockage in your sewer pipes that requires a costly visit by a plumber. Help prevent problems at your home and at the City's sewer station by putting these "flushables" in the trash, not the toilet. For more information, contact the City's Risk Manager, Chuck Hessling, at [chessling@cityofbowie.org](mailto:chessling@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3082.

### **Water Color**

The City Hall Art Gallery exhibit runs through **February 21, 2020**. It is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are City Hall hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Meet the artists at a reception on **January 15, 2020**, 7 – 8 p.m.

### **"A Christmas Carol"**

At the Bowie Playhouse weekends through December 14. For ticket information, contact 301-832-4819 or visit [www.2ndstarproductions.com](http://www.2ndstarproductions.com).

### **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](mailto: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 to five 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 will take extended time to complete, since it requires locating all the underground utilities in the area before digging can begin.

### **Volunteers Needed for City Board and Committee Vacancies**

Volunteers are needed for several City boards and committees: Administrative Review Board, Arts Committee, Community Outreach Committee, Community Recreation Committee, Diversity Committee, Education Committee, Board of Elections, Environmental Advisory Committee, Ethics Commission, Green Team Executive Committee and Information Technology Committee.

Information on the role of each committee and how to apply for membership can be found on the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org/committees](http://www.cityofbowie.org/committees) or by calling the City Clerk at 301-809-3029.

### **\$20 Compost Bins Available at City Hall**

Purchase a \$20 compost bin at City Hall and start composting. City residents may purchase up to two bins per household. Payment can be made by cash or check at the Finance window during the City's business hours (Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and by check only at the reception desk during City Hall's night and Saturday hours (Monday thru Thursday until 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. - noon). Learn more about compost bins at [www.cityofbowie.org/compost](http://www.cityofbowie.org/compost).

### **Jobs**

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

- **Theater Technician** Part time (closes 11/29/19)
- **Communications Specialist II** Police Department (open)
- **Police Officers** Entry level (open)

For more information or to apply, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobs](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs).

### **City Hall Closes for Staff Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony**

On December 6, City Hall will be closed to the public between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. so that all employees may attend a holiday luncheon and recognition ceremony.

### **Events**

**11/28 Thanksgiving Day** City offices will be closed on this date. There will be no refuse or recycling service on this date; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

**11/29 Day After Thanksgiving** City offices will be closed on this date. There will be no refuse or recycling service on this date; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

**11/29 “A Christmas Carol”** Weekends through December 14 at Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information, contact 301-832-4819 or visit [www.2ndstarproductions.com](http://www.2ndstarproductions.com).

**12/1 Trainspotting** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**12/1 “Happy Holidays” Open House** 12 – 6 p.m. at Belair Mansion. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**12/1 Holiday Tree Lighting** 7 – 8:30 p.m. at **City Hall**. For more information, please contact 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

**12/2 City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. South Lake Detailed Site Plan, Glenn Dale Golf Course Redevelopment

**12/5 Learn to Skate Lessons Begin** at Bowie Ice Arena. Fee and registration required. For more information, please contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

**12/5 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Public Meeting** 6 – 8 p.m. at Prince George’s County Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sherriff Road, Landover, MD. The purpose of the public meeting is to provide citizens with the opportunity to address and comment on the County and City of Bowie’s plan to identify impediments and to expand housing choice. The County and the City of Bowie hereby solicit public comment from all residents of the County and the City of Bowie. For more information, please contact Kay Starr at [kstarr@cityofbowie.org](mailto:kstarr@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3009.

**12/6 Holiday Craft Fair** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Public welcome. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/7 Breakfast with Santa!** 9 – 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Enjoy breakfast with roving magicians, a visit and photo with Santa, and create a holiday craft with the kids! Admission is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free). Space is limited so register soon. For more information or to register, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 or [ccofod@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ccofod@cityofbowie.org).

**12/7 Free Flu Shot Clinic** 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Bowie City Gym. For more information, please contact the Gym at 301-809-3288.

**12/7 Children's Gift Making** 12 – 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 5 – 12, with adult. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**12/7 Holiday Jingle Skate** 1 – 3 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. Free admission with a donation of a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. For more information, please contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

**12/9 Holiday House Decorating Contest Entry Deadline** by 5 p.m. For information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating](http://www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating) or contact Matt Corley at [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3078.

**12/10 Fairy Tale Fun** 10 – 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Make new friends while enjoying stories, snacks and a craft! Ages 2 - 8, with an adult. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/10 Pecan Ridge Public Hearing** 7 p.m. at City Hall. The Bowie Advisory Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Pecan Ridge Preliminary Plan of Subdivision. For more information, please contact Planning Director Joe Meinert at [jmeinert@cityofbowie.org](mailto:jmeinert@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3047.

**12/11 Senior Chorale Concert “Ringin’, Singin’ & Drummin’”** Performances: December 11 at 4 p.m, and December 12 at 1 p.m. (\$3) at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/12 Senior Chorale Concert “Ringin’, Singin’ & Drummin’”** Performances: December 11 at 4 p.m, and December 12 at 1 p.m. (\$3) at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/13 Toys for Tots Collection Deadline** Join the Bowie Police Department to help make this Christmas special for children. Please donate new unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations accepted at the following City locations: City Hall, Bowie Police Station, Gymnasium, Ice Arena, Senior Center and Kenhill Center. Please drop toys off by **December 13, 2019**. For more information, please contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at 240-544-5792 or [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org) or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/police](http://www.cityofbowie.org/police).

**12/13 Senior Chorale Concert “Ringin’, Singin’ & Drummin’”** Performance December 13 at 7:30 p.m. (\$8) at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/14 Saturday Fun with Santa** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Bowie City Gym. Face painting, music and more. Fee: New unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots, or \$3 per child. For more information, please contact the Gym at 301-809-3288.

**12/14 Rufus the Red-Nosed Rain Dog** 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Children's puppet show. A lost and lonely dog shows up at Santa's workshop. First, he's rejected because he has a red nose, but eventually we learn that everyone is different and everyone is special. Great for

family audiences and the younger child. No reservations needed. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/16 Charles County Show Troupe: Christmas Love** 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/20 Holiday Party** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Preregister, \$5/\$6. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/25 Christmas Day** City offices will be closed on this date. There will be no refuse or recycling service on this date; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

**12/30 Holiday Fairy Tale Fun** 10 – 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Make new friends while enjoying stories, snacks and a craft! Ages 2 - 8, with an adult. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/31 Noon Year's Party** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Preregister, \$5/\$6. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**1/1 New Year's Day** City offices will be closed on this date. There will be no refuse service on this date; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day. There will be recycling service on New Year's Day for those neighborhoods on the regular Wednesday recycling schedule.