

Bowie News Flash

September 2013

News

Salute to America Concert at Allen Pond Park

The United States Naval Academy Wind Ensemble will perform patriotic music at the City's Salute to America concert on Sunday, September 1. The concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. The concert will be canceled in case of inclement weather. Allen Pond Park is located at 3330 Northview Drive.

Bowie License Plates are Here

The Motor Vehicle Administration has begun issuing City of Bowie license plates. For only \$25 you can purchase tags with the City seal on them. Sport your City pride and be among the first of your neighbors to own Bowie license plates. The application form and a photo of the plates may be found on our website at www.cityofbowie.org/tags. The form must be submitted to the City to verify your residency. For more information, contact Denise Mahoney in the City Manager's Office at 301-809-3031 or email dmahoney@cityofbowie.org.

BGE Quick Home Energy Checkups

BGE's Quick Home Energy Checkup is a fast, easy way to save money by increasing the energy efficiency of your home. An energy expert will inspect your home and recommend ways to improve its efficiency. With your permission, the Checkup professional will install energy-saving items such as CFL bulbs, faucet aerators, efficient flow showerheads, electric water heater tank wrap, water heater pipe insulation and smart power strips at no additional cost!*

Schedule your checkup today at 877-685-7377 or by visiting the BGE energy savers website at www.bgesmartenergy.com. The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program also offers a variety of additional ways to save energy, money, and help the environment.

* These programs are funded through the EmPOWER MD Act of 2008 and appear as a small monthly charge on every customer's bill.

Also check out BGE's updated power outage webpage (<http://outagemap.bge.com>). It is more user-friendly and contains more detailed information about outages, including the number of customers affected by an outage and the expected restoration time.

September is "National Preparedness Month"

It's a great time to replenish your emergency supplies and review your emergency preparedness plans. Visit www.ready.gov for checklists, tips, and all types of information about personal preparedness.

Arts Committee Calls for Artists for “Figuratively Speaking” Exhibit

Local artists are invited to submit artwork for a new City Hall exhibit. "Figuratively Speaking" is an exhibit of artwork that will illustrate the beauty of the human form in portraiture and figurative artwork. Artists can submit two works - paintings, photographs or sculpture. The deadline for submission of application and digital images of artwork is September 6, 2013. Only digital entries will be accepted. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575-5601 or email aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

The galleries at City Hall currently feature the work of the Passageway Artists Studios, a local group of talented artists who work out of a studio in Riverdale.

Bowie Election – Register to Vote

There will be a City election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. All City offices, including Mayor, At-Large Councilmembers and District Councilmembers are up for re-election. City of Bowie residents who are registered to vote in County, State and Federal elections are automatically registered to vote in City elections, if the address on their voter registration is within the City limits. Anyone who is not registered to vote may contact the Prince George’s County Board of Elections at 301-430-8020 or visit www.elections.state.md.us.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Have you liked the City of Bowie’s Facebook page or become a follower of the City of Bowie’s Twitter feed yet? Our Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/bowiemd and you don’t need a Facebook account to view it. Twitter users can follow the City at @CityofBowie.

There’s also a new City of Bowie Animal Control Facebook page. Announcements will be posted there when an Animal Control Officer picks up an animal and is unable to reach the owner to return it. You can also post notices about lost or found pets in Bowie on this page. (Search Bowie Animal Control on Facebook to find this page.)

BVFD Volunteers Needed

The Bowie Volunteer Fire Department is rich in tradition and has been serving the residents of Bowie since 1928. The many volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians, both male and female of all ages, put in countless hours to protect the residents of Bowie and surrounding communities. The BVFD is always looking for members to assist in both operational duties and as auxiliary members. If you think you have what it takes to become a firefighter or you would like to help with administrative duties, then they want to hear from you. For information on how to join, visit www.Bowiefire.org.

It’s Back to School Time – Drive Carefully and Watch Out for Pedestrians

Public schools opened in late August. Stay alert, drive within the posted speed limit, and remember to stop for school buses that are loading and unloading. Read more Back to School Safety Tips at our link at www.cityofbowie.org.



Art Grants Available

The City has arts grants available for individuals or groups that would like to offer art projects such as public performances, art workshops, or a group art opportunity for Bowie residents. Grant applications are due **Friday, September 27, 2013**, and projects must take place before June 30, 2014. The application form may be found on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City issues a Water Quality Report for those areas that are served by the City of Bowie Water Plant. The City and the Maryland Department of the Environment routinely monitor the drinking water to detect contaminants, according to Federal and State laws. The Report is designed to inform customers of water quality standards for the previous calendar year. The current Report covers the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012. The current Report was recently mailed to all customers. It is also available on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr.

Beginning in 2014, all Water Quality Reports will be posted online and will not be mailed to customers. Reminders about where to obtain the Report will appear on the City water bill. For more information or to request a copy of the Report, please call the Water Plant at 301-809-3060.

Tip a Cop and Support the Bowie Police Explorers at Texas Roadhouse

On Thursday, September 19, 4 - 9 p.m., Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your food and gift card purchases (eat in or take out) to Bowie Police Explorers. For call-ahead seating call 301-860-1728. For a flyer and more information, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org.

Prince George's County Cares Walk for the Homeless at Allen Pond Park

Walk to help end homelessness on Saturday, September 28, between 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. This event is hosted by the City. County Executive Rushern Baker will provide a keynote address. Walker registration is \$30 for those 25 years and older and \$20 for under 25 years of age. Find out more, register to walk, and like the walk at www.facebook.com/HTHPGCCares or visit www.hthwalks.org and search for "PGCCares".

Labor Day

Labor Day is Monday, September 2nd. Due to the holiday, City Hall, the Senior Center, the City Gymnasium, the Kenhill Center, and the Ice Arena will be closed and there will be no refuse or recycling collection. Pickup will resume on your next regularly scheduled day. Also due to the holiday, the City Council Meeting is postponed until Tuesday, September 3rd at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Education Grants

This fall, the City will award Education Grants in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, to teachers, parent groups and other interested individuals from eligible Bowie schools. The grants will fund or support new and creative ideas for projects and programs that will enrich students' learning experiences. Applications will soon be mailed to eligible schools and will be available at www.cityofbowie.org/edgrants. The application deadline is October 18, 2013.

Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund is Moving to New Location

Beginning Wednesday, September 4, the Bowie Pantry will be open for business at the Kenhill Center (formerly City Hall). Those needing food or other emergency assistance should go to the parking lot at the rear of the building and enter the large trailer behind the building. (Do not go through the main building.) Pantry hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 - 11 a.m. and on the last Tuesday of the month from 6 - 7 p.m.

Events

8/30 - 9/15 – “Twentieth Century” at Bowie Playhouse Larger than life theater producer Oscar Jaffe finds that the movie star he promoted for Broadway stardom years earlier is on board the same train he is. He tries to lure her away from Hollywood and her new love interest to save his floundering career. Other passengers aboard the train provide multiple comic subplots for a screwball comedy set in the 1930s. Produced by Prince George’s Little Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.pglt.org or call 301-937-7458.

9/1 – Fun and Games 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Young visitors can cool off and enjoy tabletop games from the past...draughts (aka checkers), the game of goose, nine pins, and make a silhouette picture to take home. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/1 – Salute to America Concert 7 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. The United States Naval Academy Wind Ensemble will provide patriotic music. The concert will be held at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater. Be sure to bring a blanket or chair for seating. Concert will be canceled in case of inclement weather.

9/2 – Labor Day Holiday City offices and facilities, including the Senior Center, the City Gymnasium, the Kenhill Center, and the Ice Arena will be closed. No refuse or recycling collection. Pickup will resume on your next regularly scheduled day.

9/3 – Morning Walking Program 8:30 - 10 a.m. at the City Gym. The program returns to regular fall and winter hours. Circle the facility eleven times and you have walked a mile! For more information, please contact the Gym at 301-809-2388.

9/3 – City Council Regular Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Note: the meeting is being held on Tuesday because of the Labor Day holiday.

9/6 – Women’s Recreational Volleyball Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the City Gym. Make new friends, have fun and get some exercise playing volleyball. For more information, please contact the Gym at 301-809-2388.

9/10 – Fitness Room Refresher 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Do you use the fitness room at the Senior Center? If so, starting September and every other month, Wellness Coordinator Mark Shields will conduct evening re-orientations. For reservations and more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

9/10 – “Finding Your 1812 Ancestors” – Second Tuesday Lecture Series 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Genealogist Rebecca Koford will discuss “Preserve the Pensions: The War of 1812” as part of the commemoration of the War of 1812 in our County. This event is free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/14 – Civil War on the Homefront 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Join the members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society at their annual program interpreting Civil War civilian lives at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/15 – “Farm Day” at Bowie Farmers’ Market 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School. Farm animal petting zoo, 9:30 - 11 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

9/15 – Weed Warrior Work Day at Whitemarsh Park 2 - 4:30 p.m. Help clear trees being strangled of invasive English ivy vines in Whitemarsh Park. For more information, contact the City’s Watershed Manager Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org. Or check out the Weed Warrior webpage, www.cityofbowie.org/WeedWarriors.

9/16 – “It’s Not All On The Wall! Art at Belair Mansion” 10:30 a.m. at the Bowie Senior Center. Join City Museums Director Pam Williams for a talk about the various types of art work that can be found at Belair Mansion.

9/16 – City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

9/17 – Senior Center Hot Topics Series: Age is No Barrier to Having Fun
5:45 - 7 p.m. at the Bowie Senior Center. Some seniors are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges, but it doesn't have to be that way. Learn ways to get more enjoyment from your senior years.

9/17 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1-10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/21 – Bowie Health Fair 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Bowie Health Fair, organized by Dimensions Healthcare, offers a variety of screenings, activities, and informational sessions for residents of all ages. Lectures on various health-related topics will take place at the Senior Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. Health Fair activities will be at multiple locations along Health Center Drive, including the fire station, Senior Center, Gym and several medical buildings. A free shuttle bus

will take Fair participants between the buildings. Free flu shots for adults will be available as well as medical screenings for high blood pressure, cholesterol, and other conditions. The Red Cross will host a blood drive at the City Gymnasium. The exhibitors' tent will house many different medical professionals and vendors. There will also be children's activities, including a moon bounce and face painting. Full details about the Bowie Health Fair can be found at www.bowiehealthfair.com.

9/23 – Home School Day at the Stable 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Belair Stable. Home-schoolers ages 4-12 are invited to discover Bowie's horse history! Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

9/27 – Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Senior Center. Get your flu and pneumonia vaccines right here at the Center! This program is in partnership with the MedStar Health Visiting Nurse Association. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

9/27 – Art Grant Applications Due at City Hall. Applications may be found on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org. For more information, contact Arts Specialist Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

9/27-10/27 – “Little Shop of Horrors” at Bowie Playhouse A down and out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon, "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature, poised for global domination! This family favorite is a perfect part of your Halloween preparations and celebrations. Produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.2ndstarproductions.com or call 301-832-4819.

9/28 – “Prince George's County Cares Walk for the Homeless” at Allen Pond Park 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Walk to help end homelessness. Hosted by the City with a keynote address provided by County Executive Rushern Baker. For more information, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org.

Rape Aggression Defense Training Classes for Women

The next series of Rape Aggression Defense Training classes will begin in October. This valuable training is sponsored by the Bowie Police Department and provides women with the confidence and skills to protect themselves. The course takes place over six weeks and will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. starting October 9. Participants can attend a session on Monday or Wednesday each week. Contact the Police Department for more information or to register at 301-575-2015.

Mark Your Calendar!

10/4 - Deadline to register to vote in City election or file for elective office.

10/5 - Bowie International Festival at Allen Pond Park. Volunteers are needed to assist with this event. (Students may earn community service hours.) Please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or email mcorley@cityofbowie.org.