

# Bowie News Flash

**November 2013**

## **News**

### **Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 26**

Dispose of your expired or unwanted prescriptions or over-the-counter medications at the Bowie Police Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 26. The Department partners with the US Drug Enforcement Administration to bring this service to the Bowie community twice each year. The drugs are safely destroyed by the DEA.

### **Halloween Trick or Treat - Thursday, October 31**

Halloween is Thursday, October 31st. 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 watch out for cars, carry a flashlight, and check all treats carefully. If you are on the roads on Halloween, drive carefully and watch out for ghosts and goblins and other costumed creatures.

### **City Election Day – Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

The City of Bowie will hold an election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 to elect members of the City Council consisting of a Mayor and six Councilmembers to hold office for a term of two years. Each registered voter may cast a total of four votes. All City voters may vote for Mayor and two at-large Councilmembers. Voters in each district may also vote for a district Councilmember. There is also an advisory question regarding the length of City Council terms of office on the ballot. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For additional information about the City Election, please contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or [ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org), or visit the City's website.

### **Absentee Ballots Available for November 5, 2013 City Election**

Any City voter may make application for an absentee voting ballot. Applications are available from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, or on the City's website. Application for an absentee ballot must be made in writing and signed by the applicant. If the applicant is unable to sign, the application must bear the mark of the applicant and the signature of two (2) witnesses. The application must be presented to the City Board of Elections in person or by mail to 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, Maryland 20716, no later than 5 p.m. on November 4th. All absentee ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by the closing of polls at 8 p.m. on November 5, 2013. For more information, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or [ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org).

### **Curbside Leaf Collection Begins November 4**

The City's curbside leaf collection service begins November 4. Each residential neighborhood will have two collection dates. Residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of their grass for pickup by the City crews. Collection will take place from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. according to the Leaf Collection Schedule. Crews will work rain or shine. However, in the event of snow or ice storms, leaf collection will be temporarily suspended, as the trucks and crews will be redeployed to salt or plow City streets. Some sections of the City are listed on two consecutive days. Due to expected volume, these sections may take more than one day to complete.

### **November Holidays**

City offices, the Senior Center, the Kenhill Center and all historic properties will be closed for Veterans Day on Monday, November 11 and for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29. There will be no refuse or recycling collection on these dates. Pickup resumes on the next regularly scheduled day. The Ice Arena and City Gym are open as follows:

#### Bowie Ice Arena

Open Veterans Day (8:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.)

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Open Friday after Thanksgiving (2 - 11 p.m.)

#### City Gymnasium

Open Veterans Day (10 a.m. - 10 p.m.)

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Open Friday after Thanksgiving (10 a.m. - 10 p.m.)

### **Community Shredding and Styrofoam Recycling Event**

There will be a free shredding and Styrofoam recycling event in the parking lot at Bowie High School on Saturday, November 16 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Residents can bring up to five tall kitchen bags or five archive boxes for shredding. Documents may be observed while they are being shredded. Only expanded polystyrene will be accepted for recycling at this event. This is the kind of Styrofoam (marked with a #6) found in electronics packaging. Please make sure it is free of any debris, including glue or tape. No cups, plates, clamshells or egg cartons accepted.

### **Teen Job Bank**

Teens are needed for snow shoveling this winter. If you know a teen interested in signing up for occasional work, including housework, babysitting, leaf raking, yard work and snow shoveling, please call for an application at 301-809-3033. It's a great way for a teen to earn a few extra dollars. Bowie residents who want to hire a teen should call 301-809-3033 for more information.

### **The City of Bowie Receives Sustainability Award**

The City of Bowie was recognized at the Maryland Municipal League's Fall Conference on October 18<sup>th</sup> for its leadership in sustainability matters. Through the combined efforts of volunteer residents serving on Bowie's Green Team, City staff, and elected officials to go green, save tax dollars, and improve the quality of life in Bowie, the City earned Sustainable Maryland Certified status. It is only the eighth municipality in Maryland to achieve this distinction.

### **Community Climate Measures Open for Comment**

Do you have ideas about bike trials, renewable energy, composting, recycling or any other measures that would help Bowie reduce its climate change impact? Bowie's Green Team is pursuing the creation of a Community Climate Action Plan. Submit your thoughts at [cityofbowie.org/communityclimateaction](http://cityofbowie.org/communityclimateaction).

### **It's Time to Change Your Clocks and Check Your Smoke Detectors**

Don't forget to set your clock back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Daylight Saving Time officially ends at 2 a.m. on November 3<sup>rd</sup> when we "fall back" to Standard Time for the winter months.

It's also a great time to replace the battery in your smoke detector, or if it's old, why not replace your smoke detector entirely. New smoke detectors contain batteries that are good for ten years.

### **Tree Trimming in Rolling Hills and Oaktree**

Trimming of street trees is taking place in the Rolling Hills Estates and Oaktree neighborhoods between now and the end of the year. The City of Bowie is responsible for trees on City property and on City rights of way, which includes trees between the sidewalk and the street, and trees within the first 12 feet from the curb. Bowie Parks and Grounds crews are doing the work in Rolling Hills, and the work in Oaktree is being done by Lewis Tree Service. Questions about this work should be directed to Rick Kellner, City Forester, at 301-809-3061 or email [rkellner@cityofbowie.org](mailto:rkellner@cityofbowie.org).

### **Change in Yard Waste Collection Begins in January**

Effective January 1, 2014, the Prince George's County yard waste recycling facility will no longer accept yard waste in plastic bags. Since this is where Bowie brings its yard waste to be recycled, we must also implement this change for our curbside yard waste collection program. Starting in 2014, leaves, small branches, grass trimmings and other yard waste must be put at the curb in a refuse container or in heavy duty paper bags that can be purchased at local hardware stores. Branches that are no wider than three inches in diameter and no longer than four feet may also be bundled and left at the curb. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be picked up on Wednesdays, nor will it be collected on refuse collection days.

### **Bowie Youth & Family Services Groups Begin in November**

Join other parents to learn practical skills to develop cooperation, self-esteem and responsibility in your children at our *Active Parenting* Group. The group meets for seven weeks. In the *Girls Count!* Teen Group, which meets regularly throughout the school year, teen girls can discuss with other teen girls the issues they face every day. Both groups begin in November and have a registration fee. Please call 301-809-3033 for more information or to register.

## Events

**11/4 – “Sugar, Spice, Isinglass and Cakes: Great and Small” Belair Mansion History Day** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Four experts in 18th century foodways will discuss desserts, their histories and their ingredients. Morning coffee and dessert are included in the cost. \$75 (\$70 for Friends of Belair Estate). Reservations required. For reservations and more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**11/7 – Honoring Our Veterans at the Senior Center** 12:30 p.m. at Bowie Senior Center. The Bowie Senior Choraleers will perform several patriotic musical selections for the enjoyment of Senior Center patrons and light refreshments will be served. If you are a veteran and will be attending, please RSVP to the Senior Center. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

**11/8 - 11/24 – “The Cover of Life” at Bowie Playhouse** Henry Luce needs a cover story for *Life* Magazine, and he's found it in Tood, Weetsie and Sybill Cliffert. Intrigued by these three young Louisiana housewives, keeping the home fires burning for their husbands - three brothers who are all off at war - he sends Kate Miller to write his prize story. A week with the Clifferts rocks the foundations of Kate's world and all four women walk away changed - for *Life* and life. Produced by Bowie Community Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit [www.bctheatre.com](http://www.bctheatre.com) or call 301-805-0219.

**11/9 – American Red Cross Blood Drive** 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Schedule an appointment to give the gift of life by calling 1-800-RED-CROS (1-800-733-2767).

**11/11 – Veterans Day.** City Offices closed. No recycling or refuse collection on this date.

**11/12 – The United States Marine Corps: Past and Present - Second Tuesday Lecture** 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**11/16 – Free Community Shredding Event** 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the parking lot at Bowie High School. Bring up to 5 kitchen trash bags or 5 boxes to be shredded. No need to remove paper clips or staples.

**11/17 – Weed Warrior Work Day at Whitmarsh Park** 2 - 4:30 p.m. Help clear trees being strangled of invasive English ivy vines in Whitmarsh Park. For more information, contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or [twright@cityofbowie.org](mailto:twright@cityofbowie.org). Or check out the Weed Warrior webpage at [www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors](http://www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors).

**11/18 – City Council Meeting – Swearing-In Ceremony** 8 p.m. at City Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to swear in the newly elected City Council.

**11/19 – Kids Kaboose** 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please email [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org) or contact 301-809-3089.

**11/19 – American Red Cross Blood Drive 2** - 7 p.m. at the City Gymnasium. Schedule an appointment to give the gift of life by calling 1-800-RED-CROS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcross.org/donation](http://www.redcross.org/donation).

**11/19 – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing** 7 - 9 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall on a Request for a Special Exception for the Walmart store proposed to be located on the west side of U.S. 301 at Mill Branch Road.

**11/20 – Community Climate Action Series: Save Energy at Your Home or Office** 7 - 9 p.m. at Kenhill Center. Come and learn from energy efficiency experts about how you can save money and energy at home and at work. For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or [klarson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:klarson@cityofbowie.org).

**11/23 – Taste of the Past at Belair Mansion** 12 - 4 p.m. Sample heritage desserts from the 18th and 19th centuries. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**11/25 – City Council Meeting** 8 p.m. at City Hall.

**11/28 & 11/29** – City offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday. No refuse or recycling collection.

**11/30 – Black Friday on Saturday at Belair Mansion Museum Shop** 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. 20% discount on all purchases in the museum shop. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/1 – Trainspotting Day at Bowie Railroad Museum** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Watch unusual cars fly by on AMTRAK's busiest day of the year. Children can visit the Welcome Center next door to leave their Christmas list with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/1 – Holiday Twilight Tours and Tree Lighting Ceremony at Belair Mansion.** Twilight tours will be conducted between 3 and 7 p.m. At 7 p.m. festivities move outdoors for caroling, lighting of the tree, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus, courtesy of the Bowie Fire Department. Afterwards everyone is invited indoors to visit with Santa and enjoy the musical sounds of *Bedlam*.