

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

March - April 2012

Bowie Public Safety Appreciation Committee Hosts First Annual Event

The Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce and the Public Safety Committee of the City of Bowie have joined to sponsor the first annual Bowie Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon on **March 30, 2012** at the Comfort Inn & Conference Center. The new Bowie Public Safety Appreciation Committee, drawn from the two organizations, will host the event honoring those who protect the people of Bowie as first responder public safety professionals, whether they serve in career or volunteer capacities.

Dave Statter, former reporter with 9NewsNow/WUSA-TV, with past service to Prince George's County as a volunteer firefighter, fire department dispatcher and a cardiac rescue technician, will serve as emcee for the event. This event will be the first of its type. While there are a number of organizations honoring public safety personnel in the area, none of them focus exclusively on service to the people of Bowie. With a long-standing volunteer fire service and its own Police Department, it is appropriate for the City to honor its own.

The Bowie Public Safety Appreciation Committee accepted nominations for this year's event through March 1, 2012. The nomination criteria include: Nominations must be for performance of duties within Bowie by first responder public safety professionals, including sworn law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services personnel. The nominee's public safety agency does not have to be headquartered in Bowie but the performance of duties must have been within Bowie. Nominations must be for performance of duties in a manner that was extraordinary. This can include superior sustained performance or a meritorious act during a single event. The performance being cited should be recent.

The Committee would also be interested to learn about extraordinary acts or performance in the interest of public safety in Bowie by private citizens.

For more information about the luncheon, please contact the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce at 301-262-0920. For more information about the Committee, please contact Bowie Police Chief John Nesky at jnesky@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-2480.

Attend the Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon

Please join the City of Bowie and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce in celebrating the First Annual Bowie Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, March 30, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn & Conference Center, 4500 NW Crain Highway, Bowie, MD. The cost is \$40 per person; \$25 for active duty public safety officers. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Reservations can be made by visiting www.bowiechamber.org or by contacting the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce office at 301-262-0920.

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5th Annual Business Recognition Program

The **Bowie Spotlight** is published by the City of Bowie six times a year.

Comments or questions regarding the content or form of the newsletter should be directed to the Public Information Office at 301-809-3040.

The City's TTY number is 301-262-5013.

For alternative versions of the newsletter, please contact the City's Public Information Office.

City of Bowie
15901 Excalibur
Road
Bowie, MD 20716

David J. Deutsch,
City Manager
301-809-3030



The City of Bowie, in partnership with the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, is sponsoring the 5th Annual Business Recognition program. Nominations are sought in the following categories:

New for this year is **Green Business of the Year**. This award is for a company that has one or more Bowie locations that has demonstrated their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices such as energy and water savings, recycling, renewable energy, reduced chemicals or packaging, or employee carpooling/telework.

Small Business of the Year – This award is for a small business that has demonstrated the qualities that make for a prosperous and growing organization in Bowie. (*2011 Honoree - Best Pie Company*)

Entrepreneur of the Year – This award is for the Bowie business entrepreneur who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and tenacity in managing all facets of business to include growth in profit and employee numbers coupled with such factors as degree of innovation, development of a creative and ingenious product or service, exceptional selling techniques, and extent of expansion into local markets. (*2011 Honoree - Diane Goldstein and Denise Cogar*)

Business of the Year – This award is for a Bowie company that has demonstrated high-level accomplishments that are a benchmark for other businesses that include financial success, visible community involvement, professional employee work environment, and will excel in customer satisfaction, strategic planning, and business development. (*2011 Honoree - Old Line Bancshares*)

Community Service Award – This award is for the Bowie or vicinity business that has demonstrated a strong record of involvement in the Bowie community. (*2011 Honoree - Texas Roadhouse*)

Members of the community are encouraged to submit the name of a local business, along with a one page narrative describing why the business is being nominated. Nominations may be submitted in a letter or on a form obtained from one of the contacts below. Nominations must be received no later than **Friday, April 6, 2012** and should be sent to City of Bowie, Department of Economic Development, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. Inquiries may be directed to the Economic Development Director, John Henry King, at jhking@cityofbowie.org or to the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Kelly Pierce, at kelly@bowiechamber.org. Businesses selected will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, May 11, 2012. Tickets for the event will be available from the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce.

A Little Friendly Advice From the Community Forester

As one who is concerned for the welfare of the residents and the environment of the City, I offer some advice that may save some time, energy, money and anxiety.

With the arrival of the spring and summer seasons, many of us turn our attention to the outdoors and to the condition of our yards including lawns, flowers, shrubs, trees, and even “hardscapes” (stone, brick, retaining walls, etc.). And in our concern for these things, we may either seek advice and proposals from commercial businesses, or we may be solicited by such businesses. In either case, I suggest the following when considering engaging a contractor to do any property development, renovation, and/or maintenance:

Always check with the contractor to make sure they have the appropriate licenses according to Maryland State Law. If the license is valid, you can then be assured of minimum qualifications to do the job, and you can be more certain they are appropriately insured. Some examples would be:

- Pesticide applicators need a license from the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- Tree services need a license from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- Landscape contractors need a MHIC license from the State of Maryland.

Always ask the contractor for references from local customers. If they have a reputation at stake in our community, you have a better chance at receiving the benefit of high quality work at a reasonable price. Always obtain at least three estimates for the work with details of what will be done and how much it will cost from each contractor. It is always safest to get the proposal in writing.

As a City of Bowie staff person and as a private homeowner myself, I can't overemphasize the importance of these steps when engaging a contracting business. In my role as a community staff person, it is unfortunate to have seen some of our residents taken advantage of by less than reputable “contractors” who come from outside our area (and even the State) and use unethical tactics to convince folks to have some work done at unreasonable cost and with less than desirable results. Very seldom are there circumstances in which work needs to be done immediately. Also, beware of work that is sold to a resident based on the notion that the price offered is “for today only”. Note also that in accordance with Maryland State law and for your safety and benefit, contractors should not ask for more than one-third of the total price as a deposit to begin the agreed on work. It is important to be reminded that the prices offered by various contractors can be remarkably different, and both the work description and the financial aspects must be carefully weighed. Hope this helps some of the decisions you may have to make this season. Enjoy your yard and your beautiful City!

Don't forget **Arbor Day** in the City of Bowie will be observed on **April 28, 2012 at 10 a.m.** at Acorn Hill Park. This will be the 20th anniversary for the City as an awarded Tree City USA! Please join us. Rick Kellner, Community Forester

Donate to the Food Pantry

Families are still hungry. Please continue to donate to the Bowie Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund located at the Christian Community Presbyterian Church, 3120 Belair Drive. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. There are also collection containers at the Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive), the City Gym and the Senior Center, where you may drop nonperishable food, paper goods and personal toiletry items. For more information, contact the Pantry at 301-262-6765 or BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com.

Budget Review Begins in April

City Council begins reviewing the proposed **FY 2012-13 Budget and Capital Improvements Program** in April. This Budget will take effect on **July 1, 2012**. The public is invited to attend all of the Council Meetings, Public Hearings and Budget Worksessions on this Budget. All meetings begin at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

April 9, 2012	Budget Introduction and Budget Worksession #1 - General Fund Revenues, CIP and Capital Projects Fund
April 16, 2012	Public Hearing
April 19, 2012	Budget Worksession #2 - Public Works, Water and Sewer Fund
April 23, 2012	Budget Worksession #3 - Community Services
May 7, 2012	Public Hearing
May 9, 2012	Budget Worksession #4 - City Manager's Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental
May 14, 2012	Budget Worksession #5 - Planning and Economic Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition Fund, General Fund Summaries, Appendix and Wrap-up
May 21, 2012	Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program

Bowie Police Department Welcomes Four Officers

On February 6th, four police officers were officially sworn in by the Bowie City Council.

Officer Valencia Moss joins the Bowie Police Department after serving with the Seat Pleasant Police Department. Three of the officers - Jason Coleman, John Lee III and Francis Stevens - are recent graduates of the Prince George's County Police Academy. Officer Coleman received the Sergeant Joseph K. Brown Memorial Award from the Academy for earning the highest academic class average with a score of 97.6 percent.

The Bowie Police Department operates on the Prince George's County communications system. To report a crime or have a police officer respond in a **non-emergency** capacity, please call **301-352-1200**. The Bowie Police Department Administrative Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at **301-575-2480**. In an emergency, always call **911**.

2012 City Beautification Awards

That's right, it's spring and the growing season is upon us. It's time to be recognized by the City for the beautiful yard you have. Be sure to enter your yard or nominate any of your neighborhood's homes, schools or businesses in the 2012 "Beautification Awards Program". Entry forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org or at City Hall. All nomination forms must be submitted to Matt Corley at City Hall no later than 5 p.m. on **Friday, June 22, 2012**. Judging will take place in early July and the awards presentation program will be held in late September 2012. All previous winners and star maintenance garden recipients are required to submit a nomination form if they wish to continue towards receiving their All Star Garden Award. For additional information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Scholarship Deadline Approaches

Monday, **March 19** 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, www.cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Reads at Bowiefest

The City's Education Committee is collecting new and "gently used" childrens books. These books will be distributed free to children who stop at the Bowie Reads booth during the 2012 Bowiefest on **June 2**.

The Committee is looking **exclusively** for books that are appropriate for children from birth through high school. If you are cleaning out bookshelves because you have books that aren't being read, as your children and/or grandchildren may have outgrown them, and would like to share them with other children, please consider donating them. Books may be dropped off in the front lobby at Tulip Grove Elementary School between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays when the school building is open. When the building is closed, books should be left on the front porch by the double blue doors. EZStorage of Bowie has generously donated a free storage unit so we can accommodate millions and billions and trillions of books. So bring all you have and collect more from your friends and neighbors.

For more information, please contact Bowie Reads at Bowiefest Chairperson Marylouise Lopez at mlopez@pgcps.org or check the City's website at www.cityof-bowie.org.

Art Gallery News

Visitors to City Hall are invited to view the winter art exhibit entitled "Away from Home." It includes artwork by area artists featuring landscapes and activities that reflect life beyond Bowie. This juried art show will run from March 5th to June 23rd.

Artists interested in having their work shown in the galleries at other times should read the Guidelines and Requirements for Artists which is available on the City website, www.cityofbowie.org. The process includes filling out an application and submitting a portfolio representative of their work.

For additional information, contact Margaret Suddeth, Bowie Arts Committee Gallery Coordinator, at margaret@suddeth.com or call City Hall at 301-809-3011.

What's Bouncing at the Bowie Gym?

Here are some events planned for the Bowie Gymnasium during the months of March and April 2012.

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Wednesday, March 21, from 2 - 8 p.m.

2012 Community Summer Camp Fair - Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Camp Fair is free and open to the public. It presents a great resource for parents, providing information about programs and activities for their children during the summer recess.

Washington Wizards/Mystics Basketball Camp - April 2 - 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for boys and girls ages 8-15 years. For more information and registration, contact 202-292-1979 or visit www.wizardsmysticscamps.com.

Women's Recreational Volleyball - Every Friday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come out and get some exercise and meet new friends!

For more information on any of these programs, contact the Bowie Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.



Teachers of the Month



As a way to recognize the wonderful teachers who educate Bowie students, the Teacher of the Month program was instituted several years ago. City residents, parents, students, teachers and other school staff have the opportunity to say "Thank You" to a special teacher. Teacher selected are recognized by the City Council and are presented with a certificate, a \$100 savings bond.

Teachers at the following schools are eligible: Bowie and Tall Oaks High Schools, Benjamin Tasker and Samuel Ogle Middle Schools; St. Pius X Regional, Grace Christian, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Holy Trinity (lower campus); Heather Hills, High Bridge, Kenilworth, Northview, Pointer Ridge, Rockledge, Tulip Grove, Whitehall and Yorktown Elementary Schools; Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center and C. Elizabeth Rieg Special Center.

Nominations are accepted at any time during the school year. Information is available at the above schools, on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, or by calling City Hall at 301-809-3013.

Accepting Nominations for the Malcolm "Skip" Popp Award

Do you know a Scout or Scout Leader who performed extraordinary and distinguished community service during 2011? 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.

The Community Outreach Committee will accept nominations through March 30, 2012 for Scouts and Scout Leaders of troops within the City. Nominations will be accepted only from Scout groups who 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 and guidelines may be obtained on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org or at City Hall. Questions may be directed to 301-809-3013 or eedwards@cityofbowie.org.

Youth Leadership Bowie

The Youth Leadership Bowie (YLB) 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 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 who will be sophomores and juniors in the fall of 2012 are invited to apply. An application can be downloaded from the City website, www.cityofbowie.org, or from the GBCC website, www.bowiechamber.org. All applications must be received at the Chamber office by 4 p.m. on Friday, **May 4, 2012**.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Join the City and the Bowie Lions Club for a rain barrel workshop on **Saturday, March 31** from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at City Hall. There will be a brief presentation on the importance and use of rain barrels, including the benefits they provide to homeowners and Bowie's streams.

Then the Bowie Lions will demonstrate how the rain barrel is installed and will sell fully-assembled 55-gal. rain barrels for \$65 (blue barrel) or \$75 (white barrel) that are ready to be hooked up to your downspout!

Stream Cleanup

The next stream cleanup will be held on Saturday, **April 21** from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at various streams across the City. Come out and celebrate Earth Day weekend with your neighbors and friends. This cleanup will be number nine.

Since April 2008, we have had 1,775 volunteers remove 13,320 pounds of trash and 12,025 pounds of recycling, plus nearly three tons of scrap metal! We also have a great group of Girl and Boy Scouts and look forward to having more church and school groups join us. The streams that we will clean will be identified in early spring.

If you'd like to sign up for the cleanup or just get more information, contact Tiffany Wright in the Planning Department at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.

We especially need dedicated team leaders. There is only a little extra work before the cleanup and the day of the cleanup. We look forward to seeing you on April 21!

Green Expo

The Bowie Lions Club, the City of Bowie and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce are joining forces to sponsor the Second Annual Green Expo. This year's Expo will take place on Saturday, **April 14, 2012**, at the Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive) from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Green Expo is a three-hour, community-wide, family-oriented, free event featuring local environmental agencies, nonprofits, and local and regional businesses offering green products or services. You will learn about a greener lifestyle while reducing your carbon footprint from local businesses wanting to share their products and services. Vendors scheduled are MOM's Organic Market, Natural Lawn of America, Patuxent Nursery, Bumba and Sommerscapes Landscaping, just to list a few. New this year will be the Anne Arundel Medical Center mobile blood unit collecting blood. For more information, visit our website at www.bowiegreenexpo.org.

Challenge Yourself With Our "Recycling Quiz"

You rewarded yourself at the end of a tough but successful day with an ice cream bar. What do you do with the wooden stick?

Answer: See www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie.



Animal Control

Welcome New Animal Control Officer!

The City of Bowie Animal Control Office is proud to add Harmony Dale to its staff. Harmony comes to the City from the Prince George's County Animal Management Division with six years of Animal Control Officer experience. Harmony believes strongly in educating the public against pet overpopulation through low-cost spay and neuter programs and takes cruelty to animals very seriously. She is a great addition to the City's Animal Control Department. Feel free to contact her with your animal related concerns at 301-809-3085 or hdale@cityofbowie.org. Officer Dale works Tuesday through Friday, 12:30 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A Plan to Control Nuisance Wildlife

Prevention and Exclusion. The best prevention from nuisance wildlife is to manage the source of the attraction to your home. You want nuisance wildlife to seek food and shelter elsewhere.

- Eliminate any food source from your yard. Cover trash cans with strong and secure lids.
- Maintain your property and buildings to deter nuisance wildlife from nesting or residing on your property. Repair any holes in soffits, fascia boards or beneath your deck, shed or steps.
- Place appropriate fencing around gardens and plants.
- Cover exhaust vents and chimneys with 1" wire mesh.
- Create a visual and audio disturbance when nuisance wildlife is noticed in your yard. Clap your hands and yell or bang pots and pans together and the animals will often flee.

If nuisance wildlife establishes residence on your property, you have several options. You will want to scare established and transitory wildlife from your property and prevent their return. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife and Heritage Service provides assistance to residents with nuisance wildlife concerns; they may be contacted at 1-877-463-6497.

Professional assistance may be sought. DNR maintains a list of wildlife cooperators licensed in the State that may be hired to remove established nuisance wildlife. View the list at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/nw.asp. Also, the Humane Society of the United States, Humane Wildlife Services for the metropolitan D.C. area, can be contacted at 1-866-948-6263.

The City Animal Control staff can provide valuable tips and information. Animal Control Officers will respond to incidents of nuisance wildlife located within the habitable living space of a residence, such as living, sleeping, eating and cooking areas. For assistance and more information, contact the Bowie Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002 or tdodge@cityofbowie.org. **Please remember, wildlife is under the jurisdiction and protection of State and Federal laws.*

Memorial Day Parade

The troops are home from Iraq and the City of Bowie is honoring those who served our country and celebrating their return at our annual Memorial Day Parade. This year's parade will be held on **Saturday, May 26, 2012** and will feature marching bands, veterans groups, active service members and many community organizations. There is still time to sign your organization up to participate in this fun and patriotic event! For more information or to download an application, go to the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Code Corner

What Do You Know About the Bowie City Code? Take the Test:

1. Grass exceeding ___ inches in height is considered a public nuisance.
2. A vehicle parked on the street must be parked within ___ inches of the curb.
3. Trash receptacles and bagged or bundled yard waste may not be placed at the curb earlier than ___ p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled pickup.
4. The alteration, repair or construction of buildings may not begin before ___ a.m. Monday through Friday and ___ a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
5. A motor vehicle parked in the driveway, covered with a car cover, is not required to have valid registration plates on it. **True or False**
6. House numbers must be no less than ___ inches in height.
8. On lots consisting of 20,000 square feet or less, the total combined floor area of all accessory buildings located on the lot shall not exceed 200 square feet. **True or False**
8. Portable basketball hoops are permitted to be placed:
 - a. In the street, but must be removed when no longer in use.
 - b. Only on private property.
 - c. Atop the curb.
9. A licensed solicitor may go door-to-door from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. **True or False**

****See correct answers below.***

For more information on the Bowie City Code, contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or lransom@cityofbowie.org. View the Bowie City Code online at: <http://www.cityofbowie.org/Government/Code/code.asp>.

***Answers:** 1) 8; 2) 12; 3) 5; 4) 7 and 9; 5) False; 6) 4; 7) True; 8) b; 9) True

Bowiefest

Bowiefest, a long-standing tradition which showcases the very best that Bowie has to offer, will be held on **Saturday, June 2, 2012**. This family-friendly event will include entertainment throughout the day on two different stages featuring the best homegrown Bowie talent. An amusement area will feature pony and train rides, moon bounce, a rock climbing wall and more.

Local nonprofit groups, including environmental and civic organizations, will also be on hand to share valuable information and extend invitations to join their groups. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

The Business Expo, sponsored by the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, will be held in the Bowie Ice Arena and will showcase many local and regional companies. Special offers and drawings will occur, so be sure to stop in. For information about the Business Expo, contact the GBCC at 301-262-0920.

The arts and crafts area, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, will feature vendors from far and wide to display and sell their handicrafts. For information about the arts and crafts area or to become a vendor, please contact the Soroptimists International at 301-262-0953.

Streetlights

The City is responsible for the maintenance of most streetlights in Bowie and has hired a contractor to perform the repairs.

To report a streetlight outage or malfunction, email jtayman@cityofbowie.org or contact the Public Works Department at 301-809-2332. If you call after hours, please leave a detailed voicemail message and a callback number. You can also report the outage using the Service Request tool on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

When reporting an outage, please provide the address nearest the pole and the pole number, found about five feet up the pole.

If a pole is knocked down or damaged, please call 301-809-2332 during business hours or call 301-262-6200 after hours or on weekends so that the problem can be addressed as quickly as possible.

Lights on wooden poles are maintained by BGE and must be reported directly to the company for repair. Call 1-800-685-0123 or visit the website, www.bge.com, and select "Report a Problem" at the bottom of the page under Customer Service.

Are You Protected From a Sewage Backup?

The City of Bowie uses a very thorough inspection schedule and maintenance program to safeguard against backups in its sewer system. With these preventative measures, the frequency and severity of backups are greatly reduced. However, when homeowners put grease into a garbage disposal or other household drain, over time the grease can accumulate and form a blockage anywhere in the sewer main. When that occurs, raw sewage and water can back up and flood into one or more residences near the blockage. Because these grease blockages are beyond the City's control, the City is not legally responsible for damages to a residence or its contents caused by these backups.

To protect against these situations, you need to have a special rider on your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to cover damages related to sewage backups or water damage. This optional coverage is generally very inexpensive, but you must usually request it from your insurance company. If you don't have this rider and you experience a sewage backup, you may find yourself financially liable for damages which could amount to several thousand dollars. For your own peace of mind, it is recommended that you check your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy today to ensure that you have this rider. For additional information, please contact the City's Risk Manager, Chuck Hessling, at chessling@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3082.

2012 Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 18, 2012

Two Bowie Pit Stops:

Bowie Town Center Food Court and

Old Town Bowie Fire Station, 9th Street



Gear up for Bike to Work Day 2012 - a free event full of fun, food and prizes. Join thousands of area commuters and show your support for bicycling by taking part in a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. For more information, contact Frank Stevens in the City's Planning Department at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org. Registration will begin in early March.

Hydrant Flushing Begins in April

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

April 9 and 10	Buckingham, Derbyshire and Forest Drive
April 11 and 12	Somerset and Bowie Forest
April 13 and 16	Tulip Grove
April 17	Foxhill and Long Ridge
April 18 - 20	Kenilworth
April 23	Heather Hills
April 24 - 27	Meadowbrook
April 30	Gradys Walk and Glenridge
May 1	Chapel Forge
May 2	Victoria Heights and Race Track Road Townhouses
May 3	Idlewild
May 4	Yorktown and Overbrook
May 7	Whitehall
May 8	Rockledge

Because some discoloration of your water may occur, clothes washing is discouraged on your scheduled day. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Free rust remover will be available at City Hall and the 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 all the water mains are interconnected, when flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections is performed, it may affect your water.

For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2336.



Bowie Ice Arena

301-809-3090

Public Sessions A schedule of public sessions can be obtained on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, or by calling 301-262-6200 for the recorded message. The Ice Arena offers family sessions, group rates and disc jockey sessions. Please call the Ice Arena for additional information.

Group Lessons A four-week series of lessons will be held during the month of April. Classes will be offered for children ages 18 months of age through adults. Please call the Ice Arena for additional information.

Summer 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 Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit us online at www.cityofbowie.org.

\$1 Off Skate Rental with Paid Admission

Bowie Ice Arena

Not valid during DJ Session.
Not valid with any other discount or offer.

Expires 4/30/12

\$1 Off Admission

Bowie Ice Arena

Skate rental is \$3. Not valid during DJ Session.
Not valid with any other discount or offer.

Expires 4/30/12

Bowie Youth & Family Services

301-809-3033

Counseling Services are offered to families with children in the home who are under 18 years of age and live in the City of Bowie or the greater Prince George's County metropolitan area. Often concerns surface within families that can be eased with the help of a professional. Issues may include anger, bullying, depression, anxiety, family conflict, grief, decision making, school problems, social skills, suicidal thoughts, the impact of separation/divorce. Families are encouraged to call 301-809-3033 to initiate services. We have highly qualified and experienced Masters and Doctoral level counselors that will work with you in developing appropriate solutions.

Groups are offered at various times throughout the year. Call for information on the following:

My Family and Me Separation/Divorce Group – Two groups, one for the parent and the other for the children ages 6½-11.

Exploring stressful life events using games, crafts, discussion for the kids and helping parents learn about listening and problem-solving techniques. Fee - \$90.

Girls Count! – For high school teen girls. Every girl struggles with complex issues in today's world. Teens discuss topics that matter to them and gain tools to cope and support each other. Fee - \$50 for the academic year.

Active Parenting - Parents focus on learning practical skills to help develop cooperation and responsibility in their child. Fee - \$50.

ADHD Education – Two groups run simultaneously. Adults learn about ADHD/ADD and new ways to help their child. Children, ages 8-10, focus on improving social skills. Fee - \$120.

Social Skills – Children, ages 8-11, benefit from extra practice with their social skills including making friends, initiating or joining conversations, and appropriate social body language (eye contact, etc.). Fee - \$75.

Happy Moms, Healthy Babies – Young mothers (ages 17-22) and their babies (up to 18 months old) meet weekly to discuss the joys and the difficulties of motherhood. Join other women in similar situations to share knowledge and provide support. Fee waived for young moms.

Teen Job Bank - **Bowie teens**, want some extra spending money? Go online or call 301-809-3033 for an application to sign up to help citizens with jobs like babysitting, snow shoveling, lawn and yard work, housework, etc. You must be 13-17 years old to sign up.

Need help, Bowie citizens? Call us to get names of teens that are willing to help you for a fee.

Picnic Season is Approaching

Spring is just around the corner, so it's time to begin to think about planning that family reunion or picnic with old friends that you keep talking about. Both Allen Pond and Whitemarsh Parks offer excellent locations to host a picnic for groups of every size. Prime picnic dates are booking quickly, so stop by the Recreation office now to place a picnic reservation for the Spring, Summer, and Fall months.

The City's picnic reservation process allows residents to reserve picnic sites up to one-year in advance of the picnic date, and nonresident picnic reservations to be placed up to six-months in advance of the picnic date.

So don't delay if you plan to hold a picnic in either Allen Pond Park or Whitemarsh Park in the upcoming months, come to Bowie City Hall now and place that reservation. Reservations are accepted in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at City Hall.

For specific rental information and to check availability, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3011.

Bowie Playhouse Presents



ART -- 3/16 - 3/31

Are your friendships based on tacit mutual agreements? If so, what happens when one person does something completely different and unexpected? Serge has bought a modern painting for a huge sum of money. Marc hates it and can't believe his friend could possibly want such a work. Yvan attempts, unsuccessfully, to placate both sides. The question is: Are you who you think you are or are you who your friends think you are? 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, www.BCTheatre.com or 301-805-0219.

ROMEO AND JULIET -- 4/12 - 4/14

Young lovers are driven to turn their backs on their entire social world by an unyielding, powerful emotion that sweeps individuals into a collision against their world, and against themselves. This superb cast of young actors will take you on an emotional journey from the opening dialogue to the play's tragic conclusion. There will be a talk-back with the actors after the Saturday matinee performance. Produced by the Annapolis Shakespeare Company. Performances are Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. For tickets, www.AnnapolisShakespeare.org or 301-836-1620.

YOUNG ACTOR'S SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL -- 4/21

The festival is an all-day event and is open to area students ages 13-22. Students will participate in master classes conducted by Sally Boyett-D'Angelo, Artistic Director of the Annapolis Shakespeare Company and Paul E. Hope, Teaching Artist from the Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre and Kennedy Center. Students will be encouraged to present a 1-2 minute monologue or a 3-5 minute duet scene for a panel of distinguished adjudicators. Along with presenting awards for excellence in each category, the judges will offer valuable feedback and the students will have an opportunity to immerse themselves into the world of Shakespeare in a fun, encouraging, educational environment with theatre professionals. Presented by the Annapolis Shakespeare Company. Register at 301-836-1620 or www.AnnapolisShakespeare.org.

DEATHTRAP -- 4/27 - 5/12

This ingeniously constructed play offers a rare and skillfull blending of two priceless theatrical ingredients – gasp-inducing thrills and spontaneous laughter. Dealing with a devious writer of thrillers whose recent offerings have been flops, and is prepared to go to any length to improve his fortune, it provides twists and turns and sudden shocks. Audiences will be held spellbound until the very last moment! Produced by Prince George's Little Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets and information, 301-937-7458 or www.pglt.org.



All performances are at the Bowie Playhouse, located in Whitemarsh Park, 16500 Whitemarsh Park Drive. For ticket sales and information about the theater groups, contact the theater companies directly.

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

“18th Century Ladies Day” - Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Enjoy a day of 18th century “ladies’ entertainments” - look your 18th century best! Topics include makeup, hair design, a sewing project...bring your lunch and enjoy the day. Reservations required/space limited. \$25 per person.

“Eat, Drink and ... Drink” Brown Bag Lunch Lecture - Monday, March 12, 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Bring your lunch for a presentation by Museums Manager Pam Williams on 18th century “libations.” Free.

“Maryland's Civil War: Secession, Civil Liberties, Rebels, Slavery, and Emancipation” Second Tuesday Lecture - Tuesday, March 13, 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.

“The Influence of Women in Early Radio” Radio History Lecture - Saturday, March 17, 2 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Contrary to popular perception, women DID have a role in the development of radio. Join Domi Sanchez for a look at women in broadcasting – before Barbara Walters and Katie Couric! Free.

Kids Kaboose - Tuesdays, March 20 and April 17, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun, trainspotting and games for youngsters ages 1-11.

Researching Civil War Pension Records - Sunday, March 25, 3 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Genealogist Patricia Shawker from the Prince George’s Genealogical Society/Library will discuss ways to find your Civil War ancestors through pension files. Free.

“Tiptoe Through the Tulips: A Visit to Some 18th Century Gardens” Brown Bag Lunch Lecture - Monday, April 9, 12 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Explore 18th century gardens with Museums Manager Pam Williams (a non-gardener!). Free.

“Secrets of the American Flag” Second Tuesday Lecture - Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. National Park Service Interpreter Vince Vaise from Ft. McHenry will discuss “Old Glory.” Free.

For information on these, or any museum program, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Hours of Operation

Belair Mansion,
Tuesdays through
Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m.,
12207 Tulip Grove
Drive. Free.

Belair Stable Museum,
Tuesdays through
Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m.,
2835 Belair Drive. Free.

**Old Town Bowie
Welcome Center,**
Tuesdays - Sundays,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8606
Chestnut Avenue, 301-
575-2488. Free.

**Bowie Railroad
Museum,** Tuesdays
through Sundays,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8614
Chestnut Avenue. Free.

*To schedule a group
tour of any of the
above City Museums,
or for more informa-
tion, please call 301-
809-3089.*

**Radio and Television
Museum,** Fridays
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturdays and Sundays
1 - 5 p.m., 2608
Mitchellville Road. Free.
*To contact this Museum,
call 301-390-1020.*

**The Prince George’s
Genealogical Library,**
Wednesdays 10 a.m. -
7 p.m. (first Wednesday
of the month 10 a.m. -
1 p.m.), 12219 Tulip
Grove Drive. Free. *For
information, call 301-
262-2063 during open
hours.*

Senior Services Overview

The Bowie Senior Center provides a wide variety of educational and recreational programs and services that include information and assistance, transportation, and a nutrition program for the active adult 55 years of age and older.

Welcome Spring

Celebration

**Tuesday, March 20,
12:30 - 2 p.m.**

We invite you to a party on the first day of spring! A DJ will provide lively music to get us in the mood and light refreshments will be served. Reservations required. \$3 for residents and \$4 for nonresidents.

“Navigating and Selecting Your Path” Seniors Hot Topics

**Tuesday, March 20,
6 p.m.**

Everyone needs guidance and direction as we age. Having a understanding of your needs will help. Professionals will be on hand to help you put together your own guide.



AARP Driver Safety Program

The Program is a classroom driver refresher course designed for motorists age 50 and older. The fee for AARP members is \$12; for non-AARP members the fee is \$14. The scheduled dates are: Wednesday, April 4; Thursday, April 5; Wednesday, May 23 and Thursday, May 31. Register at the Senior Center.

Showstoppers Variety Show

Tuesday, April 10, 12:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the South County Senior Center Showstoppers will entertain and delight us with a dazzling performance that you won't want to miss! They will share their talents through singing, dancing, comedy and more.

“Entertainment and Recreation” Seniors Hot Topics

Tuesday, April 17, 6 p.m.

Welcome your senior years by providing yourself with opportunities to learn new skills, pursue new adventures, develop new passions or explore old ones. Resources are available from professionals in all areas to keep you active and help you to get the most out of life.

Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive

301-809-2300, www.bowieseniorcenter.org

Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.;
and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**CITY OF BOWIE
15901 EXCALIBUR ROAD
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20716**

CITY COUNCIL

**MAYOR G. FREDERICK ROBINSON
MAYOR PRO TEM DIANE M. POLANGIN
DENNIS BRADY
HENRI GARDNER
JAMES L. MARCOS
ISAAC C. TROUTH
TODD M. TURNER**

Upcoming Events

Education & Arts Scholarships Deadline

*Monday, March 19, 2012
5 p.m., Bowie City Hall*

American Red Cross Blood Drive

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012
2 - 8 p.m., Bowie City Gym*

Bowie Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon

*Friday, March 30, 2012
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Comfort Inn & Conference Center*

Arbor Day Celebration

*Saturday, April 28, 2012
10 a.m., Acorn Hill Park*

Attention Homeowners Associations

The City maintains a list of contact information for local homeowners associations on the City's website. The list is used to share important information with your community about planned developments, transportation improvements, and other issues. Help us keep the list current by notifying the Planning Department when your officers and management companies change.

Please visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org to see if your community information is correct. Any corrections or updates to the information should be provided to Marianne Baird at mbaird@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3047.

Alternate versions of this newsletter are available upon request.

Call the Public Information Office at 301-809-3032 or TTY/TDD 301-262-5013.