Holiday Tree Lighting

The City invites you to join in celebrating the season at the in-person Holiday Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 5, beginning at 7 p.m. at Veterans Park (12700 9th Street) in Old Town Bowie. Bundle up for the outdoor “carol sing-along” and watch for the arrival of Santa.

For more information, contact 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org, or visit www.cityofbowie.org/holidayhappenings.

Holiday House Decorating Contest

Do you spend hours putting up lights and other displays outdoors for the holidays? Then enter the City’s Holiday House Decorating Contest!

Entry deadline is December 6, at 5 p.m. Judging will take place on December 8, 6 - 8 p.m., so be sure to have your lights on at that time. Homes must be within the Bowie municipal limits.

For the entry application and more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/holidayhappenings or contact mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Santa Calling

Do you have a child 8 years or younger that would like a call from Santa? If so, complete an online request for Santa or Mrs. Claus to call your child on December 24, between 5:45 and 9 p.m. Register by 5 p.m. on December 17 at www.cityofbowie.org/holidayhappenings.

Virtual Breakfast with Santa

On Saturday, December 18, at 9 a.m., watch Santa’s broadcast on FIOS 10, Xfinity 71 or 996, at www.cityofbowie.org/viewevents or YouTube @CityofBowieMD. Have breakfast at home and enjoy Santa’s reading of ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas, then join in creating holiday crafts (pick up free craft kits at City Hall before 12/18, during regular business hours).

After the broadcast, the Breakfast with Santa video will remain available for viewing on the City’s website and on YouTube.

For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/holidayhappenings.

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Winter City Holidays

Christmas - Friday, December 24, 2021
New Year’s - Friday, December 31, 2021

City offices are closed on the dates listed above. There is no trash or recycling (*see exception below) service on these dates; service will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

*There will be recycling service on New Year’s Day for the neighborhoods on the regular Friday recycling schedule.

Donate to Toys for Tots

The Bowie Police Department is accepting new unwrapped toys for this year’s Toys for Tots collection. Donations will be accepted until December 10, in the drop-off boxes at the following Bowie locations: City Hall, Police Department, Gymnasium, Senior Center, Ice Arena and Kenhill Center.

Shop with a Cop

Accepting Donations

Looking for a way to give back this season? Shop with a Cop offers families in need some holiday joy. This is a nationally recognized program that helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. Through donations received, children receive a day filled with holiday fun.

Donate by December 10 and help ensure every child in Bowie has a holiday to remember. Donations may be directed to: City of Bowie, Shop with a Cop, 15901 Fred Robinson Way, Bowie, MD 20716. Make checks payable to the “City of Bowie”. Your donation may be tax deductible.

For information, contact the Bowie Police Community Service Unit at cops@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5792, or visit www.cityofbowie.org/police.

COVID-19 NEWS

• To keep up with the latest news about COVID, please sign up for Alert Bowie at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts. Daily COVID updates are published each weekday afternoon.

• Need a COVID-19 Vaccination? Visit www.covidvax.maryland.gov or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829) for vaccination locations. Visit mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine for more information about County vaccination clinics.

• Visit coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing for a list of all COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland. You may also call the Prince George’s County Health Department testing line for information about County testing locations at 301-883-6627 or visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus.

• If you are a City of Bowie senior or disabled person in need of assistance, fill out the NHN Senior or Disabled Application at www.cityofbowie.org/nhn. If you would like to volunteer to help seniors or disabled residents, complete the NHN Volunteer Application on the same page. For more information, contact Lori Cunningham at 301-832-7451 or lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

• Homebound residents who need COVID vaccinations can call County Click 3-1-1 for assistance.
City Council Meeting to Note

- **December 6**, 8 p.m.
  Agenda: Budget Guidance for FY 2023; Special Exception #4842, Assembly Classic Center Banquet Hall; Appeal of Bowie Advisory Planning Board Resolution BV-2-21; Adoption of Ordinance O-7-21 Amending the FY 2022 Adopted Budget

Meetings are in-person and open to the public. Also view them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings, on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996 or Youtube @CityofBowieMD.

Those wishing to submit written testimony may do so by emailing cityclerk@cityofbowie.org. (It will not be read during the meeting, but will be included as part of the record.) Testimony must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

For information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.

City Committee Vacancies Available

Learn more about City government, share your talents with the Bowie community, and meet others with similar interests by serving on a City committee. See the vacancy list below and find out more at www.cityofbowie.org/committees.

Current vacancies include the following committees: Advisory Planning Board, Arts, Board of Elections, Community Outreach, Community Recreation, Diversity, Education, Environmental Advisory, Financial Advisory, Green Team and Information Technology.

For more information, contact cityclerk@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Melford Village Stakeholders Meeting December 7

St. John Properties, Inc. has filed a request for a revision to the Detailed Site Plan for the Melford Village townhome architecture proposed by Mid-Atlantic Builders. The application includes proposed architecture and parking schedules for 249 residential townhome units, as well as the design and details of two recreational areas.

The City will hold an in-person Stakeholders Meeting concerning the requested revision on Tuesday, **December 7** at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Bowie City Hall. Public participation is encouraged at the meeting.

The meeting will be taped and available on Youtube @CityofBowieMD for later viewing. For more information, please contact 301-809-3045 or jmeinert@cityofbowie.org.

City Museums

301-809-3089  
www.cityofbowie.org/museums  
sproctor@cityofbowie.org

Overnight Express

11/28 - 12/12, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m., at Bowie Railroad Museum. Mail a letter to Santa via the North Pole mailbox located in the caboose. Free

Holiday Open House

12/5, 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Welcome the festive season and enjoy the Mansion in its holiday finery. Musical group “Bedlam” performs holiday favorites at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Free

Magic Elf Hunt

12/5 - 12/18, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m., at Belair Mansion. Elves have been spotted at the Mansion. Santa needs them at the North Pole. Visit the Mansion, pick up an Elf Spotting Kit, and find the elves! For ages 3 - 8, with adult. Space is limited. Free

Kids Kaboose Holiday Style

12/10, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Ages 3 - 8, with adult. Space is limited. Free

Very Merry Fairy Tale Fun

12/29, 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Read a story and enjoy a craft. Ages 3 - 8, with adult. Free

Bowie City Gym

4100 Northview Drive  
301-809-2388  
www.cityofbowie.org/gym

- **Walking** Monday - Friday, 9 - 10 a.m.
- **Pickleball** Monday - Friday, 10:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive
301-809-2300
www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Active Adults 55+

Offerings:
Activities, Events and Classes, Information & Referral Services, and Transportation by Appointment

- Medicare & You, Selecting the Best Plan
  12/1, Call for appointment

- Holiday Party
  12/15, 12:30 p.m. DJ music and games. Preregister,
  $5/resident, $6/nonresident

- Bowie Senior Chorale Online Concert
  12/22, 7 p.m.

- “Noon” Year’s Party
  12/30, 12:30 p.m. DJ music and noise makers. Preregister,
  $5/resident, $6/nonresident

Leaf Collection Continues
The City of Bowie Curbside Vacuum Leaf Collection Program continues through December 17. Neighborhoods are scheduled during a specific week and not on a specific date. View the 2021 schedule at www.cityofbowie.org/leaves.

Leaves should be raked to the curb by 7 a.m. on Monday of your scheduled week. Do not rake or blow leaves into the street. Leaves should be in piles on the grass next to the curb. Additionally, if you have a storm drain close to your house please keep the storm drain and curb clear of leaves to prevent them from blocking water flow and flooding the roadways. Call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344 if you have questions about the Curbside Leaf Collection Program.

Please note: If you prefer to bag your leaves, they will be picked up on Wednesdays with yard waste. Use paper yard waste bags (no plastic bags).

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, therefore once the snow has been cleared, immediately move your vehicle back onto the street.

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 codecompliance@cityofbowie.org.

Learn more about the City’s snowplowing operations at www.cityofbowie.org/snow.

Winter Open Gallery at City Hall
The City of Bowie Arts Committee invites you to view the current art exhibit, Winter Open Gallery. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.
- 5 p.m. The gallery features art from multiple mediums.

Please visit the gallery and view the work of eight local artists: Jing-Jy Chen, Mencie Hairston, Kimmery MacLean, Delia Mychajluk, Angie Oneal, Paul Sammak, Antionette Simmons Hodges and Doris Voss Dasenbrock.

**Bowie Public Art**

The City of Bowie intends to replace its iconic “living” sign at the intersection of Route 197 and Kenhill Drive, the “Bowie” bushes. The existing yew shrubs will be removed; shrubs cannot be replanted in the space due to disease.

The City invited artist teams to respond to a Request for Proposals for the design and installation of new signage for this location. The design should incorporate sustainable materials and may have a landscape design to accent the word “Bowie”. The process includes community engagement in order to assist the artists in curating a design that reflects the interests of the community.

To participate in this public art design process, please complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PublicArtSign. For more information, contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 301-832-7451.

**Mental Health Matters**

Mental health concerns have been prevalent in our community as pressures on kids, teens and parents have increased. According to the Center for Disease Control, more than 40% of respondents in a recent study reported mental health symptoms related to the current pandemic. Teens and young adults, in particular, were found to be at increased risk.

Here are some signs of stress that may indicate a need for help: changes in mood, lack of interest in once-loved activities, changes in friendships, changes in eating and sleep patterns, less attention to personal hygiene, and alcohol or other drug abuse.

Please know that you are not alone. If you are concerned for yourself or a loved one, affordable and confidential help is available:

- City of Bowie Youth and Family Services, 1-513-817-3158
- Prince George’s County Hotline, 301-864-7161
- Suicide Prevention Hotline, 1-800-SUICIDE
- Prince George’s County Crisis Response Hotline, 301-429-2185

BYFS is also available to offer referrals and support by phone to all residents who are experiencing stress and who need assistance. Staff members are licensed clinicians who each hold a graduate degree in a mental health specialty and who have years of training and experience in treating individuals and families.

Call 1-513-817-3158 for assistance, or to arrange for an appointment. For information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/youthservices.

**Become a Teen Mentor**

When you volunteer to mentor a middle or high school student, you will spend one hour a week building a positive relationship that has the potential to change the course of a teen’s school experience, their life, and your community! Find more information and apply online at www.cityofbowie.org/mentor.

**StoryWalk Trail**

Visit Bowie’s StoryWalk® trail located at the Blacksox Tot Lot off of Mt. Oak Road at Aloha Lane. It provides a great opportunity to read a book while taking a walk outdoors as laminated pages from children’s books are posted along an outdoor path. The book currently featured is “Peanut Butter & Cupcake” by Terry Border. For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/storywalk or call 301-809-2397.
Looking for a Few Good Officers

Help the Bowie Police Department recruit the best and brightest and you could get $500! The department has launched a new referral program that gives $500 to community members who refer a candidate that is hired by the department. The program is a win-win for everyone. Community members help determine who they would like to see as Bowie Police Officers, they get $500 for their efforts, and the City hopefully gets solid candidates with community connections to help keep Bowie safe. Visit the Police Department’s employment webpage for more information.

Don’t Make it Easy for Criminals

The Bowie Police Department is seeing an increase in thefts from autos and in the number of vehicles being stolen. Please make sure that you are not making your car an easy target for criminals.

- Stay with your car while it warms up.
- Remove valuables from the car.
- Make sure you have your keys or key fob when you get out of your car.
- Lock it and then pull the handle to double check that it is really locked.

(Remember -- if you leave a key fob in the car, it won’t lock AND if your key fob is inside but still close to your vehicle, it may prevent the lock from engaging.)

Bowie Police Host Virtual Town Halls

The Bowie Police Department will host a virtual Town Hall for residents of each City of Bowie District to discuss crime trends and share information on patrols, crime prevention, protecting property, and how to contact the department. There will also be a Q & A session where residents can ask specific questions. Meetings for each district have been scheduled, beginning with District 4 on November 29.

Future meetings include: District 2 on December 9; District 3 on December 13; and District 1 on December 16.

All Town Hall meetings begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/police or contact 240-544-5700.

Emergency Assistance for Renters

According to recent data for the region, of those renters who are behind on rent, 24% are waiting to receive pandemic emergency assistance funds, 10% were denied, and the vast majority, more than 60%, did not apply at all.

If you can’t make your rent due to the effects of the pandemic, be sure to explore all your options for assistance.

Call the Prince George’s County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Hotline at 301-883-6504, Monday thru Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Press #9 to access ERAP and get answers to questions regarding the status of an application; schedule appointments with Field Intake Representatives; and get assistance with completing the ERAP application.

Learn more and apply
Maryland to Launch Homeowner Assistance Fund

The Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (MD-DHCD) will launch the Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund in late 2021. The fund will be open to homeowners statewide.

Visit the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund webpage to learn more about the program and the eligibility requirements. Complete an Expression of Interest Form and be added to the MD-DHCD’s email list if having trouble paying your mortgage. Getting help early is important. Contact a housing counselor today to discuss your circumstances and learn about the options available to you.

Food Programs

There are a variety of programs underway in Bowie and in the surrounding community to help make sure that no one goes hungry during these uncertain times. If you need food or know someone who is experiencing food insecurity, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/food.

Trash Can Storage Update

Reminder: Along with the requirement to “bag and can” household waste that will attract animals, the City Code now requires trash and recycling containers to be stored in one of these ways:

- In an enclosed structure like a garage or shed.
- Behind the house or an opaque screen.
- On the side of the house at least 10 feet back from the front corner of the house.

Return receptacles and containers to their proper storage location by 10 p.m. the day of collection.

For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/curbsidecollections.

Christmas Trees

Trees will be collected every Wednesday in January with yard waste. All decorations must be removed and the tree placed at the curb by 7 a.m. Do not place trees in a plastic bag.

Homeowners Association Leaders

The City of Bowie will host a future meeting for leaders of homeowners associations located within the incorporated City limits. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the needs of associations and how associations can best collaborate with the City.

The meeting is open to the president or vice president of each association. An officer of each HOA or civic association is asked to please complete the following survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/HOA. The survey may also be requested via email. For more information, please contact Lori Cunningham at 301-832-7451 or lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Golf Course is Open

The Bowie Golf Course has reopened under new management. For information or to reserve a tee time, email info@golfbowie.com, call 301-262-8141, or visit the new website at www.golfbowie.com.
December

Wednesday, December 1
Medicare & You, Selecting the Best Plan - Senior Center
Call 301-809-2300 for appointment.

Friday, December 3
Overnight Express
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. thru 12/5, Bowie Railroad Museum

Sunday, December 5
Holiday Open House
12 - 4 p.m., Belair Mansion
Magic Elf Hunt
12 - 4 p.m., Belair Mansion

Monday, December 6
Holiday House Decorating Contest
Entry deadline
City Council Meeting
8 p.m., Bowie City Hall

Tuesday, December 7
Melford Village Stakeholders Meeting
7 p.m., Bowie City Hall

Thursday, December 9
Series 2 Group Skating Lessons Begin
Save $10 if registered by 12/6.

District 2 Bowie Police Virtual Town Hall
7 p.m., 240-544-5700

Friday, December 10
Kids Kaboose Holiday Style
10:30 a.m., Railroad Museum

Overnight Express
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. thru 12/12, Bowie Railroad Museum

Magic Elf Hunt
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. thru 12/12, Belair Mansion

Toys for Tots donation deadline
Shop with a Cop Donation deadline
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, December 13
District 3 Bowie Police Virtual Town Hall
7 p.m., 240-544-5700

Wednesday, December 15
Holiday Party
12:30 p.m., Bowie Senior Center
Preregister, $5/resident, $6/nonresident

Thursday, December 16
District 1 Bowie Police Virtual Town Hall
7 p.m., 240-544-5700

Friday, December 17
Magic Elf Hunt
Friday & Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m. thru 12/18, Belair Mansion

Saturday, December 18
Virtual Breakfast with Santa
9 a.m.

Wednesday, December 22
Bowie Senior Chorale Online Concert, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 24
Christmas - City Holiday
City offices are closed. There is no refuse or recycling service on this date. Service will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.
Santa Calling
5:45 - 9 p.m. (Register by 12/17)

Monday, December 27
MLK Art Contest entry deadline

Wednesday, December 29
Very Merry Fairy Tale Fun
10 a.m., Belair Mansion

Thursday, December 30
“Noon” Year’s Party
12:30 p.m., Bowie Senior Center
Preregister, $5/resident, $6/nonresident

Friday, December 31
New Year’s - City Holiday
City offices are closed. There is no refuse service on this date; this service will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

There will be recycling service on New Year’s Day for the neighborhoods on the regular Friday recycling schedule.
City Rebate Programs

The City of Bowie offers three rebate programs for residents. Visit our website, www.cityofbowie.org/rebates, to learn about security camera rebates offered by the Police Department to residents who install a security camera at their home. Lawn mower rebates are offered to residents who purchase electric or mulching mowers, and water filter system rebates are available to residents who purchase a water filtering system for their home.

- **Security Camera Rebate** - $50 (administered by the Police Department)
- **Lawn Mower Rebate** - $50 (administered by the Finance Department)
- **Water Filter System Rebate** - $50 (jointly administered by the Public Works Department and Finance Department)

More Than a Dream!

The City of Bowie Diversity Committee is sponsoring the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest for Bowie students.

The theme for the 2022 contest is “More Than a Dream!”. This theme is intended to encourage students to reflect upon Dr. King’s life, philosophy, and impact on the civil rights movement and present day America.

The deadline to submit entries is December 27, at 5 p.m.

For all the details, please visit the Art Contest website at www.cityofbowie.org/mlk

For more information, contact Lori Cunningham at 301-832-7451 or lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.