

BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, December 15, 2022

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Bowie News

Applications Sought for Two Vacancies on City Council

When 2023 begins, the City Council will have only five members representing residents and making decisions about Bowie. Two members resigned this month after being elected to other offices. Ingrid Harrison is now serving on the Prince George’s County Council and Adrian Boafo will be taking his seat in the Maryland House of Delegates in early January.

To bring the Council back to its full complement of seven members, the Charter requires the remaining councilmembers to appoint individuals to the two open seats. If you have ever considered being more involved in local decision making or aspired to hold City office, this may be a great opportunity to serve your community.

Applications for the open seats of At-Large Councilmember and District 3 Councilmember will be accepted until December 30, 2022. Then, in January, each of the applicants will be interviewed by the Council and selections will be made to fill the vacancies. Those chosen will serve until the next City election in November 2023 and will be involved in reviewing and adopting the FY 2024 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program for the City of Bowie.

There are two vacancies:

- At-Large Councilmember, representing all residents of Bowie
- District 3 Councilmember, representing the residents of [District 3](#)

Qualifications for applicants are as follows:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must have resided in the City of Bowie at least one year
- Must be a qualified voter in the City of Bowie
- For District 3 Councilmember vacancy, applicants must currently reside in District 3

Councilmembers are expected to attend two monthly Council meetings, represent their constituents, and they are responsible for adopting the annual budget, providing strategic leadership, and making policy decisions about how city government operates. Day-to-day operations of city government are handled by the City Manager.

Interested in applying? Please send a letter of interest and resume to Awilda Hernandez, City Clerk, Bowie City Hall, 15901 Fred Robinson Way, Bowie, MD 20716. For additional information, please call 301-809-3029 or email ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.



Video Link - www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8i2Oukt6fM

Race Track Use Survey Deadline is Approaching

In late 2023, ownership of the Bowie Race Track property will transfer to the City of Bowie. The intent, which is spelled out in state law, is that the property be used for recreational purposes that will benefit the local community and Bowie State University. The Bowie Race Track Task Force has been gathering input from the community about what those recreational amenities and services might be. To date, more than 2,100 individuals have completed the recreation survey.

If you have not yet provided input on future recreational uses for the Bowie Race Track property, please complete the short [survey](#) now. The survey will close on **December 20, 2022**. Visit the [Bowie Race Track property page](#) for more information about the property and the Task Force.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and raise awareness about his accomplishments, the City of Bowie Diversity Committee is sponsoring an annual art contest for Bowie students. Students, in grades K-12, are encouraged to help celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by using a visual medium to express Dr. King's ideas and beliefs. The integration of art and history not only helps students apply and retain their knowledge of history, but also offers an opportunity for success to all students of different learning styles.

Students will compete by grade level: Elementary (K-2 and 3-5), Middle (6-8) and High School (9-12). Students in grades K-2 may complete the coloring sheet found on the contest webpage and grades 3-12 may enter one of two contest categories. [Contest Flyer](#)

The theme for the 2023 contest is “From Dream to Reality”. This theme encourages students to reflect upon Dr. King’s life, philosophy, and impact on the Civil Rights movement and present-day America. The contest is intended to teach students about Dr. King’s legacy. All entries must embody the theme.

Students may submit entries via the [Grades K-2 Entry Form](#) or [Grades 3-12 Entry Form](#). The deadline to submit is **December 28, 2022** at 5 p.m. Finalists will be invited to take part in a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Bowie City Hall.

For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/mlk or contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 301-832-7451.

“The Sound of Music” at Bowie Playhouse

Haven’t had a chance to catch “The Sound of Music” at the Bowie Playhouse? This is the final weekend to get take in the classics that you know and love. This weekend’s performances are on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are sold out, but limited walk-up tickets are available for these final 2 performances. Confirm availability and purchase your tickets at www.2ndstarproductions.org.

Winter Preparedness

Winter is here! Although it’s the most wonderful time of the year, this season comes with its own risks and hazards that we should all be prepared for.

- **Vehicles:** Prepare your home and car by having emergency supply kits. These kits should include jumper cables, a flashlight (with extra batteries), warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable foods.
- **Warming Centers:** In the event of a power outage or heat loss, Prince George’s County or the City of Bowie may open a warming center here. Visit www.cityofbowie.org and www.princegeorgescountymd.gov for details.
- **Generators:** If you own a generator, ensure that you are aware of how to use it properly and safely by having it outside of your house and having up to date carbon monoxide alarms within the home.
- **Stay Safe Outdoors:** Know the [signs of hypothermia and frostbite](#) and how to treat them in case of an emergency. If you must go outside, do not overexert yourself and wear multiple layers of warm clothing.
- **Keep Informed:** Follow your local news stations, the National Weather Service, and be sure to sign up for [Alert Bowie](#) to be aware of any winter storm warnings, watches or weather advisories in our area and get the latest news on what’s happening in Bowie.

For additional information regarding winter weather safety and preparedness, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather. In the event of a winter weather storm, Bowie specific news and information will be posted to the city website, on our social media accounts, on Bowie Government TV, and will be sent out via Alert Bowie and shared with local news channels.

Stay Safe this Season

In addition to the flu and other respiratory illnesses that have spread throughout the late fall, COVID-19 cases are up in Maryland. The COVID-19 positivity rate has increased to 11.98% statewide and is over 13% in Prince George's County. Additional daily case increases have risen to over 1,000 for the last 7 days while hospitalizations continue to remain elevated but stable, with an average of 500 currently hospitalized with COVID-19 in the state over the past few weeks.

CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, advised recently that with the spread of [COVID-19, RSV and seasonal flu](#), and taking into account lagging vaccination rates, masking up is one of the best ways Americans can protect themselves, "One need not wait on CDC action in order to put a mask on." You can protect your family and yourself this season by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, washing your hands and staying home when sick. To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, go to coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine or contact your primary care physician.

COVID-19 Test Kits Available by Mail

Today, the federal government announced that due to the expected uptick in cases related to holiday gatherings, every household in the US is eligible to have another four free COVID tests mailed to their home. Visit COVIDTests.gov to order yours.

Vaccines for Children

On December 9, the CDC expanded the use of updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months to 5 years following the latest FDA approval. Children ages 6 months to 5 years who previously completed a Moderna primary series are now eligible to receive its bivalent booster 2 months after their final primary series dose. Children ages 6 months - 4 years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose.

Hospitalizations Increasing for Older Adults

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is reporting that Coronavirus-related hospital admissions are climbing again in the US, with older adults representing a growing share of U.S. deaths and less than half of nursing home residents up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. According to the latest *CDC Data Tracker*, hospitalizations for people with COVID-19 rose by more than 30% in two weeks, much of it driven by older people and those with existing health problems.

Information on Bird Flu

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has confirmed cases of bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza) in samples taken from black vultures initially found sick and dead in Western Maryland and at poultry farms there. Since the initial detection, more than 100 black vultures have died from the disease.

H5N1 is a virus which can infect poultry such as chickens, turkeys, and wild birds - especially ducks, geese, and vultures. As scavengers, vultures may feed on dead wildlife, including other wild birds. If they ingest the virus, they can get sick and die. It is believed the vultures contracted the virus from

eating infected migratory bird species. Because black vultures are known to fly long distances, they may be spreading the disease to other parts of the state and transmitting the virus to other birds.

It is important to note that the H5N1 virus has not shown an ability to infect and be transmitted between humans. Avian influenza does not affect poultry meat or egg products, which remain safe to eat and handle. Properly cooking poultry and eggs to 165° F kills bacteria and viruses that might be present, including High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses.

Residents should follow these steps to help manage wildlife and assist local animal agencies track strains of avian influenza in local wild birds:

- **Reduce food sources.** Most wildlife diseases are transferred from animal to animal. Because of their close contact, animals crowding at feeding sites can readily exchange diseases. Please do not attract geese and ducks to gather by offering them food in our parks or at home.
- **Secure your garbage.** Store garbage in hard plastic trash bins with lids.
- **If you see sick or dead wild birds,** do not handle or move them. Report any sick wild birds to Bowie Animal Control at animalcontrol@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3002. Office hours are on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For more information on avian influenza, visit mda.maryland.gov/avianflu.

Holiday Happenings

It has been a busy month of holiday celebrations in Bowie. There are a still a few events left to enjoy:

Magic Elf Hunt at Belair Mansion

December 17, 12 – 4 p.m. Free, no reservations needed



Video Link - www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJ6l17EAK1I

Visit our Reindeer Training Station on December 18

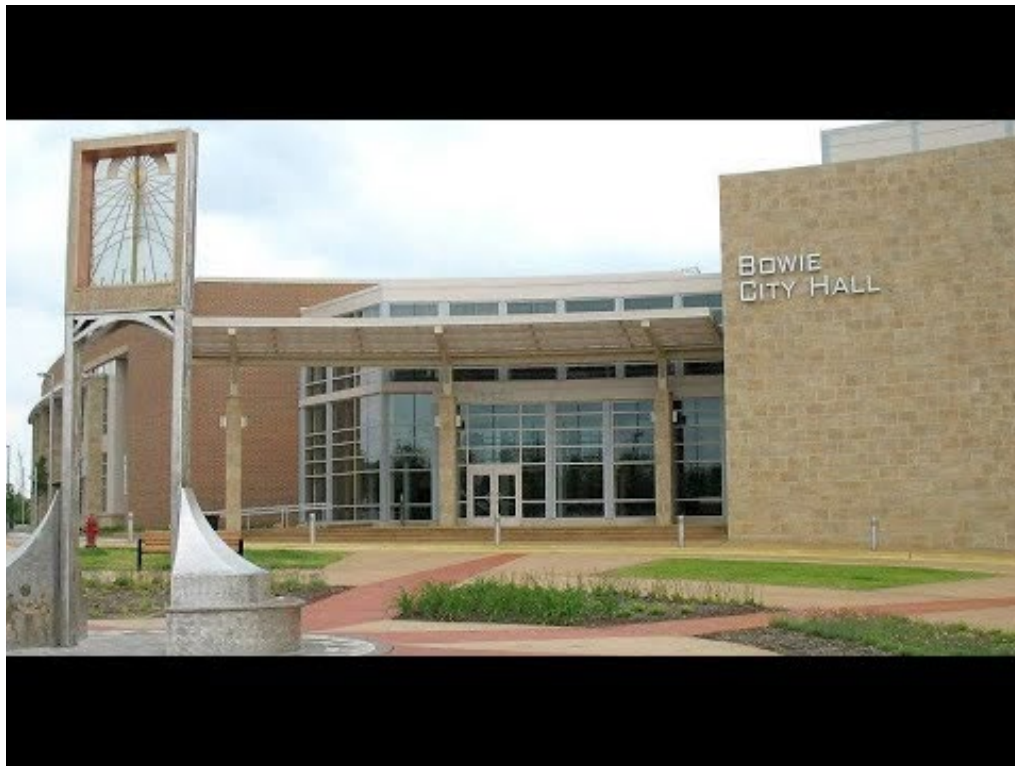
Did you know there is a Reindeer Training Station at Belair Stable? Learn what it takes to be a North Pole reindeer. Free. No reservations needed. 12 – 4 p.m.

House Decorating Contest

Thanks to all who participated in this year’s Holiday House Decorating Contest. Winners will be honored at a reception on December 19 and the list will be posted to our website on December 20.

We’re Proud to Recognize Employees for Years of Service

Recently, several City of Bowie employees were honored for their "milestone" work anniversaries. They included Traci Maydag, who works in the Finance Department for 35 years and Phillip Smart who works at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Kudos to all of our employees for their dedicated service and especially to those featured in this video:



Video link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-1B8L-Aue0

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for several positions listed below. Full time employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life and long-term care insurance, a 401(k) with employer match, and a 457 savings plan. They also have paid holidays and earn leave. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for links to job postings.

Open until filled

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) – Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) – Police Department
- [Solid Waste Collector](#) – Public Works, Solid Waste Division
- [Solid Waste Collector/Driver](#) - Public Works, Solid Waste Division
- [Part time Bus Driver](#) – Community Services
- [Part time Contracts/Permits Specialist](#) – Public Works Department
- [Part time Ice Arena Attendant](#) – Community Services

Visit <http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs> for details or to apply.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, December 16

- [Final Day for Curbside Leaf Collection](#) | 5 p.m.
- [Magic Elf Hunt at Belair Mansion](#) | 12 - 4 p.m.
- [Senior Program: Holiday Party \[SOLD OUT\]](#) 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- [Bowie Playhouse: “The Sound of Music”](#) | 8 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, December 17

- [Breakfast with Santa \[EVENT FULL\]](#) | 9 - 11 a.m.
- [Magic Elf Hunt at Belair Mansion](#) | 12 - 4 p.m.
- [Bowie Playhouse: “The Sound of Music”](#) | 8 - 10 p.m.

Sunday, December 18

- [Reindeer Training Station at Belair Stable](#) | 12 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20

- [Deadline for Bowie Race Track Property Survey](#) | 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

- **Christmas Day, all City facilities closed**

Monday, December 26

- [Christmas Holiday: City offices, museums, and Senior Center closed](#)

Wednesday, December 28

- [Submission deadline for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest](#) | 5 p.m.
- [Fairy Tale Fun](#) | 10 - 11 a.m.

Friday, December 30

- [Application deadline for City Council vacancies](#)

Sunday, January 1

- [New Year’s Day](#) – Museums closed; City Gym and Ice Arena open

Monday, January 2

- [New Year’s Day City holiday](#): City offices, Museums, and Senior Center closed

Friday, January 13

- [Kid’s Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum](#) | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 14

- [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest Program](#) | 10 - 11 a.m.

Monday, January 16

- [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday](#) City Holiday: Offices closed

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar for details about other upcoming events sponsored by the City.