

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: June 12, 2014

1. City Issues Statement on Insurance for Homeowners' Water and Sewer Lines

From time to time, various companies will contact City residents to offer insurance for the water and sewer lines located on private property. The City of Bowie is not associated with any of these companies and does not endorse or recommend any particular insurance they may provide.

The following information explains City and homeowner responsibilities for repairs which may be useful to residents considering the purchase of this type of insurance coverage:

The City of Bowie provides water and sewer service to approximately 7,900 properties, mostly in neighborhoods built by William Levitt & Sons. All other properties are served by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. For homes served by the City of Bowie, the City is responsible for repairs to water and sewer mains. Laterals carry water to and sewage from dwellings. While the City of Bowie is responsible for the mains, homeowners are responsible for the portion of the laterals that run across their property to and from the mains.

On rare occasions, laterals can fail. The likelihood of failure is dependent on many factors including piping materials, quality of the installation, susceptibility to tree root damage, or different rates of settlement. Costs for repairs can vary depending on the length of the lateral, how much excavation is required, and obstructions in gaining access to the pipe. When tree roots grow into the lines, sewer backups may occur. Most general homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage caused by sewer backups. For this reason, the City does recommend that homeowners purchase a sewer backup endorsement to their homeowner's or renter's insurance policy, which usually costs around \$25 per year.

Questions about the City of Bowie Water and Sewer Service can be directed to the Utilities Division of Public Works. The telephone number is 301-575-2472. WSSC customers can read a media release on the subject, which was issued by the utility in

2012. It can found on their website at the following address:

<http://www.wsscwater.com/home/jsp/misc/genericNews.faces?pgurl=/Communication/NewsRelease/2012/2012-11-16a.html> .

2. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Bowie EDC held their regular monthly meeting June 11 and bid farewell to its departing member Mr. Coppola. Officer elections were held -- Edward J. Leyden was elected as Chairman pending City Council ratification, Kelly Pierce was reelected Vice Chairman, and Michael Ahearn was elected Secretary. The EDC identified possible topics and issues for the coming year's meeting cycle. A final determination about topics and issues will be made at the July meeting. The next regular meeting of the EDC is July 9th at 7:30 a.m.

3. Pole Mounted Speed Signs

Public Works will be moving these speed signs to the following locations: **Evergreen Parkway** (fr. Trinity Drive); **Daliah Drive** (fr. Delcastle Drive); **Maureen Lane** (fr. River Park Road); **Jennings Lane** (fr. Johnsberg Lane); **Dunwood Crossing Drive** (fr. Westview Forest Drive); and **Yorktown Drive** (fr. Canfield Lane).