

Bowie News Flash

April 2014

News

Prescription Drug Take Back

The Bowie Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will host a Prescription Drug Take Back Day on **Saturday, April 26**, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Bowie Police Department. For information, contact the Bowie Police Department at 301-575-2480.

Fourth Annual Green Expo - Saturday, April 12

The City of Bowie, the Bowie Lions Club, and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce are joining forces to sponsor the Fourth Annual Bowie Green Expo Saturday, April 12, from 1 - 4 p.m. at Kenhill Center. The Bowie Green Expo is a free three-hour, community-wide, family-oriented event featuring local environmental agencies, nonprofits, and local and regional businesses offering green products or services. You will learn how to have a healthy and happy lifestyle while reducing your environmental footprint. There will also be activities for children, including the Green Kids' Corner. For more information, visit www.bowiegreenexpo.org.

Elijah's Bowl

The City of Bowie Grants Office and a coalition of Bowie churches have banded together to organize a monthly lunch for those in need. Lunches are held on the second Saturday of each month. Doors open at noon and a free, hot lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. Attendees can also obtain information about services such as food, clothing, housing, rental assistance, utility payment assistance, etc. Lunches take place at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 2503 Belair Drive in Bowie. Upcoming lunch dates are April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12 and August 9.

A Perfect Time to Plant a Tree - \$100 City Rebate Available!

Spring is in the air, and it is time to start taking advantage of the many benefits that trees provide. Add beauty, shade, and privacy to your property with a tree. A \$100 City rebate is available to residents who would like to plant a tree on their property. To learn how to receive the rebate, visit www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie or contact Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

City Council Begins Fiscal 2015 Budget Deliberations This Month

The City Council will begin its annual review of the Proposed Budget for the coming fiscal year with a series of Budget Worksessions, which are open to the public. See the schedule below under Events.

Community Job Fair – May 2nd

Are you in the market for a job, a better position, or an entirely new career? Then mark your calendar and plan to attend our Community Job Fair on Friday, May 2, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City Gymnasium. The fair is free and open to all job seekers. You need not be a City resident to attend this fair. Last year's fair featured over 40 employers from across the DC/Baltimore region. This year's confirmed participants include the University of Maryland, the Smithsonian Institution, WMATA, Prince George's County Government, and Sun Trust Bank. More information and the growing list of participants can soon be found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair.

Free Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshops on April 24th

To help job seekers prepare for the May 2nd Job Fair, the City of Bowie has teamed up with the Prince George's County One-Stop Career Center to offer workshops on resume writing and interviewing skills. They will be held on Thursday, April 24th at City Hall. Each workshop lasts an hour and sessions take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required for these workshops. Please contact Joan Comer in the City Manager's Office at 301-809-3055 to sign up to attend.

Public Hearing on Zoning Map Amendment for Amber Ridge

The City Council Meeting on April 7th will include a Public Hearing on a requested amendment to the Zoning Map for Amber Ridge. The amendment would rezone the 19.03-acre Amber Ridge site from C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) to M-X-T (Mixed Use Transportation Oriented), a mixed use zone. The purpose of the request is to develop the property with three commercial/retail uses, containing approximately 19,000 sq. ft., and a residential component on ten acres, for 320 multifamily dwelling units or 150 townhouses, or a variation/combination thereof.

Melford Village Proposal – Public Hearing on April 21st

The Bowie City Council will hold a public hearing on the Melford Village Proposal at its Regular Council Meeting on Monday, April 21st. Melford Village is a proposed mixed use project including a variety of residential unit types and retail/commercial/service uses on approximately 122 acres located within the existing Melford development. The meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in this hearing.

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 - Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. Flags are \$20 each.

Register for Summer Ice Skating Camps

Registration for summer skating camps began in March. Camps will be held during the months of July and August. Half-day camps will be offered for children ages 3 - 6 and full-day camps will be offered for children ages 6 - 13. Specialty camps will also be offered for hockey and figure skating. For a detailed listing of camp offerings, please call the Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit us online at www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Youth Leadership Bowie

Youth Leadership Bowie is a unique program which exposes young people to potential career opportunities. Leadership opportunities both experiential and observational, as well as problem-solving skills, are key components of the yearlong program. Participants plan and carry out a project that addresses a community need. To be eligible, students must be entering their sophomore or junior year in high school in September 2014. They must also live in Bowie (defined as residing in Zip Codes 20715, 20716, 20720, or 20721). Bowie High School students entering their sophomore or junior years are also eligible to apply. The application deadline is Friday, May 2, 2014. Applications are available on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms or from the GBCC website at www.bowiechamber.org.

Emergency Preparedness

Now that winter is finally departing, we are approaching the season for tornadoes, hurricanes and tropical storms. If one of these severe storms were to strike Bowie today, would you have the information and supplies you need to help you and your family get through the disaster safely? Learn more at www.ready.gov.

The City of Bowie can help you prepare by bringing our emergency preparedness presentation to your local club or organization. Please contact Alan Creveling at 301-809-3079 or acreveling@cityofbowie.org, or Una Cooper at ucooper@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3032 to schedule a presentation for your group.

Pothole Reporting

It's April and hopefully the snow, ice and sleet are behind us. Unfortunately the many potholes caused by the long, hard winter weather still remain. Help get local roads back in shape by reporting the potholes that you encounter as you drive around our City.

Potholes on City streets can be reported by calling 301-809-2344. Prince George's County takes pothole reports for their roads at 301-499-8520 and potholes on State roads (usually numbered highways such as 301, 3, 450, 214, 197) can be reported to 301-952-0555 or 301-776-7619. Each jurisdiction also takes online reports. You can find the link to each government's online form on our website at www.cityofbowie.org/potholes. If you're not sure whether you should be contacting the City, County, or State about a particular pothole, please call our Public Works Department and we'll be glad to help.

No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste

As of January 1, 2014, residents are no longer able to put their grass, leaves, or branches out for curbside collection 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. 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 BJ's, Home Depot, Lowe's, Safeway, and Target.) Cans, bags and bundles of limbs must weigh no more than 50 pounds each. 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 Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

Hydrant Flushing Begins April 7

The Bowie Public Works Department will begin the annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing will occur from approximately 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., according to the following schedule:

- APRIL 7 & 8.....Buckingham, Derbyshire, and Forest Drive
- APRIL 9 & 10Somerset and Bowie Forest
- APRIL 11 & 14.....Tulip Grove (including Twin Cedar)
- APRIL 15 & 16.....Foxhill & Long Ridge
- APRIL 17 - 21.....Kenilworth
- APRIL 22.....Heather Hills
- APRIL 23 - 25.....Meadowbrook
- APRIL 28.....Gradys Walk & Glenridge
- APRIL 29.....Chapel Forge
- APRIL 30.....Victoria Heights & Race Track Road Townhouses
- MAY 1.....Idlewild
- MAY 2.....Yorktown & Overbrook
- MAY 5.....Whitehall
- MAY 6.....Rockledge

Some discoloration of your water may occur, so clothes washing is discouraged. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and rewash them using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment build up in the water lines and is not harmful. The discoloration should clear in approximately 24 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could affect your water as well. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year the City of Bowie prepares a Water Quality Report that provides a summary of the City's efforts to provide quality drinking water to customers served by the City's water system. In the past, a copy of this report has been mailed to all customers served by the City's system. Starting this year, the City of Bowie Water Quality Report will no longer be mailed to each customer of the City of Bowie water system. However, the Water Quality Report is available online at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr. For more information or to request a printed copy of the report, please contact the City Water Plant at 301-809-3060.

Street Sweeping is Underway

Between spring and fall, each City street is cleaned several times by a street sweeper. When sweeping is scheduled for your neighborhood, please park in driveways rather than the streets, whenever possible.

Schedule

Week of April 7th: Collington Station, Devonshire, Dixon Crossing, Fairview, Gradys Walk, Grovehurst, Highbridge Park, Huntington, Northridge, Spring Meadows, Stewarts Landing, Westview, Woodmore Highlands

Week of April 14th: Belair Town I, Meadowbrook, Belair Greens, Somerset

Week of April 21st: Belair Town II, Chapel Forge, Idlewild, Longleaf, Old Stage, Overbrook, Patuxent Overlook, Saddlebrook, Tulip Grove, Victoria Heights, Yorktown

Week of April 28th: Ensleigh, Essington, Foxhill, Heather Hills, Huntington Crest, Rolling Hills, Long Ridge, Old Chapel, Old Chapel Estates, Princeton Square, Rockledge, Whitehall

Events

3/28 - 4/13 – Shakespeare's Hamlet at Bowie Playhouse The *Tragedy of Hamlet* is a play originally written by Shakespeare and is set in the ancient kingdom of Denmark. It is about the revenge of a prince after his family members including King Hamlet, are murdered by his uncle, Claudius, so that he can inherit the throne as well as the wife of his kinsman. The play culminates when the young prince finally kills Claudius and manages to take back the throne of his father. The themes of the play are revenge, family ties, and corruption. It is produced by the Annapolis Shakespeare Company. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, visit www.annapolishakespeare.org or call 410-415-3513.

4/5 – Stream Team Cleanup 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at various locations across the City. Contact Tiffany Wright in the Planning Department at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043.

4/7 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. This meeting will include a public hearing on a requested amendment to the Zoning Map for Amber Ridge.

4/8 - "The Confederate Underground in Maryland" A Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. During the Civil War, Prince George's County and the Bowie area leaned heavily toward the Southern cause. Lindsey Horn, Education Assistant at the Surratt

House in Clinton, will discuss "behind the scenes underground" activity associated with the Confederate forces in the local area.

4/9 – Art Gallery Reception 6 - 8 p.m. at City Hall. The work of Prince George's County Art Teachers will be shown in a special new exhibit in the City Hall Art Galleries. The public is invited to come meet the art teachers at a free reception in their honor.

4/10 – Discussion on Aging Muscles 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. Arthritis and Pain Associates will share information on coping with muscle and joint pain. For more information, call the Center at 301-809-2300.

4/12 – Green Expo 1 - 4 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. This free community-wide, family-oriented event features local environmental agencies, nonprofits, and local and regional businesses offering green products or services. Learn about a greener lifestyle while reducing your carbon footprint from local businesses wanting to share their products and services. For more information, visit www.bowiegreenexpo.org.

4/13 – Weed Warrior Work Day 2 - 4:30 p.m. at Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and easily, and is very destructive to native ecosystems. The City of Bowie's Green Team needs volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. This is an outdoor activity that requires cutting the ivy vines at eye-level and foot-level, then pulling them back about two feet from the base of the tree to bag them. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/weedwarriors for more information.

4/14 – Special City Council Meeting (Budget/CIP Introduction) and Budget Worksession #1 8 p.m. at City Hall. General Fund Revenues, the Capital Improvements Program, and Capital Projects Fund will be reviewed.

4/15 – Kids Kaboose - 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun, trainspotting and games for youngsters ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

4/21 – Dedication Ceremony and Reception for Bowie's Latest Work of Public Art 6 - 8 p.m. at City Hall. The public is invited to the dedication of the City's latest public artwork. Meet artist Adam Nelson and see his "Great Water", an artistic interpretation of the Chesapeake Bay and its many tributaries.

4/21 – City Council Meeting and Public Hearing on Melford Village Proposal. 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

4/23 – City Council Budget Worksession #2 8 p.m. at City Hall. The Public Works Department and the Water and Sewer Fund budgets will be discussed.

4/24 – Free Interview Skills and Resume Writing Workshops at City Hall. Call 301-809-3055 for information and to register to attend.

4/26 – Spring Plant Sale 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Library on Annapolis Road. This sale is sponsored by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the Bowie Green Team. It offers a wide selection of nursery-grown and member-grown plants. Master gardeners will be available for questions. Proceeds support the University of Maryland Agricultural Scholarship, the Bowie Food Pantry and local programs.

4/26 – Celebrate Arbor Day 10 a.m. at Acorn Hill Park. The City's annual ceremony includes presentation of the Tree City USA award and the Maryland PLANT Community award. These awards are granted annually to those communities meeting prescribed objectives in the planting, maintenance, and preservation of the urban forest. Acorn Hill Park is located on Stonybrook Drive at Sage Lane. For more information, contact Community Forester Rick Kellner at rkellner@cityofbowie.org.

4/26 – Prescription Drug Take Back 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bowie Police Department. For information, contact the Bowie Police Department at 301-575-2480.

4/28 – City Council Budget Worksession #3 8 p.m. at City Hall. The budget of the Community Services Department will be reviewed.

Mark Your Calendar...

5/2 *Community Job Fair at the City Gym*

5/24 *Parade*

6/7 *Bowiefest*

6/21 *Document Shredding and Styrofoam Recycling Event*