

Bowie News Flash



Happy holidays from the City Council and all of the City of Bowie employees. We're proud to serve you! If you have not already had the opportunity to see it, please view our holiday greetings video at <https://youtu.be/ApeDcjSfrlM>.

House Decorating Winners

Congratulations to this year's Holiday House Decorating Contest winners. Go to www.cityofbowie.org/decorating to view the list and make your plans to drive around Bowie and enjoy the festive sights.

A message from City of Bowie Mayor Tim Adams

Just over a month ago, I was sworn in as Mayor of Bowie. Since then, my time has been filled with learning the intricate inner workings of the city and getting to know the people that help make Bowie the beautiful place we call home. The employees of our city (many of which live within our borders) are constantly going above and beyond their duties to ensure the quality of life of our residents is in a perpetual state of improvement.

I have had the honor of attending a number of community events that truly engage our residents, and leaves them with a positive memory or two. Experiences like these would not be possible without the due diligence of our dedicated city staff. As we maneuver through the holiday season, I would like each of you to reflect on your natural born gifts, and talents and consider lending them to the service of our city. With us being 60,000 strong, there is no goal that we can't set and achieve together. We are "one city, one Bowie"

Happy Holidays

Mayor Tim Adams

January 2020

News

Upcoming City Holidays

- **New Year's Day** Wednesday, January 1, 2020
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** Monday, January 20, 2020

City offices are closed on the dates listed above. There will be no refuse or recycling service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and no refuse collection on New Year's Day. There will be recycling collection on New Year's Day, January 1, for those neighborhoods on the regular Wednesday recycling schedule.

Refuse and Recycling Notes:

- Recycling will be collected on **New Year's Day**, January 1, 2020, for those neighborhoods on the regular Wednesday recycling schedule.
- **Christmas trees** will be picked up with yardwaste every Wednesday in January (except New Year's Day) through January 30. Make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Do not put the tree in a plastic bag. Place at the curb by 7 a.m.

2020 City Holidays

City offices will be closed on the dates listed below. There will be no refuse or recycling services on these dates; services will resume on your next regularly scheduled day.

New Year's Day*	Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 20, 2020
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 17, 2020
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 2020
Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2020
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2020
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26, 2020
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27, 2020
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2020

*Recycling will be collected on New Year's Day.

City Council Meetings to Note

- January 6 - City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Budget Guidance for FY2021, Pecan Ridge, Auditors Report
- January 21 - City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Amber Ridge

Residents Invited to Participate in Listening Sessions with Mayor and Council

The City Council wants to understand what is important to you about Bowie. What are the things that make you proud to be a Boweite? What are the local issues that concern you? Where should the Council focus its attention and spending? It is critical to our continued success as an engaged and forward moving community that your elected officials get your input on these questions and on many other things.

To accomplish this, the Mayor and City Council will hold a listening session in each of the four Council districts:

- **January 15**, 7 p.m. South Bowie Community Center
- **January 29**, 7 p.m. City Hall
- **February 13**, 7 p.m. Huntington Community Center
- **February 26**, 7 p.m. Kenhill Center

Come out, meet your Mayor and City Councilmembers, and share your thoughts about Bowie. We'll be listening!

But, please don't feel like you have to wait for these sessions. Your comments, suggestions, and feedback on your City government are always welcome. You can send emails to Councilmembers or the City Manager, post comments on social media, make a request via MyBowieMD, attend Council meetings, or give us a call. City Council and City staff are here to support you.

Contact Us!

- **Bowie City Hall:** 301-262-6200
- **Contact Councilmembers:** www.cityofbowie.org/contactcouncil
- **Staff directory:** www.cityofbowie.org/contactstaff
- **MyBowieMD Service Request System:** www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest
- **General inquiries or to submit questions for the listening sessions:** publicinfo@cityofbowie.org
- **2020 City Council Meeting Schedule:** www.cityofbowie.org/councilmeetings
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/bowiemd
- **Twitter:** @cityofbowie
- **Instagram:** @cityofbowie

Calling All Student Artists!

The City of Bowie is hosting its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest to promote understanding about the lasting legacy of Dr. King. The theme for this year's contest is "**Lifting Our Voices for Freedom**". There are three different categories within the contest, depending on the grade level of the students: K - 2nd grade, coloring contest; 3rd - 5th grade, poster contest; and 6 - 12th grade, video contest. For contest details, visit www.cityofbowie.org/MLK.

Students who live within the municipal limits of Bowie (including home schooled students) or students who attend an eligible school in Bowie can participate in the

contest. The complete list of eligible schools is located at the web link above. **Entries are due January 6, 2020.** Contest finalists are chosen by the Bowie Diversity Committee soon after the contest deadline. Finalists will be featured and winners will be announced at the City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Program on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Stephanie Lopez at slopez@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5616.

Bowie Ice Arena Events

Public skating sessions are offered daily. The monthly calendar can be viewed online. Information: 301-809-3090 or www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Winter Weather – Snow Emergency

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. Once the snow has been cleared, please immediately move your vehicle back onto the street. For information, contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org.

Snow Removal Time Waiver

City property owners/residents are responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their property within 48 hours of cessation of a snowfall. The City provides additional time for people with considering factors such as age or physical disability, but you must submit a waiver application, found at www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org.

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

Teens are needed for snow shoveling this winter. 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 find teens who can help with tasks such as snow shoveling, 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 found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank or call 301-809-3033.

Amber Ridge Public Hearing is January 21 at Council Meeting

Amber Ridge is a mixed-use community proposed on a vacant 19-acre site located on the west side of southbound U.S. Route 301, approximately 0.3 mile south of the Mitchellville Road intersection. The project includes a mix of 200 townhouses and up to 20,000 sq. ft. of retail/commercial development. A Preliminary Subdivision Plan for the creation of the 200 residential lots and two retail/commercial parcels, as well as a Detailed Site Plan for the residential development, have been submitted for review.

City Council will review the matter at its meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 8 p.m. The public is invited to participate in the public hearing during the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Frank Stevens at fstevens@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3047

The 2020 Census is Coming

By law, every 10 years the US Census counts every resident in the United States. Your participation determines representation and how billions in federal funds are distributed. If our community is undercounted, it could result in an estimated loss of funding of \$18,250 per person over a 10-year period.

The 2020 Census will be the first one not completed entirely by mail. Residents will be able to complete their forms online or by phone. By the second week in March residents will start receiving invitations to respond online. Learn more at www.pgcensus2020.org.

Green Bowie

- **Lawmen & Lightbulbs** Join the Bowie Police Department and the City's Sustainability Planner for another LED lightbulb exchange on **January 15**, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., at Starbucks Bowie Town Center. Bring up to five (5) Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) and receive one **free** LED bulb, courtesy of Philips. Support your local police and environmental initiatives by letting us help you properly dispose of CFLs, which contain mercury and should not be put into the trash. Aside from these exchanges, you can bring CFL bulbs to Lowes, Home Depot, MOMs, or the County facility.
- **Green Citizen Award** Nominate someone who does outstanding environmental work in the community to be Bowie's Green Citizen. Nominations accepted **January 1 - March 1, 2020**.

Information: aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044

What's Bouncing at the City Gym?

- **Morning Walking** Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m.
- **Pickleball** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **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.

City Accepting Nominations for the 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. Nomination forms are available at

www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m. **March 9, 2020** at City Hall.

Apply for the Workforce Development Program

The City of Bowie is offering a free Workforce Development and Life Skills Training Program from March 10 - April 2, for residents aged 15 - 25. The program will cover life skills topics such as effective communication, stress management, and decision-making, as well as highlighting careers in STEM industries such as cyber security, IT, and healthcare.

Apply online **January 1 - February 14** at www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining. Public forums to learn more about the program are scheduled for **January 22** and **February 5** at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Information: worktraining@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3009

Student Scholarships

The City Council believes it is important to recognize and encourage students by offering the following City scholarships:

- **Art Scholarship** – This scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing studies in an arts-related field. Deadline is early spring.
- **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.

Scholarship applications for high school seniors with City of Bowie addresses will be available mid-January 2020. For information about either scholarship program, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@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.

Excessive Barking

Bowie Animal Control reminds dog owners to be aware of dogs that may be constantly barking and disturbing the peace and comfort of the neighborhood. Dogs that bark excessively are typically those that lack exercise and have been left in a yard for long periods. The barking mostly is a result of boredom. Please bring your dog(s) indoors when you hear continuous barking, particularly during the early morning and late evening

hours. Failure to comply with/address nuisance barking may result in enforcement action. For more information, contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

Water Color Exhibit

The current exhibit at the City Hall Art Gallery is *Water Color*. The show runs through **February 21**. Meet the artists at a reception on January 15 at 7 p.m. The Gallery is free and open to the public during City Hall hours. For more information, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Jobs

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

- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level (open)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for more information or to apply.

Change in City Hall Hours

Effective January 1, 2020, City Hall will no longer be open on Saturday mornings for room reservations or pet licenses. Rooms will be available for use on Saturday mornings at the Kenhill Center.

Events

1/1 New Year's Day Holiday City offices are closed. There will be no refuse collection, but there will be recycling collection on January 1, for those neighborhoods on the regular Wednesday recycling schedule.

1 /4 Community Meeting on Future of Bowie Race Track District 1 Councilmember Michael Esteve will host a community meeting about discussions regarding the Bowie Race Track. State elected officials representing Bowie have been invited to participate. The meeting takes place at the Kenhill Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

1/6 Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art Contest Entry Deadline 5 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, contact Stephanie Lopez at slopez@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5616.

1/6 Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Budget Guidance for FY 2021, Pecan Ridge, Auditors Report

1/10 SAGE Senior Class Registration Begins For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/13 Tap Dance Class Short Program 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Public welcome. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/15 Lawmen & Lightbulbs 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Starbucks Bowie Town Center. LED lightbulb exchange. Bring up to five Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) and receive one free LED bulb. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

1/15 Honoring the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/15 Water Color Artists Reception 7 p.m. at City Hall. Public welcome. For more information, contact lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

1/15 City Council Listening Session #1 7 p.m. at South Bowie Community Center, 1717 Pittsfield Lane. See details above in the News section.

1/16 Winter Preparedness 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/18 NARFE Information Fair 9 - 11 a.m.. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/18 Program Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10 a.m. at City Hall. The program will feature the artwork of local students who have been selected as finalists in the City's Martin Luther King Art Contest. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the program.

1/20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday City offices are closed. There will be no refuse or recycling services; services will resume on your next regularly scheduled day.

1/21 Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Public Hearing on proposed Amber Ridge development.

1/22 Workforce Development Program Public Forum 7 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, contact worktraining@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3009.

1/24 Staycation: Cruise the Tropics 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Preregister, \$5/\$6 For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/29 City Council Listening Session #2 7 p.m. at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road.

2/5 Workforce Development Program Public Forum 7 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, contact worktraining@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3009.

2/13 City Council Listening Session #3 7 p.m. at Huntington Community Center, 13922 8th Street.

2/26 City Council Listening Session #4 7 p.m. at Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive.

