

Bowie News Flash

February 2014

News

No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste

As of January 1, 2014, residents are no longer able to put their grass, leaves, or branches 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 three 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. Large, heavy duty paper bags can be purchased at local stores. (We've found them 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 publicinfo@cityofbowie.org.

Retail Crime Awareness Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Retail business owners and managers are invited to join the Bowie Police Department for a presentation on active shooter preparedness, current crime trends, and crime awareness and prevention strategies. Also learn about Business Information Network (BIN), a new crime prevention strategy exclusively for Bowie businesses. The meeting will be held February 12, 2014, from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road. For more information, contact Sergeant Henderson at 301-575-1824 or email bhenderson@cityofbowie.org.

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 17

City offices and the Senior Center are closed on this day. There will be no refuse or recycling collection. There are no makeup days. Collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day.

Nominations for Bowie's Hall of Honor

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize those citizens of Bowie who made "major and lasting contributions" to the City. The first inductees were honored in 1994. A nominee to the Hall of Honor must: be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline; have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie; have been a resident of the City of Bowie either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death.

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2014 Hall of Honor is Friday, February 7, 2014 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/hallofhonor.

Know Someone Involved in Scouting that Deserves Recognition?

Consider Nominating Them for the Popp Award

In 1971, Bowie resident Malcolm "Skip" Popp, lost his life while rescuing Scouts on a troop outing. In his honor, an award is given by the City to recognize Scouts and Scout leaders who have performed "extraordinary and distinguished community service, within scouting organizations located in the City of Bowie." To learn more about this award or to obtain a nomination form, go to www.cityofbowie.org/popp or contact Sally Hein at 301-809-3014 or email shein@cityofbowie.org. The deadline for nominations is March 28, 2014.

National Anthem and "Voice of Bowie" Auditions

Open auditions are being held for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, Fourth of July and the International Festival. Auditions will be held in the Studio at the Kenhill Center on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Auditions for the National Anthem begin at 9 a.m. and at 11:30 a.m. for the "Voice of Bowie". For more information or to schedule an audition, please contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City issues a Water Quality Report for those areas of the City 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. Beginning with 2014, Water Quality Reports will no longer be mailed to residents, but will be available online at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr. The report covering the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013 will be available online in April 2014. For more information or to request a printed copy of the report, please call the Water Plant at 301-809-3060.

Fly Your Historic Flag for 2014! This year marks Prince George's County's commemoration of the War of 1812, and the birth of our National Anthem. Get your own 15-star Star Spangled Banner to fly all year long at the Mansion Gift Shop, open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. Flags are \$20 each.

Snow Removal

Snow is in the forecast for the first week of February. Please remember that a Snow Emergency is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two inches. At that time vehicles must be removed from City streets so that plowing may begin. All main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. In the event of a snowfall less than two inches, all main drives, hills and collector streets are treated with salt and/or sand. Streets and cul-de-sacs that are flat or have only slight inclines with limited intersections are only treated in extreme icing conditions. During a snow or ice event it is acceptable to park your vehicle on your grass. Each resident is responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk in front of their home. To report hazardous conditions within the City, call 301-809-2344. More information about the City's snow removal program can be found on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/snow.

New Exhibit on Display at City Hall Gallery

"Small Works and Miniatures" is the title of the current Art Gallery show. The Gallery features all works that are no larger than 14 x 14, many of them smaller. Flowers, birds, landscapes, abstracts, and more are the subject of the exhibit. The show also includes several sculpture pieces in the upstairs and downstairs display cases.

Gallery hours are the same hours as City Hall: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. A slideshow of the artwork can also be viewed from the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/gallery.

Youth Services Groups

Bowie Youth & Family Services offers a variety of groups for local families. To learn more, visit www.cityofbowie.org/byfs or call 301-809-3033.

The following groups are beginning soon:

Active Parenting – A popular, 7-week group for parents that focuses on learning practical skills to help develop cooperation and responsibility in your child. Tuesdays, beginning February 11, from 7 - 9 p.m. (Fee required.)

ADHD/ADD Education – Two groups run simultaneously: Adults learn about ADD/ADHD and new ways to help their child. Children, ages 7-11, focus on improving social skills. Call for pre-group interview. Mondays, beginning February 24, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. (Fee required.)

Girls Count! – Sharing the pressures of being female in today's complex society, teen girls support each other as they participate in activities that are fun and meaningful. Mondays, beginning February 24, from 4 - 5:30 p.m. (Fee required.)

Melford Village Proposal

The Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) will be holding a worksession on the Melford Village proposal on February 11 and a public hearing on February 25. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The worksession on February 11th will include the same informational presentations that were made at the January 15th Stakeholders Meeting and will provide an opportunity for BAPB members to learn about the details of the Conceptual Site Plan prior to holding their public hearing. The public may attend the BAPB worksession, however, public participation will not be permitted at that meeting. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in the BAPB Public Hearing on February 25. The issue is expected to come before the City Council in March or April of this year.

Events

Weekends through 2/16 – “Funny Money” at Bowie Playhouse Henry, a mild mannered British CPA, accidentally picks up a briefcase full of someone else's ill-gotten gains. He decides to keep it and fly to Barcelona to start a new life, but his wife has other plans, and before they can leave, there's an unexpected knock at the door. The circumstances that prevent Henry from working his way out of this problem are the kinds that only a master of farce like Britain's Ray Cooney (author of “Run for Your Wife” and “It Runs in the Family”) could create. You'll love this hilarious comedy of errors produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 3 p.m. on weekends. For tickets, visit www.2ndstarproductions.com or call 410-757-5700.

2/3 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall.

2/7 – Hall of Honor Nomination Deadline 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/hallofhonor.

2/11 – Second Tuesday Lecture - Sea Chantys 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Belair Mansion
Join Myron Peterson of the “The Chantymen” for an evening of 18th and 19th century seafaring songs. This event is free and no reservations are required.

2/11 – Magic Show at the Senior Center 12:30 p.m. Join us as the Center’s Magic Club performs their amazing feats of prestidigitation, comedy, and mind reading. Each performer is a member of the Magic Club. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/11 – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Worksession on Melford Village Proposal
7 p.m. at City Hall. A new Conceptual Site Plan that includes retail, office, and housing has been submitted by the owners of Melford. The proposal will be reviewed by the Bowie Advisory Planning Board at this worksession. Following the worksession, the Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal on February 25th and then make a recommendation to the City Council on the proposal. Both the worksession and the public hearing are open to the public. For more information, call 301-809-3047.

2/12 – Retail Crime Awareness Meeting 9 - 10 a.m. at the Bowie Police Department. To learn more about this crime prevention meeting for retail businesses, contact Sergeant Henderson at bhenderson@cityofbowie.org or call 301-575-1824.

2/14 – Friendship Day/Open House 12:30 - 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. All seniors are invited to attend this annual event. It is an opportunity to celebrate friendship and learn more about the Bowie Senior Center's programs and activities. There will be live entertainment, light refreshments, and tours. Join us! For more information, call the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

2/14 - 2/17 – Presidents' Day Tournament at the Bowie Ice Arena. This annual tournament is hosted by the Bowie Hockey Club and is for players ages 6 -18. Admission is free for spectators. Contact the Ice Arena for times and more information at 301-809-3090.

2/17 – Presidents' Day Holiday – City offices and the Senior Center are closed. No refuse or recycling collection.

2/18 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad stories and fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

2/18 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. (Note: this meeting is being held on Tuesday because of the Monday holiday.)

2/21 – Red Cross Blood Drive 12 - 7 p.m. at the City Gym. To register, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVEBLOOD. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

2/22 – National Anthem and “Voice of Bowie” Auditions. For more information or to schedule an audition, please contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

2/23 – Bowie Figure Skating Competition Skaters of all ages, representing rinks in the Mid-Atlantic region, will compete in various events. Free admission for spectators. Contact the Ice Arena for times and more information at 301-809-3090.

2/25 – Taking a Look Back at Slavery to Impact Our Present and Future at the Senior Center 12:30 p.m. This program, presented by Dr. Ellen C. Sistare, features a narration of actual life experiences of slaves who lived on plantations in the State of Maryland. The program will also include short poems from the "Women of Plums", written by D.C. Poet Laureate, Delores Kendrick. The purpose of this narration is to remind and sensitize people to the dark injustices and dehumanization one group of people experienced during the time of slavery. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

2/25 – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing on Melford Village Proposal for mixed use development at Melford. The hearing will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call 301-809-3047.

2/28 – Looking Locally at the War of 1812 10:30 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Maya Davis from the Maryland State Archives and Mike Dixon from Delaware will discuss runaway slaves (some from Belair's Ogle Family) and the lives of everyday citizens during the war. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverages provided. Watch for details in local papers and on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/museums. The program is sponsored in part by the Maryland Humanities Council and is free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.