

# Bowie News Flash

**February 2020**

## **News**

### **Bowie Police Work to Keep Local Roads Safe**

The Bowie Police Department is stepping up speed limit enforcement across the City of Bowie and will be targeting speeders in school zones, residential neighborhoods, and secondary roads. The Department's goal is to save lives—they ask you to obey the sign or pay the fine. Keep yourself and other safe! Never speed and always obey traffic laws/signs. Call the Bowie Police at 240-544-5700 to report dangerous/reckless driving.

### **Two Down, Two to Go – 2020 Mayor & City Council Listening Sessions**

One of the Mayor and City Council's goals for 2020 is to make sure they hear directly from residents about the issues that are important to them. To help accomplish this goal, they have scheduled listening sessions in each of the four Council districts in the City. At the first two sessions in January, residents shared their concerns about a variety of issues including development, Bowie Town Center, litter, Metrobus service, crime and police service, the appearance of neighborhoods, the Bowie Race Track, traffic, taxes, public schools, and a good deal more.

Each and every one of these comments are being logged and assigned to a staff member or to the Mayor and Council for review, and possible further action. The comments will also help to inform and guide the Mayor and Council as they begin budget deliberations this spring and set goals for Bowie's future.

If you have not attended a session, we encourage you to do so. The remaining sessions are on:

- **February 13**, 7 p.m. at the Huntington Community Center (13022 8<sup>th</sup> Street)
- **February 26**, 7 p.m. at the Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive)

If you are unable to attend a Listening Session, you may also share your thoughts via email ([publicinfo@cityofbowie.org](mailto:publicinfo@cityofbowie.org)) or by calling 301-809-3032.

### **Discussions Continue on the Bowie Race Track**

The future of the Bowie Race Track site is likely to be decided in the 2020 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Mayor and City Council support having the owners turn over the property to the City of Bowie for open space and recreational uses. They are working with the members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Delegation, the County Executive, and Bowie State University to ensure that future uses of the site will benefit City residents and Bowie State University and not heavily impact traffic on Race Track Road. These uses could include open space, recreational activities, walking/fitness trails and facilities, athletic fields, community gardens, natural science activities, and other similar uses. Learn more about the issue at [www.cityofbowie.org/racetrack](http://www.cityofbowie.org/racetrack).

### **Upcoming Development Hearings at Council Meetings**

Residents will soon have the opportunity to weigh in on two development projects. At the Council Meeting on Monday, February 3, there will be a public hearing about the **Amber Ridge** project, which is a development of 200 townhomes and retail/commerce space planned to be constructed on a parcel of land on US 301, north of Pointer Ridge Drive.

On March 3, Council will hold a public hearing on two Detailed Site Plans for the **South Lake** project, which is to be built on US 301 (Crain Highway), just south of the intersection with MD 214 (Central Avenue). The meetings begin at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org) or call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

### **Upcoming City Holiday – Presidents’ Day**

City offices are closed on **Monday, February 17, 2020**. There will be no refuse or recycling service on the holiday; collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day.

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

- **February 3** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Topics: Update on Environmental Initiatives, Amber Ridge (Preliminary Plan #4-19032 and Detailed Site Plan), Ethics Ordinance Update O-1-20 (Financial Disclosure-Elected Officials and Candidates to be Elected Officials)
- **February 18** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Topics: Mid-Year Budget Report, Police Department Update (*Please note this meeting is on a Tuesday, due to the Monday holiday.*)

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program – February 8** (rescheduled from 1/18/20) 10 a.m. at City Hall. This program, sponsored by the City of Bowie Diversity Committee, 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. For more information, contact Stephanie Lopez at [slopez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:slopez@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5616.

*(This event was originally scheduled in January, but was canceled because of the threat of inclement weather. If bad weather is in the forecast for February 8, please check the City website for information about the status of the event.)*

### **Apply for the Workforce Development Program**

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

A public forum about the program is scheduled for **February 5** at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Information: [worktraining@cityofbowie.org](mailto:worktraining@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3009. Apply online through February 14 at [www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining](http://www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining).

### **National Anthem and Voice of Bowie Auditions – February 29**

The City will hold open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, Fourth of July, and the International Festival. Auditions for the National Anthem will be held in the TV Studio at the Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive) on **Saturday, February 29**, beginning at 9 a.m. Participants must be prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella before a judging panel. Auditions for the *Voice of Bowie* will follow, beginning at approximately 11 a.m. Candidates will be asked to read from a prepared script for a judging panel. The chosen performer(s) will be invited to perform at various City-sponsored special events. For information or to schedule an audition, contact Special Events Manager Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

### **Important Message from Chief Nesky on Thefts from Autos**

Police Chief John Nesky shares an important message for Bowie residents about the theft from auto crimes that have been occurring in our community. View his video message at this [YouTube link \(youtu.be/qJ4xaAezCWw\)](https://youtu.be/qJ4xaAezCWw).

### **Make Sure Bowie Counts!**

The Census is coming this spring. The 2020 Census will be the first one to be completed electronically or by telephone. You should start receiving information about the Census by mail in the next few weeks and around March 12<sup>th</sup> the website will be available to complete your census online. This 10-year census helps to determine funding levels for schools, transportation, and a variety of other programs. Getting a complete count is critically important to making sure that Bowie gets its share of funding.

Learn more at the upcoming census at [www.pgcensus2020.org](http://www.pgcensus2020.org). If you would like to volunteer to help make sure that Bowie gets completely counted, please email [publicinfo@cityofbowie.org](mailto:publicinfo@cityofbowie.org) or call 301-809-3032.

**Report Streetlight Outages**

Help us to keep the lights on Bowie. Please report street light outages or other problems with streetlights to our Public Works Department. We depend on the public to let us know when there is a problem with a streetlight. Please do not assume that the problem has been reported.

You can report an outage by contacting Dawn Cullins at 301-809-2336 or [dcullins@cityofbowie.org](mailto:dcullins@cityofbowie.org) or visit our service request system to report the problem ([www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest](http://www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest)).

**Bowie Ice Arena Events**

Public skating sessions are offered daily. During February, you can skate for \$2 at special sessions on Tuesdays between 4 and 5 p.m. View the complete Ice Arena calendar at [www.cityofbowie.org/icearena](http://www.cityofbowie.org/icearena) or call 301-809-3090 for information.

**Green Citizen Award**

The City presents an annual Green Citizen Award to one citizen with outstanding practices in sustainability and community outreach. The awardee is presented each spring at the Bowie Green Expo (April 18, 2020). The panel reviewing nominations consists of members of the Bowie Green Team and Environmental Advisory Committee.

Nominate someone who does outstanding environmental work in the community to be Bowie's Green Citizen. Nominations accepted through **March 1, 2020**. For more information, please contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or [aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org](mailto:aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org).

**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. They should be 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, the vehicle should be immediately moved back onto the street. For information, contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or [dmichelle@cityofbowie.org](mailto: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, which can be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver](http://www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver). For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or [dmichelle@cityofbowie.org](mailto: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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank) or call 301-809-3033.

### Put Trash in its Place

Help keep Bowie looking good by properly disposing of trash. Here's a few suggestions to prevent litter:

- Put your trash out for pickup in trash cans with lids to prevent birds and other animals from getting into it.
- Clear debris from storm drains near your home to keep the water flowing and prevent trash from getting into waterways.
- Make sure there is no trash in the bed of your truck that can fly away as you drive.
- Take advantage of Bowie's collection services: twice a week trash pickup, yard waste collection on Wednesdays, and special pickup service on Wednesday (by request) for metal items and tires.

### Remaining 2020 City Holidays

- 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

### 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.

The Bowie Gymnasium will host two **basketball camps** this summer for boys and girls, ages 8 - 14. They will take place the weeks of June 22 – 26 and July 13 – 17. Registration begins soon. For more information, contact Mike Lonergan at 301-809-2383 or email [mlonergan@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mlonergan@cityofbowie.org).

### **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](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org). Nomination forms are available at [www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms](http://www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms). Nominations must be received at City Hall by 5 p.m. on **March 9, 2020**.

### **Attention Employers and Job Seekers- the Young Adult Job Fair is March 21**

Registration is open for the fourth annual Young Adult Job Fair. The event will take place at the City Gymnasium on **Saturday, March 21**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. More than 30 employers and 300 young adults participated in the 2019 fair. The overwhelming majority of last year’s attendees connected with a potential employer. Tables are free, but space is limited. Interested employers should visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair) to register.

A free Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshop will be held at Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive) on **Thursday, March 12**, 6 to 8 p.m. The workshop is free and open to all young adults. Space is limited and registration is required. To complete your registration, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair). For more information, please call Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033 or email [rsimon@cityofbowie.org](mailto:rsimon@cityofbowie.org).

### **Student Scholarships**

The City Council believes it is important to recognize and help students where they can. There are two City scholarship programs:

- **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 Bowie addresses are now available. For information about either scholarship program, please contact Lori Cunningham at [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601.

### **Code Corner – Door to Door Sales Permit**

Did you know that anyone who goes house-to-house selling merchandise or services, offering free estimates or leaving informational flyers, must have a City of Bowie solicitors permit? The only exceptions are nonprofit groups and candidates for elective office. If a solicitor cannot present a City issued photo ID permit, we ask that you refrain from doing business with them. If you think an individual or company is in violation of

this requirement, please ask the solicitor for a brochure or business card and report the information to Bowie Code Compliance at [dmichelle@cityofbowie.org](mailto:dmichelle@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3008.

### **Dogs Roaming Free**

Bowie Animal Control often responds to complaints regarding dogs running at large without supervision. It is important to understand the reasons dogs escape confinement. Often, these dogs have escaped because they have been kept in yards for extended periods without any human interaction and they have become bored. Easy access to freedom, loud noises, separation anxiety, lack of obedience training, and exposure to other animals, are additional factors influencing escape. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Animal Control at 301-809-3002.

### **Water Color**

*Water Color* is the current exhibit at the City Hall Art Gallery. The show runs through **February 21**. Next up, **Youth Art Show** featuring the work of students from schools in the City of Bowie, February – April 2020. The Gallery is free and open to the public during City Hall hours. For more information, please contact Lori Cunningham at [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto: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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs) for more information or to apply.

### **The Bowie Police Offers Security Surveys for Residences and Businesses**

Protect your home or business now by contacting the Bowie Police Department to schedule a security inspection with a certified officer today. Call 240-544-5792 or email [cops@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cops@cityofbowie.org).

## **Events**

**2/3 City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Topics: Update on Environmental Initiatives, Amber Ridge (Preliminary Plan #4-19032 and Detailed Site Plan), Ethics Ordinance Update O-1-20 (Financial Disclosure-Elected Officials and Candidates to be Elected Officials).

**2/4 Violin Performance: Alexander Strachan** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/4 Two Dollar Tuesday Skate** 4 - 5 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Skate rental and admission for \$2.

**2/5 Workforce Development Program Public Forum** 6 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining](http://www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining) or contact program officials at [worktraining@cityofbowie.org](mailto:worktraining@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3009.

**2/6 Public Meeting - Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing** 6 - 8 p.m. at City Hall. Prince George's County and the City of Bowie are conducting an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. This process is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and includes a market analysis, community input, and policy analysis to identify barriers and impediments that restrict a person's housing choice.

**2/7 - 2/22 You're A Good Man Charlie Brown** weekends at Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-832-4819 or [www.2ndstarproductions.com](http://www.2ndstarproductions.com)

**2/8 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program** 10 a.m. at City Hall. For more information, contact Stephanie Lopez at [slopez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:slopez@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5616.

**2/11 Fairy Tale Fun** 10 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 2 - 8, with adult. Stories, snack and a craft. Free. For more information, contact [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3089.

**2/11 Two Dollar Tuesday Skate** 4 - 5 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Skate rental and admission for \$2.

**2/11 DAR Lecture Series** 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Join Susan Proctor, Bowie Historic Properties Manager, on a tour of the Mansion. Free. For more information, contact [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3089.

**2/12 Ebony Images in Film Trivia Game** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/13 Mayor & City Council Listening Session #3** 7 p.m. at Huntington Community Center, 13022 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

**2/14 Friendship Day – Charles Sullivan Presents Aretha Franklin: Memories of the Queen of Soul** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/14 Sweetheart Skate** at the Bowie Ice Arena 9 - 10:30 p.m.

**2/15 African American Memories in Song** 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Presented by Prince George's County artist and educator, James Dorsey. Free. For more information, contact [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3089.

**2/15 - 2/16 Valentine Figure Skating Competition** at Bowie Ice Arena. Admission is free for those who would like to watch the competition. Due to the Valentine Figure

Skating Competition, there will be no public skating sessions that weekend. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/icearena](http://www.cityofbowie.org/icearena).

**2/17 Presidents' Day Holiday** City offices are closed. There will be no refuse or recycling collection; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

**2/18 Two Dollar Tuesday Skate** 4 - 5 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Skate rental and admission for \$2.

**2/18 City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall. Topics: Mid-Year Budget Report, Police Department Update.

**2/20 A Glimpse of African History** 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/22 Try Hockey for Free** at Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/icearena](http://www.cityofbowie.org/icearena).

**2/25 Dorsey Gospel Choir** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/25 Two Dollar Tuesday Skate** 4 - 5 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Skate rental and admission for \$2.

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

**2/27 Black History Month Bingo** 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**2/29 National Anthem and Voice of Bowie Auditions** 9 a.m. for the National Anthem and 11 a.m. for *Voice of Bowie* at Kenhill Center. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).