

# Bowie News Flash

**December 2013**

## News

### **Tree Lighting and Santa**

For several decades the Bowie community has gathered on the first Sunday evening in December to sing carols and celebrate the illumination of a tree decorated for the season. This year's tree lighting takes place on Sunday, December 1 on the front lawn of the Belair Mansion at 7 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive for the celebration on a fire truck, courtesy of the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department. Afterwards, all are invited inside to have a word with Santa and enjoy the music of the season.

### **Shop with a Cop**

The Bowie Police Department is going to help make the holidays special for some local children in need. On **Sunday, December 8, 2013** officers will escort children on a shopping trip for their loved ones, courtesy of Target, other local merchants, and donations from the public. It's not too late to make a donation to help a family this holiday season. For more information, please contact Sergeant Bennie Henderson at 301-575-1824 or [bhenderson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:bhenderson@cityofbowie.org).

### **Donate to Toys for Tots**

Please donate new, unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations will be accepted at the following locations: Bowie City Hall, Bowie Police Department, Bowie Gymnasium, Bowie Ice Arena, Bowie Senior Center, Chaney Tire and Auto Service, and Melvin Motors. Please donate toys **by December 19, 2013**. For more information, contact Sergeant Bennie Henderson at 301-575-1824 or [bhenderson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:bhenderson@cityofbowie.org).

### **Holiday House Decorating Contest Deadline is December 9, 2013**

Do you spend hours putting up lights and other displays outdoors for the holidays? Are your decorations the envy of the neighborhood? Then enter the City's Holiday House Decorating Contest! Homes must be located within the Bowie municipal limits. Entry forms, contest rules and information are available on the City's website, [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org); search Holiday House Decorating Contest. Entry forms and information may also be obtained by contacting Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org). Entry forms must be returned to City Hall by **Monday, December 9, 2013 at 5 p.m.**

### **Santa's Big Broadcast at Radio and Television Museum**

Visit the Radio and Television Museum throughout December and enjoy some broadcast nostalgia and holiday cheer. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m during December, the Museum will screen holiday television programs from the past. For a schedule, call 301-390-1020. The programs are free; donations accepted. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

### **Upcoming Holidays**

Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1 are City holidays. City offices are closed and there is no refuse or recycling collection on these dates. Pickup resumes on the next regularly scheduled day.

### **No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste**

Beginning January 1, 2014, residents will no longer be able to put their grass, leaves, branches, or Christmas trees in plastic bags. This change is due to a new policy at the County yard waste recycling facility where the City disposes of its yard waste.

Branches up to 3 inches in diameter must be tied and bundled or placed in paper bags or cans. Each can should weigh no more than 50 pounds. Larger limbs can be stacked at the curb. They must be cut into 18-24 inch long sections, and must be no greater than 24 inches in diameter and weigh no more than 50 pounds each.

All other yard waste must be placed in paper bags or trash cans. Paper grocery bags are acceptable for small amounts of yard waste or large, heavy duty paper bags can be purchased in Bowie at Home Depot, Lowe's, Safeway, and Target. Do not use the blue recycling carts or bins for yard waste. Please remember that yard waste cannot be included with your regular trash.

This change applies only to yard waste. Trash may still be put in plastic bags. Questions about this change or about yard waste collection in general should be directed to the Solid Waste Division at 301-809-2344 or email [publinfo@cityofbowie.org](mailto:publinfo@cityofbowie.org).

### **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.

## **Events**

**12/1 – Trainspotting and Santa at Bowie Railroad Museum** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Watch unusual cars fly by on AMTRAK'S busiest day of the year. The NTrack Modellers will have a model layout in the caboose. Santa Claus will visit the Welcome Center from 11

a.m. - 3 p.m., so bring your Christmas list! For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/1 – Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion** 12 - 7 p.m. Tour the traditionally decorated Mansion and enjoy the traditional music of “Bedlam” between noon and 7 p.m. Then, for a real slice of holiday tradition, enjoy the tree lighting and Santa’s arrival by fire truck at 7 p.m. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/5 – Holiday Craft Fair – Senior Center** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. This fair is always a welcome part of the holiday season and it is open to the public. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/6-22 – “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at Bowie Playhouse** Shakespeare’s classic “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” takes on the universal theme of love and its complications. The plot focuses on three parallel stories: the trials and two experiences of two sets of lovers camping in a magical forest, the world of the Fairy King and Queen and their elves, and a group of ambitious folk who are attempting to stage a theatrical production for the wedding of the Duke of Athens. It is produced by Annapolis Shakespeare Company. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets, visit [www.annapolishakespeare.org](http://www.annapolishakespeare.org) or call 410-280-1773.

**12/7 – Holiday History Happy Hour at Belair Mansion** 5 - 7 p.m. Enjoy wassail and a lecture on the history of holidays. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/12 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert – Senior Center** 1 p.m. Tickets are \$2 or a donation to the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/13 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert – Bowie Center for the Performing Arts** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are required. Tickets for the evening performance at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts are \$6. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/14 – KinderKristmas at Belair Mansion** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Holiday tour and fun for young revelers ages 3 - 9. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/14 – Saturday Fun with Santa** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. Come meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus! The program includes games, moon bounces, face painting, music, refreshments, pictures with Santa and more. The cost is \$3 per child or a donation of an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

**12/17 – Home(school) for the Holidays at Belair Mansion** 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Homeschoolers are invited to explore traditions from holidays past and present, and discover many traditions shared between cultures. Join us for a morning or afternoon session (program will repeat). Free, reservations required. For reservations and more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/19 – Let’s Celebrate the Holidays Together – Senior Center** 11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Join us for the Center’s annual holiday party! There will be a delicious festive lunch served, and DJ music. Register by Monday, December 9 at the Center. \$10 residents/\$12 nonresidents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/25 – Christmas Holiday** – All City facilities are closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

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