

Bowie News Flash

March 2013

News

Fire Prevention

In the last year, there have been several serious fires in Bowie that have displaced residents and, in some cases, destroyed homes. County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor and the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department are working to educate the community about fire prevention and help you minimize your fire risks.

They urge you to make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home and have your heating and air conditioning units serviced regularly by professionals. They also caution you to never leave food unattended on the stove or overload electrical outlets. Find more fire prevention tips on the City website. Any County resident can call the County's Safety First Program at 301-864-SAFE (7233) to make arrangements to have a free smoke alarm installed in your home by a firefighter. You can also request a free smoke alarm on the Fire Department page of the County website (www.princegeorgescountymd.gov).

Chief Bashoor will hold a press conference on Friday, March 1 at 11 a.m. at Northview Elementary School to draw attention to this serious issue, and to announce some new *Safety First* initiatives. After the press conference, firefighters from the four Bowie Fire/EMS Stations will visit neighborhoods that have suffered a recent home fire. Safety information, smoke alarm battery checks, installations of new smoke alarms, and assistance in planning home escapes will be performed.

Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Needs Volunteers

The Bowie Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. (BVFD), is looking for new members to join its elite fire fighting and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) teams. A wide variety of emergency and non-emergency support activities are available for qualified volunteers. Minimum requirements for firefighters/EMTs include being at least 16 years old, completion of a background investigation and physical evaluation, and completion of basic training courses. For a full list of requirements and an online application, visit the [Bowie Volunteer Fire Department](#) website.

Book Lovers Expo – Call for Authors

Calling all local authors, published, self-published or independently published! Would you like to read your work, launch your book and meet avid readers? We invite you to participate in the second "Book Lovers Expo" on May 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. If

interested, contact Jenny Tringali at 301-809-2300 or jtringali@cityofbowie.org for an application. **Apply by April 1, 2013.**

Photography Exhibit at City Hall

See photographs of national and state parks in the *Parks in the US* exhibit at City Hall. Marion Shipman, a member of the Arts Committee and a professional photographer, and two other photographers from his studio are featured in this one-month exhibit that runs from March 18 through April 12. The other photographers in the exhibit are John M. Smith and Tyrone Kohlheim. The three photographers have been working together for four years on a variety of artist projects in the United States.

Community Planning and Development

The City of Bowie is an Entitlement Community with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is required to submit a five-year Consolidated Plan (FY 2014-2018) to HUD's Community Planning and Development Division. This plan must cover the use of HUD funds for eligible projects in the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). In January the City's Grants Office mailed a Community Needs Survey to 30% of the City's households. The survey was also sent to the business community, local churches, and nonprofits. The survey identified areas such as housing, community development, and non-housing development needs within the City. It required those completing it to rank the overall level of need for various types of programs and projects. This input ultimately helps guide the City's planning process to produce a plan that will benefit the Bowie community over the next five years. A series of Community Outreach meetings have also been scheduled throughout the City to gain input from Bowie residents on the creation of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan. Meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m. on the following dates: **March 12** at the Huntington Community Center, 13022 8th Street; **March 27** at Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive, and **April 11** at Cornerstone Assembly of God Church, 16010 Annapolis Road. For additional information, please contact Kimberly Williams, in the Grants Office at 301-809-3009 or kwilliams@cityofbowie.org.

Register for Summer Ice Skating Camps

Registration for summer skating camp begins **March 15**. Camps will be held during the months of July and August. Half-day camps will be offered for children ages 3 - 6, and full-day camps will be offered for children ages 6 - 13. Specialty camps will also be offered for hockey and figure skating. For a detailed listing of camp offerings, please call the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit us online at www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Scholarship Deadline Approaches

Monday, **March 18** is the deadline for students to submit applications/nominations for City-funded college Education and Arts Scholarships. Details about the scholarships are available in the Guidance Departments of high schools attended by City residents and also on the City's website.

Accepting Nominations for the Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award

Do you know a Scout or Scout Leader who performed extraordinary and distinguished community service during 2012? If so, consider nominating him or her for the Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award. The award is in honor of a man who gave his life rescuing a Scout during a camping trip in 1971. Nominations will be accepted through **March 29, 2013** for Scouts and Scout Leaders of troops within the City. Nominations can only come from Scout groups that have an affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts of the USA. Individuals interested in nominating a Scout or Scout Leader are encouraged to contact the appropriate Scout unit to make a recommendation. Nomination forms, with the guidelines, may be obtained on the City website or at City Hall. Questions may be directed to Popp Award Program Chairperson Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Sheri Beach at sbeach@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3011.

Youth Leadership Bowie

The Youth Leadership Bowie (YLB) program is a combined effort of the City of Bowie and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce (GBCC). This year-long program is designed to provide young people with experiential leadership opportunities while exposing them to career paths. Networking and relationship building are key components of this program that motivates participants to get involved in their community. The program runs from September thru May. Participants meet one day per month for a group activity and complete a community service project. Students who live in the City or attend Bowie High and will be sophomores and juniors in the fall of 2013 are invited to apply. Applications are available on the City website or the GBCC website at www.bowiechamber.org. All applications must be received at the Chamber office by 4 p.m. on Friday, **May 3, 2013**.

Events

3/1-3/9 – *It Runs in the Family* at Bowie Playhouse It's almost Christmas and Doctor David Mortimore is about to give a highly significant speech to an international group of neurologists when Nurse Tate drops back into the hospital. Having left her position a bit over 18 years before after a dalliance with the good doctor, her news today is that her child, Leslie, has turned 18 and has been told that daddy is a doctor at the hospital and is downstairs demanding to meet him. The tangled web of desperate lies designed to cover up the situation leads to a frantic, frenetic comedy that will have audiences laughing out loud with an unexpected happy ending for all. Produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Matinees are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.2ndStarProductions or call 301-832-4819.

3/4 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. There will be a public hearing and discussion at this meeting about changes to the covenants at Melford to allow residential housing. Learn more about this issue at the Melford page on the City website.

3/12 – Food in the War of 1812 Second Tuesday Lecture – 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Join author Katie Moose in a trip to explore food ways of the past. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/13 – Maryland's Civil War: Secession, Civil Liberties, Rebels, Slavery and Emancipation Second Tuesday Lecture – 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Author Charles Mitchell presents insights on Maryland during the Civil War with a memorable discussion of colorful characters, significant events, and polarizing issues from civil liberties in wartime to the potential for secession. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/15-3/30 – John Ball's in the Heat of the Night at Bowie Playhouse

John Ball's In the Heat of the Night is based on the award winning book, Oscar winning film and Emmy winning television series. In Argo, Alabama, in 1962, the murder of a white man leads to a black man's arrest - but the suspect is a homicide detective from California. Detective Tibbs becomes the racially-charged community's only hope in solving a brutal murder - with no witnesses, motives or clues. NYTheatre.com says this play is "taut and startlingly resonant... uncompromising... suspenseful, thrilling, and stunningly theatrical". Produced by Bowie Community Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.BCTheatre.com or call 301-805-0219.

3/18 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

3/19 – Kids Kaboose - 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun, trainspotting and games for youngsters ages 1-11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/19 – American Red Cross Blood Drive – 2 - 8 p.m. at the Bowie Gymnasium. For more information, contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

3/20 – Fling Into Spring with a Flash From the Past at the Senior Center – 12:30 pm. Join us as we celebrate spring and take you back to the sixties! Make a peace sign and wear a tie-dye shirt. The celebration will include a DJ and light refreshments. The cost is \$3 residents/\$4 nonresidents. Register at the front desk of the Senior Center. For more information, call 301-809-2300.

3/21 – WMATA Bus Service Public Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Bowie Senior Center. All are invited to attend a public meeting on improving bus service for the B-lines, which serve the area of the City north of Bowie Town Center. For details and to take a ridership survey, go to www.metrobus-studies.com.

3/22 – Play Bocce Ball at the Senior Center – 1 p.m. Seniors - join us as we demonstrate how to play Bocce ball, weather permitting. Play Bocce ball March 4 - April 1. The tournament begins May 1 and ends July 29, followed by playoffs. Sign up at the front desk of the Center. For more information, call 301-809-2300.

3/23 – “18th Century Ladies Day” – 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Four speakers, plus hands-on activities will explore colonial women’s history. Bring a brown bag lunch; coffee, beverages and snacks provided. The cost is \$25 per person. Reservations required. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

3/25 – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture – 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Celebrate Maryland Day with some “bytes” of Maryland history while you munch! Bring your lunch, coffee and tea provided. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Some Upcoming Events in April

4/6 – Stream Team Cleanup

4/13 – Green Expo

4/26 - Job Fair