



Mission: The mission of the City of Bowie Museums is to preserve, collect, interpret and celebrate for the public's appreciation the history, architecture, city plans, and people of Bowie, Maryland, through education and exhibition, archaeology and advocacy of this diverse heritage.

Preserving Our Past

May has long been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Historic Preservation Month. Awards are given out all over the country, information is shared about endangered places, communities mourn the loss of unsalvageable structures and celebrate the success and future of structures that have been saved.

The City of Bowie has, for many years, understood the importance of its historic structures, supporting their preservation and continuing to maintain those structures so that we might share their stories with our visitors. Dedicated volunteers have lent a hand, too...stripping paint, de-gunking shedrow walls, working to raise funds to help with the repair, preservation and furnishing of these buildings.

The Belair Stable is only one example of this policy—Belair Mansion, the Railroad Museum structures and the Old Town Bowie Welcome Center also demonstrate the value the City places on its past.

Purchased by William Levitt as part of the acquisition of Belair Farm, the stable saw a number of uses before being sold to the City for the profit Mr. Levitt would have made on the six building lots the Stable occupies. It can be truly stated that the Belair Stable is one of the most important 20th century horse-racing sites in the United States. Built in 1907 by James and William Woodward, the Belair Stud Stable housed many of Woodward's champion racers here for "R&R."

Shed rows, as shown in the photo to the right, were wood. In the early 1920's, Mr. Woodward—concerned for the safety of his stock—replaced them with brick. He also invited James Brady to be Belair's first stablemaster, living on site with his family in a very spacious little apartment on the Stable's south side. Visitors today can capture the feeling of that 1923 apartment—much of the furnishings in exhibit rooms actually belonged to the Bradys.

After the Levitt sale of the Stable to the City, and a bit of languishing and disuse, volunteers moved in and worked to clear, clean and create Bowie's first museum—in time for the first Heritage Day in 1969. In 2000, the Belair Stable underwent a huge restoration process, and became (if we do say so ourselves!) a real small museum gem unique in topic—Belair Thoroughbreds, Belair Farm, and the history of Thoroughbred racing.



Ben Brady holds a horse in the courtyard of the Belair Stables prior to 1923. Note the wooden shed rows, replaced in 1923. A circular stone "well" is visible behind the horse. The circle was replaced in the 2000 Stable Restoration Project. Mr. Brady's hat hangs in the Stablemaster's Apartment today.

Celebrating Our Past

And we will...at our 46th Annual Heritage Day on May 18!

Long ago, in 1969, then-Governor Marvin Mandel helped inaugurate a tradition that is now a part of Bowie's municipal culture!

Visit the Mansion and Stable, open Noon-4. At the Mansion, kids colonial games will entertain young AND "mature." A 20% discount will be offered in the Museum Shop. The Stable will feature free pony rides, the bluegrass music of Durham Station, hands on activities including churning butter 1920's style and the "Pint Sized Preakness Race" for "short" people. At the Bowie Railroad Museum and Old Town Welcome Center (10am-4pm), visit with the N'Track Modelers and the Lego Lady...and watch trains speed by. The Prince George's Genealogical Library will be open (Noon-4:00 pm,) so you can stop by to learn how to find your past. All events are free; no reservations.

Keep Up With Our Event Schedule

Want to keep up with events in our Museums? While events are included in this newsletter, and on the City website, you can sign up for notification of additional programs and events. Go to www.cityofbowie.org and sign up for Museum Events newsflashes today! So far, we have 23 eager event attendees/information seekers...register now!

Coming Soon To A Museum Near You!

Belair Mansion continues to be the proverbial beehive of maintenance projects.

Our fall/winter paint jobs are complete and the Mansion shines inside and out. In early May, work will begin on repair and maintenance to the slate roof. A new state-of-the-art HVAC system just completed will allow us, for the first time since we opened in 1995, to control our heat, and more importantly, our relative humidity. Our new driveway is in!

And...hopefully in time for Heritage Day, brand new DRAPERIES will be hanging in the sunroom!!!! They will approximate the drapes that Mrs. Elsie Woodward selected long ago. In addition to looking beautiful, they will also help us in our efforts to be more energy efficient, since they will be operable. Next up — new window treatments for the Double Parlor and Dining Room...stand by for news on them later this year.

Getting to the Races

In the days of colonial Thoroughbred races, those hardy 18th century horses walked from here to there to race. In 1752, Col. Tasker took Belair's mare Selima to race in Virginia...she likely walked there. In 1936, William Woodward sent Belair's Omaha to England...Omaha got a cruise out of the deal—aboard the RMS Aquitania.

Today's Thoroughbred racers neither walk nor sail. They fly. And they don't fly tourist class! A number of companies provide first class air travel for horses. One Texas company transports equine travelers on a Boeing 707 known as "Air Horse One." Special stalls on board accommodate not only individual animals, but can be set up so that foals can be with moms, or weanlings can travel together in the same stall. Once aboard, horses are offered refreshments—not peanuts— but hay and water. Unfortunately, no in flight movies for them!



Dorothy Wintermere Pocurull, daughter of Caretakers Helen and Edward Wintermere, enjoys an afternoon in Belair's Sunroom. Mrs. Woodward's draperies, along with some of the 65 foxheads which lined the walls, are visible behind her. The photo was taken around 1950.

Summer Fun

Be sure to check the City website for a list of summer programs for children...Tuesday Time Travelers will visit all museum sites for special programs. The ever popular "Mrs. Rumney's Housewifery School for Young Ladies" returns to instruct students in skills necessary to run an 18th century household—including meal preparation and laundry.

Our museums are all open every day except Mondays—check the back of the newsletter for open hours for individual sites. Historic houses, horses, railroads and radios will entertain you—for free! Been thinking about finding your ancestors?—the Genealogy Library would love to assist. Their collection of records covers the entire country. Their willingness to assist is legendary, and can guide you whether you're a novice or an expert "family history explorer."

And Speaking of Traveling...

Join the Friends of Belair on our Spring "road trip" to James Madison's Montpelier in Orange, Va., lunch at the Silk Mill Grille, and a stop at Chatham Manor at Fredericksburg Battlefield. We'll leave Belair at 7:00 am on June 17, returning about 7:00 pm. Cost is \$85 (\$75 for FOBE and HHS members.) If you didn't receive the flyer, please call the Museum Office at 301-809-3089 or email: museums@cityofbowie.org A good time and good fellowship guaranteed for all.

Museums Partner with Genealogy Library

We are very excited to announce a joint program with our partners, the Prince George's Genealogical Library, on May 31, from 10:30 am-3:00 pm at Belair Mansion.

To start the program, Genealogist Rebecca Koford will speak on "Finding Your 1812 Ancestors." Ms. Koford's talk will be followed by a bring your own "brown bag lunch," with drinks and desserts provided. The Genealogical Library will be open during lunch for those who would like to have a look around. At 1:00 pm, Riversdale's Rosalie Stier Calvert (portrayed by actress/historian Mary Ann Jung) will visit to describe her experiences in Prince George's County during the War of 1812.

The program is free; reservations are requested. Please call 301-809-3089 or email museums@cityofbowie.org

You Say Tomato...I Say ToMAHto...

But we all are among a tiny MINORITY of folks who say "Boowie." If it grates on you when people call the area "BOWie," be understanding! The rest of the nation has a different take on the pronunciation.

According to a spoken "American English" language study undertaken by the University of North Carolina, only a very small segment of Maryland (in our area) and a large segment of Texas (are we surprised?!?) pronounce Bowie with the "extended" oooo sound.



Governor Marvin Mandel Speaks at Heritage Day, May 1969

**HERE COME THE CAMELS & CAMPBELL AT BOWIE
PLUS A BUFFALO, ZEBU, LLAMA & TWO BANDS**

THIS FRIDAY	THIS SATURDAY
<p>See The Greatest Confrontation Since KING KONG & GODZILLA— "THE NOAH'S ARK" ANIMAL RACE (¼ Mile) Starts at 12:00 Noon For 3 & 4-year-olds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Camels (Arabia & Egypt) • A Buffalo (U.S.) • A Zebu (India) • A Llama (South America) <p>To be Ridden by such favorite jockeys as Nick Shuk, Eric Walsh, Danny Wright, Frank Lavato & Jesse Davidson. All from the Starting Gate . . . A Fantastic Lineup of "Zoo's Who" in the Animal Kingdom . . . First Time ever with this mixed race . . . You have to see it to believe it . . . And you'll Flip, Man!</p>	<p>Gates Open at 11:00 A.M. SEE THE \$100,000 ADDED JOHN B. CAMPBELL</p> <p>Maryland's always Exciting & Richest Handicap Race . . . BOWIE Features the Nation's best horses and Jockeys . . . WILL THEY BREAK THE TRACK RECORD FOR THIS 19TH MILE & 1/16TH CLASSIC?</p> <p>Reserved Seats Available. (Call 301/262-8111)</p> 
<p>BOWIE Completely Winterized</p> <p>POST 1:00 • 4 EXACTAS</p>	
<p>A MUST ON YOUR CALENDAR • YOU WILL WALK A MILE TO SEE THESE RACES!</p>	

A "Different" Race at Bowie Race Track

You thought Bowie Race Track was for horses, right? Well, not always!

In February of 1972, the "Noah's Ark Animal Race was held at Bowie Race track – featuring a camel, buffalo, llama and a zebu (a single humped Asian cow.) Two camels were scheduled to race, but one of the camels died at the race track after traveling to Bowie from Missouri. The second camel had to be muzzled after it became aggressive during a practice run, biting the arm of exercise boy Michael Pearson, then shaking the arm violently, resulting in a broken arm.

One Large Hump (the zebu) won the race, followed by Llama Fleece (the llama), and Walk A Mile (the camel) came in third. Home on the Range (the buffalo) "wallowed in the mud," according to The Baltimore Sun, and it didn't finish the race.

Walk A Mile (the camel) was favored to win after winning two heats earlier in the week. Since Walk A Mile, however, was forced to wear a muzzle during the last race after breaking Pearson's arm, and jockey Charley Cooke speculated that the muzzle caused the loss.



CITY OF BOWIE MUSEUMS

City of Bowie Museums
12207 Tulip Grove Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715
301-809-3089 fax 301-809-2308

www.cityofbowie.org/museum

TTY/TDD 301-262-5013 or MD Relay System 800-735-2258

This material is available in alternate formats. Call 301-809-3089

 The City of Bowie welcomes the participation in City sponsored activities and programs of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the City at least two weeks in advance of the date on which the activity will either begin or be held to request an accommodation.

Bowie City Council

G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor
Isaac C. Truth, Mayor Pro Tem
Dennis Brady, Councilmember
Henri Gardner, Councilmember
James L. Marcos, Councilmember
Diane Polangin, Councilmember
Todd M. Turner, Councilmember

Staff

Pamela L. Williams, Manager—Historic Properties/Museums
Samantha H. Dorsey, Museums Curator
Ruth A. Murphy, Welcome Center /RR Facilities Manager
Museum Offices are staffed Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
To reach staff, call 301-809-3089 /museums@cityofbowie.org

Spring 2014 *Musings*



CALENDAR



Belair Mansion
Monday, May 12, 2-4 pm
Collector's Corner
Learn to conserve paper documents with experts
301-809-3097 Free /Reservations



Belair Mansion
Saturday, May 17 2:00 pm
Blue Sky Puppets in 1812
Kids can enjoy a puppet show about the 1812 Era. Free, no reservations required



Belair Mansion , Stable, Railroad
Genealogy Library
Sunday, May 18
Annual Bowie Heritage Day
Details on Page One



Belair Mansion
Monday, May 19 7:00 pm
Belair Mansion/Prince Georges
Historical Society 2nd Annual
Lecture
"What Lies Beneath: Archaeology at Waterford Estates" Dr. Paul Kreisa
Free, No reservations required



Kids Kaboose at Railroad Museum
Tuesday, May 20, 10:30 am -Noon
Railroad fun for Ages 1-10
Free, No reservations required



Belair Mansion
Saturday, May 31 10:30am-3:00pm
Find Your 1812 Ancestors
Get search hints from an expert...and meet a person from the past.
Free, reservations 301-809-3089



Belair Mansion
Saturday, June 14 6:30 pm
Anthem!
Join producer Mark Hildebrand for a screening of the PBS story of our National Anthem. Refreshments
Free, reservations 301-809-3089



Bowie Railroad Museum
Tues., June 17 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Kids Kaboose
See 5/20



Belair Mansion
Monday, June 23 9:30am-3:00 pm
Mrs. Rumney's Housewifery
School For Young Ladies
Ages 7-12 Lunch included
\$20 per child, reservations
301-809-3089

Hours: All Free Admission

Belair Mansion, 301-809-3089
12207 Tulip Grove Drive
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



Belair Stable, 301-809-3089
2835 Belair Drive
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



Bowie Welcome Ctr/, 301-575-2488
8606 Chestnut Avenue
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Bowie RR Station, 301-809-3089
8614 Chestnut Avenue
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Nat'l. Capital Radio & TV Museum
www.ncrtv.org 301-390-1020
2608 Mitchellville Road
Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday & Sunday,
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Prince George's Co. Genealogical
Society Library, 301-262-2063
www.pgcs.org
12219 Tulip Grove Drive
Please call 301-262-2063 for open hours and/
or appointments for research.

