

Bowie News Flash

May 2013

News

New 4th of July Fireworks Location

The City and the Bowie Baysox have partnered to bring a spectacular 4th of July program to Bowie. Please join us at Prince George's Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox, on July 4th for an evening celebration of America's birthday. The program begins at 7 p.m. when the Fabulous Hubcaps band takes the stage and ends with a fireworks show at 9:15 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The main gate of the stadium will open at 6 p.m. for seating. For more information, visit our website.

Youth Leadership Bowie

The Youth Leadership Bowie program is designed to provide young people with experiential leadership opportunities while exposing them to different career paths. Networking and relationship building are key components of this year-long 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. An application can be downloaded from the City website or from the GBCC website, www.bowiechamber.org. All applications must be received at the Chamber office by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2013.

Storm Drain Art Contest

Have you ever wanted to leave your artistic mark on the streets of Bowie? Well, this is your chance! The City is holding a contest to find designs to paint on a few storm drains to raise awareness of the impacts of stormwater runoff. The contest is for ages 8 and up. Details and the entry form are at www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie or can be requested from Tiffany Wright at twright@cityofbowie.org. Prizes include four tickets to a Bowie Baysox game.

Farmers' Market Opens

The Bowie Farmers' Market opens for the season on **Sunday, May 19**. Market vendors offer fresh locally grown produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants, breads, pastries, jams, jellies and more. Be sure to pick up a Farmers' Market bag with a qualifying purchase. The market operates in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road on Sundays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., through October 27, 2013. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Don't Open the Door to Strangers

Residents should be wary of a scam in which individuals impersonate utility workers, according to a recently filed police report in the Bowie area. Be suspicious of anyone who arrives at your home without an appointment asking to check an appliance, check for gas leaks, perform maintenance or suggests that there may be some electrical problem inside a residence. Typically, appointments are scheduled for these issues. If the individual claims to be a utility worker, electrician, etc., immediately ask for credential verification. Call the company and verify that the person is supposed to be at your residence. Identification should include the individual's name, picture, name of the company and company seal. If they refuse to provide identification, do not let them inside your home and call 911. If someone calls and asks you to leave your residence at a specific time for a utility-related cause, call the police. This could be a burglary set up by the caller. Please share this message with all in your household. Allowing a stranger to enter your home without proper identification may prove dangerous. For additional information, please contact Sergeant Henderson at 301-575-1824.

Springtime Tips

It's spring and the grass, trees and flowers are growing and blooming. Please remember that grass clippings cannot be blown into the street or storm drains. Yard waste is collected every Wednesday and should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. that day, but no earlier than 5 p.m. the Tuesday before. Similarly, refuse and recycling should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on the scheduled day of collection, but no earlier than 5 p.m. the day prior. Once yard waste, refuse and recycling have been collected, please remember to promptly remove the receptacles from the curb and return them to storage to the rear or side of your property. For more information, view the City Code on the City website.

Brood II Cicadas

The Washington, D.C. area will experience another "brood" of 17-year cicadas in May and June of this year. In the summer of 2004, we experienced a huge event with the emergence of "Brood X" cicadas. This upcoming "Brood II" will not be as overwhelming as the 2004 experience but they will still definitely make their presence known starting around mid-May, with millions of cicadas in the tree tops by Memorial Day. This insect will do some damage to twigs and smaller branches on many area trees as they cut and/or gouge into the branches to lay their eggs for the next generation.

For more information on this insect and its lifecycle, check out this fascinating video by David Attenborough and the BBC - www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjLiWy2nT7U . Also, you can learn more about cicadas at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicada . So get ready for the invasion and the noise. Ear plugs are optional!

City Committee Vacancies

Volunteers are needed for the following City Committees: Advisory Planning Board, Animal Welfare Committee, Board of Elections, Board of Personnel Appeals, Diversity Committee, Education Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, Ethics Commission, Heritage Committee, and Information Technology Committee. The vacancies include regular, alternate and student (Education and Environmental Advisory) members. Information on each committee and how to apply can be found on the City's website or by calling the City Clerk at 301-809-3029.

Backyard Habitat Tour

Find out how your neighbors have been rolling out the welcome mat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. They provide food, water, cover, and places to raise young while using Bay-friendly, sustainable gardening practices. Visit four National Wildlife Federation (NWF)-certified habitats on **May 18** to see how these homeowners are gardening for wildlife, and how you too can help Bowie become a NWF-certified Community Wildlife Habitat. Visit www.cityofbowie.org and search “Backyard Habitat Tour” to find the map and hours for each house. The map provides a general guide; use your favorite navigation tool to locate the habitats. Habitats will be open rain or shine, unless there is torrential rain and/or thunder and lightning.

Hydrant Flushing Continues

The Bowie Public Works Department will continue its annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing will occur from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to the following schedule:

May 1	Victoria Heights, Race Track Road Townhouses
May 2	Idlewild
May 3	Yorktown and Overbrook
May 6	Whitehall
May 7	Rockledge

Some discoloration of your water may occur and clothes washing is discouraged. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Rust remover will be available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment buildup in the water lines and is not harmful. The discoloration should clear in approximately 24 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could affect your water as well. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2336.

Wanted: Chief Judges and Judges for City of Bowie Election - November 5, 2013

Chief Judges, Judges and Alternate Judges are needed for the City of Bowie Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. Interested Bowie residents are asked to send a letter of application to the City Clerk. Judges must be registered to vote in City elections. Preference will be given to persons having experience. All judges who are selected to serve must attend a training session (date to be determined). Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and judges will be on duty from approximately 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. One Chief Judge will supervise the Judges at each polling place. The Chief Judges will receive \$150 and Judges will receive \$120 for their duties on Election Day. In addition, all Judges will receive \$10 for the training session and for any additional meetings they are required to attend. Applications should be addressed to the Board of Elections, c/o City Clerk, City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716 or sent via email to ahernandez@cityofbowie.org. For additional information, please call the City Clerk at 301-809-3029.

City Beautification Awards

The City, in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, is accepting nominations for the 18th Annual Beautification Awards. Anyone can nominate a home or townhouse, business, school, or specialty garden that reflects the beauty of Bowie. All nominations must be for locations within the corporate limits of Bowie. For more information or to obtain a nomination form, visit the City's website or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Waterworks Exhibit

Water, water everywhere! Water in its entire splendor and all its forms is the theme of the "Waterworks" exhibit that will be on display through July 12, 2013. The Arts Committee asked artists to bring artwork that illustrated the power and beauty of water in all its forms, such as natural waterscapes and phenomena, weather, and other creative uses and features. Gallery space is on the main and second levels of City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, and includes works in display cases as well. Gallery hours are City Hall hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Events

5/2 – From Baltimore and Annapolis to Bladensburg and Beyond: The Yorktown Campaign in Prince George's County 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion. In September 1781, a Continental Army train of around 400 oxen, 400 horses and 75 personnel traveled from Baltimore to Bladensburg on their way to Yorktown. Another military column consisting of "Lauzun's Legion, artillery horses and the army wagon train of 1,500 horses, 800 oxen and 220 wagons" departed Annapolis for Bladensburg and Virginia as well. Dr. Robert Selig, project historian and consultant to the National Park Service for the Washington-Rochambeau Route, will present the current state of research on the march, its participants and the routes traveled. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/3-18 – "You Never Know" at Bowie Playhouse A romantic musical comedy set in Paris in 1929. Filled with delightful, witty Cole Porter songs, the story takes place one summer evening in Baron Rommer's elegant penthouse suite at the Hotel Ritz. The baron and his butler switch identities so that the butler can pursue a woman he believes is a lady of a much higher class. She is actually a maid in the service of Mme. Baltin, a high society figure who has captured the baron's heart. Her jealous husband and an actress at the Folies Bergère fill out the cast of this door-slamming farce with wonderful songs and dancing. Produced by Prince George's Little Theatre. For tickets and information, 301-937-7458 or www.pglit.org.

5/4 – Rabies Vaccination Clinic 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Bowie High School. Only cats, dogs and ferrets over three months old will be vaccinated. A responsible adult must bring the pet. You must bring proof of prior rabies vaccination. Secure all animals: dogs on a leash, cats and ferrets in a carrier box. The fee is \$10 per vaccination - exact amount required. For more information, please contact the Prince George's County Health Department at 301-583-3782. The Clinic is held rain or shine.

5/6 –City Council Meeting - Public Hearing on Budget, Constant Yield Tax Rate & CIP
8 p.m. at City Hall.

5/7 – New Indoor Sports Facility Briefing 7 p.m. at Kenhill Center. A consultant has been hired to determine the need for a new indoor sports facility in the City. Meetings have been held with various individuals and sports groups and a community survey will be available on the City’s website until May 2 for all community members to express their opinions and needs. At this briefing, the consultant will present preliminary conclusions and provide opportunity for public comment. All are welcome to attend.

5/9 – “Nature Close to Home” Pizza, and a Summer Program of Intergenerational Fun
5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Embracing the longer days of sunshine, we invite seniors to bring their family and friends to this evening selection of intergenerational activities. Share pizza, salad and a fun interactive program together one Thursday a month. Registration and \$6 is due one week prior to each program. Contact the Senior Center for more details. All ages are welcome. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/9 – City Council Budget Worksession #4 8 p.m. at City Hall. Worksession includes City Manager’s Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental budgets.

5/11 – “Mrs. Rumney’s Sewing Circle” 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Join Colonel Tasker’s 18th century housekeeper, Mrs. Rumney, as she welcomes her “circle of ladies” for an afternoon of stitching and gossip. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/12 – Special Mother’s Day Treat 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Bring somebody important for a visit to Belair! All moms and special ladies will receive a 20% discount on sales in the Belair Museum Shop. Refresh with punch and cookies in the sunroom. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/13 –City Council Budget Worksession #5 8 p.m. at City Hall. Worksession includes review of the budgets for Planning and Economic Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition Fund, General Fund Summaries, Appendix and Wrap-up.

5/15 – Open Mic Day 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Members with a yen to perform will entertain with a reading, a poem, a song, or any other talent they are willing to share! Those who want to perform should sign up at the front desk of the Senior Center no later than Friday, May 3. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/16 – Senior Chorale Spring Concert 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. The spring show is titled “*The Reasons We Sing*”. Admission to the Senior Center concert is a donation of food or a donation of \$2 to the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/17 – Bike to Work Day 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. at Bowie Town Center Food Court and Old Town Bowie Fire Station, 9th Street. Join thousands of area commuters and show your support for bicycling by taking part in a clean, green and healthy way to get to work. Go to www.biketoworkmetrodc.org to register, view pit stop locations, sign up for a commuter convoy, find a ride buddy or learn about bike education opportunities. Register by May 10th for a free T-shirt and to be eligible for a bike raffle. (T-shirts are available to the first 12,000 registrants region-wide.) For more information, contact Frank Stevens in the City’s Planning Department at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.

5/18 – Backyard Habitat Tour Visit four National Wildlife Federation (NWF)-certified habitats to see how these homeowners are gardening for wildlife, and how you too can help Bowie become a NWF-certified Community Wildlife Habitat. Maps and hours for each house are on the City website. Just search “backyard habitat tour.”

5/19 – Annual Bowie Heritage Day 12 - 4 p.m. Visit the Railroad Museum, Welcome Center, Mansion and Stable for fun heritage activities. Pony rides, bluegrass music, Louie the Baysox Mascot, kids’ games and activities, and a Clydesdale horse will be featured at the Stable. The Mansion hosts a special exhibit on Bowie City Hall, and a glimpse of the lives of its former residents. The NTrack Modellers will set up their train layouts, and the “Lego Lady” will visit the Railroad Museum. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/20 – City Council Meeting - Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program 8 p.m. at City Hall.

5/21 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1-11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/22 – Book Lovers Expo at the Senior Center 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. Hear local authors offer readings from their books. Attendees can mingle with writers and discuss their published works. You will also be able to buy a book from one of your “soon to be favorite” authors plus have them autograph your purchase on the spot! For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

5/22 – Senior Chorale Spring Concert 7:30 p.m. at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. The spring show is titled “*The Reasons We Sing*”. Tickets for the performance are \$6 and are available at the Senior Center.

5/25 – Memorial Day Weekend Parade 11 a.m. The parade steps off from the Bowie High School Annex, 3021 Belair Drive. Join family, friends and neighbors as we pay tribute to America’s heroes! The parade will feature marching bands, veterans groups, active service members and many other local organizations. The Parade will proceed along Belair Drive to Sussex Lane, to Stonybrook Drive, and ends at Sage Lane. The reviewing stand, along with concession stands and restrooms, will be located in Acorn Hill Park on Stonybrook Drive. For information, visit our website or call 301-809-3078.

5/25 – “Belair Studs” on the Diamond 6 p.m. at Prince George’s Stadium. Join the Baysox as they change – for one night only – into the “Belair Studs!” Sporting jerseys (silks) in Belair’s colors of white with red polka dots, the team will take on the Trenton Thunder. There will be a jersey auction during the evening with proceeds being donated to the Friends of Belair Estate. Come out and support two home teams – our ball club and the Friends of Belair. (And it’s a fireworks night, too!) For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

5/26 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Navy Band Cruisers 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. These concerts offer relaxing entertainment for the entire family. All concerts are free. They are canceled in case of inclement weather. For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

5/31 - 6/29 – “Camelot” at Bowie Playhouse The entire community of CAMELOT awaits the arrival of Guinevere, King Arthur of England's future queen. Members of the audience are quickly drawn in by the enchanting musical numbers, including *The Simple Joys of Maidenhood*, *The Lusty Month of May*, *How to Handle a Woman*, *I Loved You Once in Silence*, *If Ever I Would Leave You* and *What Do the Simple Folk Do?* Produced by 2nd Star Productions. For tickets and information, 301-832-4819 or www.2ndstarproductions.com.

Upcoming Events in June

Bowiefest – 6/1

Community Shredding Event – 6/15