

Bowie News Flash

October 2014

News

A Message about the Recent Homicide on Midwood Lane

A homicide occurred on Midwood Lane on September 30, 2014 at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot at the Belair Swim and Racquet Club. The victim was the father of a Bowie High student and was trying to break up an altercation between his son and another individual who was not a Bowie resident. The altercation appeared to stem from an earlier encounter and was not connected to Bowie High School.

Prince George's County Police have arrested Deon Warren, age 19, of Upper Marlboro and charged him with First Degree Murder. The investigation was handled by the Homicide Division of the Prince George's County Police Department with the assistance and support of the Bowie Police Department.

Two City Police Officers are assigned as School Resource Officers at Bowie High School. One is based at the main campus and another is assigned to the Belair Annex on Belair Drive. City Police will supplement those officers with additional patrols in the area of the schools and are working with the school, the swim club, and the community to address loitering and other issues surrounding that area.

While a murder in Bowie is an extremely unusual occurrence, this tragic incident is a reminder that violence can strike anywhere and that all residents need to be aware of their surroundings and partner with law enforcement officials to report suspicious activities. We encourage parents to speak with their teenage children about the importance of avoiding situations and places that they know have the potential to attract crime or other risky behaviors.

Bowie International Festival - October 4, 2014

Entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children's activities will overflow at Allen Pond Park for the Annual Bowie International Festival on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Enjoy entertainment on two stages; food from the far reaches of Asia to right here in our own backyard; children's activities such as stories, dance, sports and games from around the world; and vendors of crafts, clothing, jewelry and many other offerings. For more information and the schedule of entertainment, visit www.cityofbowie.org/interfest.

Support the Food Pantry at the International Festival

The Bowie Community Outreach Committee and the Bowie Food Pantry will be at the International Festival on October 4 looking for donations to feed the hungry. Please bring a nonperishable item to donate as you enjoy a fun-filled day traveling around the world right here in Bowie. Our booth will be one where children can have their "passport" stamped after playing a fun game of International Food Bingo. For more information, please contact the Pantry at BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com or 301-262-6765.

Education Grants Available

The City offers education grants that can be used to fund projects that provide learning experiences and educational enrichment to students within eligible Bowie schools. The grants are administered through the City's Education Committee. The deadline for applications for the 2014-15 grants is Friday, October 17, 2014. Applications may be submitted by teachers, PTAs, PTOs, and individuals. Eligible schools are listed on the City's website. For additional information, contact the City's Education Committee staff liaison Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Green Team Recruiting

Are you interested in helping Bowie preserve its environment but don't know where to start? Are you a professional working in the energy, natural resources or business community and wish to put your knowledge and experience to use in your backyard? The Bowie Green Team is looking for additional members. It is made up of resident volunteers with a mission to improve the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the community by working with City government, residents, schools, businesses, and other local organizations. The Green Team meets the third Monday of each month, except August. For more information, contact the City's Green Team Liaison, Kristin Larson, at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Office Space Available for Nonprofits to Lease at Kenhill Center

A limited number of office suites, ranging from 900 to 1,800 square feet, are available for lease to organizations with nonprofit status that are located within the incorporated limits of the City of Bowie or that serve residents of the City. Applications, along with additional information and rental rates, can be obtained by contacting Sally Cannon Hein, Assistant Director of the Department of Community Services at shein@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3014.

Get Ready to Shake Out! The Great Southeast Earthquake Drill

Residents, local businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in the 2013 Great Southeast ShakeOut Earthquake Drill on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 10:16 a.m. Emergency agencies are working to educate the public with tips about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. Despite what you might have heard in the past, the best way to keep safe if the ground starts shaking is to drop, cover, and hold on. Visit www.Shakeout.org/southeast to learn more and practice how to be quake-safe with the rest of the Southeast. The life you save may be your own.

Alert Bowie 2.0 is Here!

The City has launched a new alerting system called Alert Bowie 2.0. It is an updated version of Bowie's current alerting system, which has been in place since 2005. It's a great way to get important Bowie information, including emergency alerts, public safety notices, and Bowie E-News updates. You choose the types of messages you receive and how you will receive them.

Current Alert Bowie subscribers will continue to receive messages during our transition period, but they will not have the ability to update their contact information or subscriptions, or take advantage of the new features that Alert Bowie 2.0 can provide until they create an account on the new system. The old Alert Bowie system will be phased out soon and all current Alert Bowie subscribers will need to have an account on the new system in order to continue receiving City of Bowie alerts. For more information, contact Una Cooper at 301-809-3032 or ucooper@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org/alerts.

Stream Cleanup Program Update

The City will not be holding a stream cleanup this month due to low attendance at the last several events. But we do need something from you! Tell us what we can do to get you interested in the program again...or for the first time. Starting Monday, October 13, there will be a link to a Stream Cleanup Survey on the Green Bowie web page. We would appreciate any feedback (both good and bad) you have based on your experiences at past cleanups or what has kept you from getting involved with stream teams in the past. Thanks, in advance.

Weed Warrior Work Day on Saturday, October 11th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The City of Bowie's Green Team is in need of volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and easily, and is very destructive to native ecosystems. Contact Kristin Larson to register at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

\$50 and \$100 Tree Rebates

Add beauty, shade, and privacy to your yard. Tree rebates of \$50 and \$100 are available on a first come, first served basis for City of Bowie residents who would like to purchase up to two trees at Patuxent Nursery (2410 Crain Hwy, Bowie). There are 10 species of trees eligible for rebates as well as lowered delivery/planting rates for program participants. Details of this program can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/treerebate or applications are available at the nursery. There are still plenty of rebates available!

Receive a BGE Home Energy Audit (\$100 Value) at No Cost

Bowie homeowners will have the opportunity to save money and improve the comfort and safety of their homes by completing a comprehensive home energy audit. The first 100 eligible homeowners to fill out an application and submit it to the City will receive a no cost BGE Home Performance with Energy Star Energy Audit (\$100 value). If interested, complete and submit an application at www.cityofbowie.org/eap.

Get Reimbursed \$20 for Certifying Your Yard as a NWF Wildlife Habitat

If you haven't certified your yard as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Wildlife Habitat yet, now is a great time! Usually, it costs \$20 to certify your yard, but starting July 30th, the City of Bowie will reimburse that amount to 50 homeowners who live within the incorporated municipal limits of the City of Bowie. Reimbursements will be given on a first come, first served basis until 50 have been claimed or until the program end date on June 5, 2015. More information is available at www.cityofbowie.org/habitat.

Halloween Trick or Treat - Friday, October 31

Halloween is Friday, October 31st. The suggested hours for trick or treating are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Bowie Police Department reminds trick or treaters and their parents to carry a flashlight, be mindful of traffic, and check all treats carefully. If you are on the roads on Halloween, please drive carefully and watch out for ghosts and goblins and other costumed critters.

Events

9/26 - 10/25 – “Children of Eden A Musical” at Bowie Playhouse Based on the story of Genesis, Children of Eden is a frank, heartfelt and often humorous examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children. Adam, Eve, Noah and the "Father" who created them deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. The show ultimately delivers a bittersweet but inspiring message that "the hardest part of love...is letting go." Produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, visit www.2ndstarproductions.com or call 301-832-4819.

10/3 – Native American-style Flute Music at the Senior Center 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Randy “Windtalker” Motz returns to perform his distinctive style of contemporary Native American-style flute music set against a backdrop of photos from the Appalachian Trail. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/4 – Bowie International Festival 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Enjoy entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children’s activities at this annual Bowie festival. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/interfest.

10/6 – City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/14 – Second Tuesday Lecture Series: “Reliving the Journey: Documenting the Flight to Freedom in Maryland.” 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Dr. Maya Davis of the Maryland State Archives will speak on the Underground Railroad and the flight to freedom in Maryland. Dr. Davis has worked extensively on the Underground Railroad Flight to Freedom project at the Archives for a number of years. Her talk promises to be enlightening and entertaining. Free, no reservations required. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/20 – City Council Regular Meeting - 8 p.m. at City Hall.

10/20 – Collector’s Corner – Quilt Quest 2 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Learn about identification, care and conservation for these important artifacts. Bring yours along for “show and tell” – and advice if needed. Free. Reservations required. For reservations and more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/21 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

10/25 – Halloween-On-Ice Party 1 - 3 p.m. at the Ice Arena. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Skate rental is \$3. We will have a costume contest, music, door prizes, skating and treat bags for kids in costume 13 years and under! For more information, please contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090.

10/26 – “Octoberfest” at Bowie Farmers’ Market 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School. Free scarecrow making (participants supply a long-sleeved shirt and trousers). Free pumpkin painting (pumpkins available for purchase at market). Activities start at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

10/31 – Halloween Party at the Senior Center 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. DJ music and light refreshments. Fun for all. \$5 for Bowie residents, \$6 for nonresidents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

10/31 – Halloween Trick or Treating – Suggested hours in Bowie are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.