

Bowie News Flash

October 2012

News

Bowie International Festival - October 6, 2012

There will be entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children's activities at Allen Pond Park for the annual Bowie International Festival on **Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Enjoy entertainment on two stages; food from the far reaches of Asia to right here in our own backyard; children's activities such as stories, dance, sports and games from around the world; and vendors of crafts, clothing, jewelry, and many other offerings. Music from Ireland, Africa, Germany, and Jamaica will fill the air. Dance groups representing Indian, Bolivian, Turkish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Native American cultures will perform throughout the day. For further information, visit the City website or contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or email mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Support the Food Pantry at the International Festival

The Bowie Community Outreach Committee and the Bowie Food Pantry will be at the International Festival on **October 6th** looking for donations to feed the hungry. Please bring a nonperishable item to donate as you enjoy a fun-filled day traveling around the world right here in Bowie. For more information, please contact the Pantry at BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com or 301-262-6765.

BGE Meeting on Smart Meters – Thursday, October 4

Learn about BGE's smart meters at an open house event, sponsored by the utility, at the Kenhill Center on Thursday, October 4 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. For more information about the event or about BGE's implementation of smart meters, contact the BGE Community Relations line at 410-470-4103.

New Maryland Laws Went Into Effect October 1

Effective October 1, 2012 scooters and moped owners must now license their vehicles and operators and passengers must wear helmets and eye protection. Another law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians and vehicles in an intersection when approaching an intersection where the traffic signal isn't functioning. And every child under the age of 8 must ride in an appropriate child restraint, unless the child is 4'9" or taller. For more information, visit the City's website or contact the City Police Department at 301-575-2480.

Coming Soon...City of Bowie License Plates

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration will soon offer City of Bowie license plates to City residents. The cost of the tags will be \$25 in addition to the registration renewal fee. For more information, please contact Denise Mahoney at 301-809-3031 or email dmahoney@cityofbowie.org.

Early Voting

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2012. However, Maryland voters don't need to wait until then to vote. They can vote at the Bowie Library or one of the other four early voting sites in Prince George's County from Saturday, October 27, 2012 thru Thursday, November 1, 2012. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Monday - Saturday) and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more information on early voting, visit <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Elections/pdf/EarlyVoting.pdf>.

Those who are not registered to vote have until Tuesday, October 16, 2012 to register. Contact the Board of Elections at 301-430-8020 for more information.

Curbside Leaf Collection Begins November 5, 2012

The City's curbside leaf collection service begins November 5. Each residential neighborhood will have two collection dates. Residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of their grass for pickup by the City crews. Collection will take place from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. according to the Leaf Collection Schedule. Crews will work rain or shine. However, in the event of snow or ice storms, leaf collection will be temporarily suspended, as the trucks and crews will be redeployed to salt or plow City streets. Some sections of the City are listed on two consecutive days. Due to expected volume, these sections may take more than one day to complete. For more information, please call 301-809-2344. The schedule will soon be available on our website, in local papers and in the next issue of the Bowie Spotlight.

Halloween Trick or Treat - Wednesday, October 31

Halloween is Wednesday, October 31st. Suggested hours for trick or treating are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Bowie Police Department reminds trick or treaters and their parents to carry a flashlight, be mindful of traffic, and check all treats carefully. If you are on the roads on Halloween, please drive carefully and watch out for ghosts and goblins and other costumed critters.

Protect Against West Nile Virus

Cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Prince George's County and around the region. Minimize your exposure to the virus by using insect repellent if you go out at dusk or early evening and by wearing long sleeves and pants when you're out in the yard, especially at dusk. Mosquitoes thrive in standing water. Whenever possible, eliminate areas in your yard where water pools and mosquitoes can lay their eggs. For more information, visit the City's website.

Join the Stream Team Cleanup!

The City will hold a Stream Team Cleanup on **Saturday, October 13, 2012** from 9 a.m. to noon. Stream teams are made up of adults, students, school/church/scout groups and others who want to pick up trash and debris in and along some of the City's streams. The goal is to improve water quality and minimize the amount of trash that flows through Bowie into the Patuxent River and down to the Chesapeake Bay.

Cleanup days are a good time for Bowie residents to get out and experience nature while working to protect Bowie's important natural resources. The City will provide water and all supplies. You just need to have sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and a hat, and be willing to get in the stream corridors and clean. Student Service Learning hours are available for Prince George's County students. To sign up or obtain more information, contact Tiffany Wright, the City's Watershed Manager, at twright@cityofbowie.org or at 301-809-3043.

Tree Trimming in Kenilworth

Lewis Tree Service will be trimming street trees in Kenilworth over the next several months. Contact Community Forester Rick Kellner at 301-809-3061 or email rkellner@cityofbowie.org for more information.

City Board and Committee Vacancies

Volunteers are needed for several City Boards and Committees: Board of Personnel Appeals, Administrative Review Board, Heritage Committee, Arts Committee, Education Committee, Community Outreach Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, Information Technology Committee, Economic Development Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, Diversity Committee and Ethics Commission. Information on the role of each committee and how to apply for membership can be found on the City's website or by contacting the City Clerk at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Seminar and Groups Offered by Bowie Youth & Family Services

Three new groups are starting this month:

- Girls Count! Teen Girls Group
- ADHD/ADD Education Group
- Active Parenting Group

Parents are also invited to attend a seminar on October 22 entitled "What Can We Do About Our School-Avoidant Child?" Call 301-809-3033 for more information and dates/times of events.

Events

9/28 - 10/13 – “Dracula” at Bowie Playhouse Based on Bram Stoker’s classic, Dracula tells the story of Lucy Seward, daughter of the head of an English sanitarium, who is struck with a mysterious illness. Her specialist Dr. Van Helsing believes Lucy is the victim of a vampire, a sort of ghost that goes about at night sucking blood from its victims. A perfect story for the Halloween season, Dracula is a show to be remembered. Presented by Bowie Community Theatre, at www.bctheatre.com or 301-805-0219.

10/4 – BGE Meeting on Smart Meters 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive.

10/6 – Bowie International Festival 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Enjoy entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children’s activities at this annual Bowie festival. For more information, check the City’s website or contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or email mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

10/7 – Fun Day Sunday 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Youngsters ages 1-10 are invited to enjoy colonial games and stories at the Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/8 – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Join Museums Curator Samantha Dorsey for “Best Foot Forward – A Look at Ladies’ Fashions.” Free. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/9 – “Spiritualism in 19th Century America” – Second Tuesday Lecture Series 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Joan Chaconas, Washington D.C. historian and historian at the Surratt House, will speak on a popular topic in 19th Century America – spiritualism – a practice reportedly explored by President and Mrs. Lincoln. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/10 – Senior Safety Workshop 2 p.m. at Pin Oak Village, 16010 Excalibur Road. For more information, please contact Sgt. Henderson of the Bowie Police Department at 301-575-1824.

10/10 – “Next Steps for Local Public Schools” – Education Forum 7 - 9 p.m. at Kenhill Center. The Education Committee presents its annual education forum. Speakers include Dr. Alvin L. Crawley, Interim Superintendent of Prince George's County Schools, Dr. Duane Arbogast, Chief Academic Officer of PGCPSS, and Ms. Verjeana Jacobs, Chairman, PGCPSS Board of Education. A question and answer period will follow the presentations. All are invited, especially principals, parents, and interested community members. For more information, please contact the City’s Education Committee staff liaison Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

10/11 – Be Tech Savvy: E-Reader or Tablet? 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. Join us as a representative from Barnes & Noble discusses how to make the most out of owning an e-reader or tablet. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/13 – Stream Team Cleanup 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in streams throughout Bowie. To sign up or get more information, contact Tiffany Wright, the City's Watershed Manager, at twright@cityofbowie.org or at 301-809-3043.

10/15 –City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/16 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1-10. Free. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/19 - Education Grants Application Deadline

The Education Committee awards grants to support education for Bowie children. Grants, of amounts ranging from \$100 - \$1,000, are awarded to teachers, parent groups and other interested individuals from eligible community schools who have new and creative ideas for projects and programs that will enrich the students' learning experiences. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

10/19-10/27 – “Cymbeline” at Bowie Playhouse This play by William Shakespeare is based on legends of the early Celtic King Cunobelinus. Despite deceit, poison and treachery, there's a happy ending to this play that's part history, part comedy, part tragedy and part romance. It is presented by the Annapolis Shakespeare Company, www.annapolishakespeare.org or 410-702-1289.

10/20 – Community Shredding Event 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at City Hall, located at 15901 Excalibur Road. Residents may bring up to five boxes or bags of paper to be shredded. Styrofoam will also be collected at this event. Please no CDs, electronics, hanging file folders or anything plastic. For more information, please contact the Bowie Department of Public Works at 301-809-2344.

10/22 – “What can we do about our school-avoidant child?” - Bowie Youth & Family Services Fall Seminar 7 - 9 p.m. at Kenhill Center. Preregistration is required. For more information, please contact Bowie Youth and Family Services at 301-809-3033.

10/23 – Senior Center Hot Topics Lecture – Better Ways to Deal with Stress 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/27 – Halloween on Ice Party at the Bowie Ice Arena 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. The celebration includes a DJ, treat bags, and a costume contest.

10/28 – “Octoberfest” at Bowie Farmers’ Market 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School. Free scarecrow making (participants must supply a long-sleeved shirt and trousers) and free pumpkin painting (pumpkins available for purchase at market). Activities begin at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

10/31 – Halloween Suggested hours for trick or treating are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.