



# BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

[www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)

December 2019

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## 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 tasty goodies and revel in the live holiday music. No better way to begin your holiday season! Information: [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3089

Later on **Sunday, December 1** at **City Hall at 7 p.m.**, join us 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. Information: [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3078.

**Please note: Due to inclement weather predicted for the weekend, the City Tree Lighting Ceremony has been moved to the lobby of City Hall.**

## City Council Meeting to Note

**December 2** - City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. South Lake 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).

## Bowie Police Host Annual "Shop with a Cop"

The Bowie Police Department is pleased to host its annual "Shop With A Cop" event on Sunday, December 8, 2019. This is a nationally recognized program that 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. Information: [www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating](http://www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating), [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). This community event is sponsored by the City and the Bowie Lions Club.

## 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).

## 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 are closed on the dates listed above. There is no trash service on these dates; service will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

There is no recycling service on Christmas Day. 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 the 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 City Hall Art Gallery exhibit. Show runs through 2/21/20. Free and open to the public. Meet the artists at a reception on 1/15/20, 7 - 8 p.m.**

**A Christmas Carol at the Bowie Playhouse through 12/14. For ticket information: 301-832-4819 or [www.2ndstarproductions.com](http://www.2ndstarproductions.com).**

For more information, contact Sally Hein at [shein@cityofbowie.org](mailto:shein@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3014.

## MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)

**TRAINSPOTTING** 12/1  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Watch the trains fly by on the busiest day; and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** 12/1,  
12 - 6 p.m. Belair Mansion Free

**TREE LIGHTING** 12/1, 7 p.m.  
Belair Mansion Free

**CHILDREN'S GIFT MAKING**  
12/7, 12 - 4 p.m. Belair Mansion  
Ages 5 - 12, with adult. Free

**FAIRY TALE HOLIDAY FUN**  
12/10, 10 - 11 a.m. Belair Mansion  
Ages 2-5, with adult. Free

**RUFUS THE RED-NOSED RAIN DOG** 12/14, 2:30 -  
3:30 p.m. Belair Mansion Children's puppet show Free

## ADULTS 55+

Bowie Senior Center  
14900 Health Center Drive  
301-809-2300

**HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR** 12/6,  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Public welcome

**RINGIN', SINGIN' & DRUMMIN' SENIOR CHORALE CONCERTS** 12/11, 4 p.m. and  
12/12, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center;  
12/13, 7:30 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.  
Contact Senior Center for tickets.

**CHARLES COUNTY SHOW TROUPE: CHRISTMAS LOVE**  
12/16, 10:30 a.m.

**HOLIDAY PARTY** 12/20,  
12:30 p.m. Preregister, \$5/\$6

**NOON YEAR'S PARTY** 12/31,  
12:30 p.m. Preregister, \$5/\$6

## ICE ARENA

3330 Northview Drive  
301-809-3090  
[www.cityofbowie.org/icearena](http://www.cityofbowie.org/icearena)

**LEARN TO SKATE LESSONS**  
Classes begin 12/5. For children  
18 months of age through adults.

**HOLIDAY JINGLE SKATE**  
12/7, 1 - 3 p.m. Free admission  
with a donation of a new unwrapped  
toy for Toys for Tots.

Holiday gift certificates available!

## CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive  
301-809-3288

**FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC**  
12/7, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY FUN WITH SANTA** 12/14, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Face painting, music and more.  
Fee: New unwrapped toy for  
Toys for Tots, or \$3 per child.

**MORNING WALKING**  
Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m.

**SENIOR FIT** Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday, 9 - 10 a.m.

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Timothy J. Adams  
Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Boafu  
Michael P. Esteve  
Henri Gardner  
Ingrid S. Harrison  
Roxy Ndebumadu  
Dufour Woolfley

## CITY MANAGER

Alfred D. Lott  
301-809-3030