

Bowie News Flash

October 2013

News

Bowie International Festival - October 5, 2013

Allen Pond Park will be overflowing with entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children's activities at the Annual Bowie International Festival on Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Enjoy entertainment on two stages; food from the far reaches of Asia to right here in our own backyard; children's activities such as stories, dance, sports and games from around the world; and vendors of crafts, clothing, jewelry and many other offerings. For more information, visit the City website or contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Support the Food Pantry at the International Festival

The Bowie Community Outreach Committee and the Bowie Food Pantry will be at the International Festival on October 5 collecting donations to feed the hungry. Please bring a nonperishable item to donate as you enjoy a fun-filled day traveling around the world right here in Bowie. For more information, please contact the Pantry at BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com or 301-262-6765.

More About the Pantry...

Learn more about the Bowie Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund, in a short video produced by the Community Outreach Committee. Pantry Director Debbie Langdon talks about the services provided, the requirements to receive services, where donations come from, and what you can do to help. She also takes viewers on a tour of the Pantry's new location behind the Kenhill Center. The show will be broadcast this month on the Bowie Government Channel 10 (Verizon)/71 (Comcast) at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the following dates: 10/14, 10/16, 10/18, 10/19, 10/20, 10/22 and 10/24.

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 reelection. 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. The voter registration deadline for the City election is Friday, October 4, which is also the deadline for candidates to file for elective office.

Absentee Ballots Available for November 5, 2013 City Election

In accordance with Section 6-30 of the City Code, any qualified voter of the City may make application for an Absentee Voting Ballot for the City's upcoming election on November 5. The application may be obtained from the City Clerk's office or at www.cityofbowie.org/elections.

New Maryland Vehicle Laws Go Into Effect October 1, 2013

Effective October 1, 2013, Maryland's cell phone law now prohibits a driver from using a handheld cell phone while a motor vehicle is in motion. This is a primary offense. Law enforcement officers can stop a driver solely for using a handheld cell phone – no other offense is needed. Also effective October 1, all passengers in a vehicle must use seatbelts. For more information about the new Maryland laws now in effect, visit www.maryland.gov.

Education Grants Available

The City offers education grants that can be used to fund projects that provide learning experiences and educational enrichment to students within eligible Bowie schools. The grants are administered through the City's Education Committee. The deadline for applications for the 2013-14 grants is Friday, October 18, 2013. Applications may be submitted by teachers, PTAs, PTOs, and individuals. Eligible schools are listed on the City's website. For additional information, contact the City's Education Committee staff liaison Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Community Climate Action Series

A three-part discussion series has been developed to provide residents with educational information on climate change as well as to receive public feedback on the Green Team's Climate Action Plan efforts. The Climate Action Plan is a Green Team action item for this year. Part 1 of the series will focus on climate change in the region and relaying information gained from Bowie's Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory to residents. Part 2 and Part 3 of the series will focus on what residents can do to help address climate change by reducing energy consumption and using alternative transportation. The Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the City revealed that the residential and transportation sectors were the largest greenhouse gas emitters. Part 1 of the series is scheduled for the evening of October 9th at 7 p.m. at the Kenhill Center.

Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Needs Volunteers

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 put in countless hours to protect the residents of Bowie and surrounding communities. The BVFD is looking for members to assist in both operational duties or as auxiliary members. For information on how to join, visit www.bowiefire.org.

Join the Stream Team Cleanup

The City will hold a Stream Team Cleanup on Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 9 a.m. to noon. Bowie Stream Teams are made up of adults, students, school/church/scout groups and others who want to pick up trash and debris in and along some of the City's streams in an effort to improve water quality and minimize the amount of trash that flows through Bowie into the Patuxent River and down to the Chesapeake Bay. Cleanup days are a good time for Bowie residents to get out into the environment and experience nature while working to protect Bowie's important natural resources. The City will provide water and all supplies. You just need to have sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and a hat, and be willing to get in the stream corridors and clean! Student Service Learning hours are available to Prince George's County students. To sign up or get more information, contact Tiffany Wright, Watershed Manager, at twright@cityofbowie.org or at 301-809-3043.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City issues a Water Quality Report for areas of the City that are served by the City of Bowie Water System. 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. It is also available on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr.

Commemorative Flags Available at the Belair Mansion

In the coming year, the City Museums will sponsor a number of commemorative events and programs – exhibits, living history, dance recitals, foodways programs, and much more to recognize the 200th anniversary of Maryland's involvement in the War of 1812. We hope you'll join us in 2014 in discovering the story of a young America's journey into "adulthood." If you'd like to get an early start in the commemoration – fly your very own 1812-era 15-star American flag! They are available at the Belair Mansion Gift Shop for \$20 each. The shop is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. For more information about upcoming programs or purchasing a flag, contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or museums@cityofbowie.org.

Wanted: A Few Good Men. Imagine an hour that impacts a lifetime.

Volunteers are needed for the City's Teen Mentoring Program. When you volunteer to mentor a Bowie high school student, you will spend one hour a week building a positive relationship that has the potential to change the course of a teen's high school experience, their life, and even your community. It is the goal of this program to give students a stable, caring and nurturing relationship with an adult mentor, and hopefully develop in them an improved sense of confidence and self worth. For more information contact: Rhonda Simon, Program Coordinator or Andra Berry, Prevention Coordinator at 301-809-3033 or email mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Halloween Trick or Treat -Thursday, October 31

Halloween is Thursday, October 31st. The suggested hours for trick or treating are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Bowie Police Department reminds trick or treaters and their parents to carry a flashlight, be mindful of traffic, and check all treats carefully. If you are on the roads on Halloween, please drive carefully and watch out for ghosts and goblins and other costumed critters.

Help Make Bowie Tree-mendous!

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources wants to help homeowners with the cost of purchasing new native trees to plant on private property by providing a \$25 coupon towards the purchase of native trees from participating nurseries.

Schools, houses of worship, businesses and organizations looking to green their community this fall can order high-quality, native trees and shrubs at discounted prices for plantings on public lands. For more information on both of these programs, visit www.trees.maryland.gov.

Get Ready to Shake Out! The Great Southeast Earthquake Drill

Residents, local businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in the 2013 Great Southeast ShakeOut on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 10:17 a.m. Organizers expect it to be the largest earthquake drill ever, taking place all over the Southeast.

Emergency agencies are working to educate the public with tips about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. Despite what you might have heard in the past, the best way to keep safe if the ground starts shaking is to drop, cover, and hold on. Visit www.Shakeout.org/southeast to learn more and practice how to be quake-safe with the rest of the Southeast. The life you save may be your own.

Maryland Fertilizer Restrictions Now in Effect

Lawn fertilizers contain harmful ingredients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that wreak havoc on our local water resources. Maryland's new fertilizer law went into effect on October 1, 2013. The law is part of the State's continuing efforts to improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. The changes affect home fertilizer users as well as manufacturers, distributors, and lawn care professionals. There are new limits to when, where, and how much fertilizer can be applied. To read about the new fertilizer restrictions, view Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Fact Sheet at www.mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/resource_conservation.aspx.

Events

Now through 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! 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.

10/3 – “Green Fire” Movie 7 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. The Environmental Advisory Committee will host a free screening of the film, *Green Fire*, in the Multi Purpose Room at the Kenhill Center. The film explores conservationist Aldo Leopold’s life and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today. Following the showing of the film, there will be a panel discussion about the film. Panelists include Kristin Larson (Sustainability Planner for the City of Bowie), CJ Lammers (Master Environmental Planner with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission), and Lincoln Smith (Manager of Forested, LLC).

10/5 – Bowie International Festival 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Enjoy entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children’s activities at this annual Bowie festival. For more information, check the City’s webpage or contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

10/7 – City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/8 – Public Hearing on Prince George’s County Preliminary General Plan 7 - 9 p.m. at City Hall. The Bowie Advisory Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on the Prince George’s County Preliminary General Plan, which is a policy plan that guides the County’s future growth and development through the Year 2035. For more information, contact the Bowie Planning Department or visit the “Plan Prince George’s 2035” portion of the M-NCPPC website at www.mncppc.org.

10/8 – “An 18th Century Village on the Gunpowder River” – Second Tuesday Lecture Series 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Joan Scovill, from the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, will discuss Jerusalem Mill Village, a living history site in Baltimore County centered around a reconstructed 18th century mill. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/9 – Community Climate Action Series – Part 1 7 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. Part 1 of this three part series on climate change will focus on climate change in the region and sharing information gained from Bowie’s Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

10/13 – 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

Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org. Or check out the Weed Warrior webpage at www.cityofbowie.org/WeedWarriors.

10/15 – 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.

10/19 – Stream Team Cleanup 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in streams throughout Bowie. To sign up or get more information, contact Tiffany Wright, the City's Watershed Manager, at twright@cityofbowie.org or at 301-809-3043.

10/21 – City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/22 – Bowie Education Forum 7 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO of Prince George's County Schools will be the featured speaker at this year's forum. Following his comments, there will be a question and answer period. For more information, contact Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

10/26 – Prescription Drug Take Back Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. Dispose of expired and unwanted over-the-counter and prescription drugs at this free event sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bowie Police Department.

10/26 – Halloween on Ice Party 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Skate rental is \$3. We will have a costume contest, music, door prizes, skating and treat bags for kids in costume! For more information, please contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

10/27 – “Octoberfest” 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. Free scarecrow making (participants supply a long-sleeved shirt and trousers). Free pumpkin painting (pumpkins available for purchase at market). Activities start at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

10/31 – Treat Yourself to Halloween Fun at the Senior Center 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. at the Senior Center. Treats for all, but no tricks at all at the Senior Center's Halloween Party! D.J. Johnny will be on hand to present music for dancing or just listening. Light refreshments will be served. The fee is \$5 for Bowie residents and \$6 for nonresidents. Sign up at the front desk by Thursday, October 24 to reserve your spot at the party. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/31 – Halloween Suggested hours for trick or treating are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Next month...

- City Election Day – Tuesday, November 5. Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Curbside leaf collection begins November 4th.

