

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

November - December 2014

Candlelight at Belair and Holiday Tree Lighting December 7, 2014

Bowie has a long holiday history – and the City of Bowie invites you to bring your families and friends and join your neighbors to celebrate that history!

Belair Mansion's annual **Candlelight Celebration** will be held from 12 to 6:30 p.m. December 7th. Enjoy a glimpse of over 250 years of Bowie Christmas history! Traditional decorations and flickering candles offer a glimpse of the past through the eyes of all the residents of the historic house. The music of "Bedlam" will fill the air. In colonial times, Belair's residents feasted, sang and visited – but there was no decorated tree in anyone's parlor. That holiday tradition didn't find its way to America, or Bowie, until the mid-19th century.

The City's **Holiday Tree Lighting** has been a tradition for over 50 years. The City invites you to be part of that tradition at the Mansion, beginning at 7 p.m. following the candlelight celebration.

Bundle up for caroling outdoors, followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus atop the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck. While you are inside the Mansion waiting to see Santa, enjoy the music of Bedlam.

So, come early on Sunday, December 7 and enjoy historic Belair Mansion's Candlelight Celebration from 12 – 6:30 p.m. followed by the Holiday Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but please bring a canned food donation for the Bowie Food Pantry to help those in need this holiday season. The Bowie Community Outreach Committee will have marked containers available for your donations. Many thanks and best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Belair Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. For information, contact Bowie City Hall at 301-809-3011 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Recycling Collection on New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2015, New Year's Day, is a City holiday and City offices are closed and most services are suspended. However, recycling collection will be provided for those residents regularly scheduled for this day.

So, if Thursday is your regularly scheduled recycling collection day, please place your recycling curbside by 7 a.m. on January 1, 2015 and it will be collected.

Thank you for your efforts to recycle and help the environment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

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The **Bowie Spotlight** is published by the City of Bowie six times a year.

Comments or questions regarding the content or form of the newsletter should be directed to the Public Information Office at 301-809-3040.

The City's TTY number is 301-262-5013.

For alternative versions of the newsletter, please contact the City's Public Information Office.

City of Bowie
15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, MD 20716

David J. Deutsch,
City Manager
301-809-3030



Bowie Police Department Hosts Annual "Shop With A Cop"

In December, the Bowie Police Department will host its fifth annual "Shop With A Cop" event, a nationally recognized program that helps less fortunate children and families during the holiday season. With community support, the Bowie Police Department will help make children smile and let them know that others care.

Through donations received, children (referred through local agencies, churches, and schools) are given a pre-set spending limit to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones. Children are accompanied by a uniformed officer who will assist them with their holiday purchases at a designated store. Afterwards, the kids are served a delicious lunch made available through donations received from local restaurants. Donor contributions continue to make this program a successful one for the children.

Donations may be directed to the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. All donations are tax deductible. For more information about this program, please contact Sergeant Henderson at 301-575-1824. Your consideration is greatly appreciated!

Donate to Toys for Tots

Join the Bowie Police Department to help make this Christmas special for local children. Please donate new unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations will be accepted at City Hall, the Bowie Police Department and other City facilities through **December 11**. For more information, please contact Sergeant Henderson at 301-575-1824.

Christmas Trees

Trees will be collected every **Wednesday in January** with yard waste. All decorations must be removed and the tree placed at the curb no later than 7 a.m.
Do not place tree in a plastic bag.



Office Space Available for Nonprofits at Kenhill Center

The Kenhill Center, located at 2614 Kenhill Drive, is currently home to a number of City of Bowie government offices as well as non-profit organizations serving residents of the City. The Bowie Youth Services Bureau and the City TV Studio are located here. Additionally, the Bowie Boys and Girls Club, the South Bowie Boys and Girls Club, Will to Win, Comcast, the Bowie Community Media Corporation, the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, the Unity Center of Light and the Bowie Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund maintain offices in the building as well.

At the present time, a limited number of office suites, ranging from 900 to 1,800 square feet are available for lease to organizations with nonprofit status who are located within the incorporated limits of the City of Bowie or who 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.

What's Bouncing at the City Gym

Senior Fit Program - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 - 10 a.m. Sponsored by Holy Cross Hospital. For information, stop by the Gym or contact Sara McKechnie of Holy Cross Hospital at 301-754-7895. Free.

Walking Program Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m. Get out of the cold, rain and snow and come inside our beautiful warm, dry gym this winter. Eleven laps around the gym equals one mile.

Coed Recreational Volleyball Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Meet new friends, exercise and have fun at the same time! No experience needed.

Thanksgiving Food Drive November 1 - 21 The Gym will accept nonperishable food items and personal hygiene products in the lobby. Please remember the less fortunate during this time of the year.

Toys for Tots December 1 - 11 The gym is a drop-off site for the Bowie Police Toys for Tots drive.

Saturday Fun with Santa December 13, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The program includes games, moon bounce, face painting, music, pictures with Santa and more for children ages 10 and under. The cost is \$3 per child or a donation of an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots.

American Red Cross Blood Drive December 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Give the "Gift of Life" this Christmas Eve. To register, go to www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-Red-Cross.

Party Rentals The Gym has two rooms available to the public for birthday parties, showers or meetings. The cost is \$25 an hour. The rooms hold up to 40 people. Chairs and tables are provided. Call 301-809-2388 for information.

Holiday Closings The Gymnasium will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. It will close early Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve; check the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, for closing times those dates.

For more information, please contact the City Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

Art Notes

Gallery News **Inside Spaces: Still Life and Interior Scenes** is the current Art Gallery exhibit that will run through January 17, 2015. Artists were asked to submit work that depicts things you would find inside a building. Subjects could be still life, scene of an indoor activity, or an abstract.

Gallery hours are City Hall hours. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Upcoming Gallery Shows The Arts Committee is pleased to announce the **Youth Art Expo**, a yearly gallery that will feature the work of Bowie school students. The exhibit will run **January 17 - March 21, 2015**.

Other upcoming Gallery shows are both juried shows: **Floral and Wildlife**, March 14 - June 13, 2015; **Chesapeake Bay**, June 13 - September 2015

For more information, contact Community Outreach Specialist Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Alert Bowie 2.0



Be in the know!

Receive:

- Automated severe weather alerts
- Emergency alerts
- Public safety notices
- Bowie E-news

Alerts can be sent to home phones, mobile devices and email accounts.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/alerts to sign up for Bowie's new alerting system now or call Una Cooper at 301-809-3032 for assistance.

Snow Removal

With winter upon us, please remember to remove your vehicles from the street if snow or ice is in the forecast. This will allow plows and/or salt and sand vehicles to more thoroughly treat your street.

A **Snow Emergency** is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two inches. All vehicles must be removed from City streets. The City begins plowing when the snow depth reaches two inches. All main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. Plowing continues until all streets have been cleared. 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. Extreme icing conditions exist when **all** areas are coated with ice. An example would be an extended freezing rain event that coats roads, trees and power lines – often referred to as ice storms. During a snow or ice event only, it is acceptable to park your vehicle on your grass.

Each resident and commercial property owner is responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their property. To report hazardous conditions within the City, call 301-809-2344.

A detailed explanation of the snow policy can be found on the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org.



Code Corner

Qualified residents, apply now for the 24-hour snow removal extension. Every owner or tenant of residential or commercial property which abuts a City sidewalk, or the paved area of their driveway if located within the public right-of-way, is required by City Code Chapter 14 to remove or clear away any snow and ice from the sidewalk or driveway within forty-eight (48) hours after the cessation of any falling snow, sleet, or freezing rain. If circumstances (age, disability, illness, etc.) prevent an owner or tenant from removing the snow or ice within the forty-eight (48) hour period, an individual may apply for a twenty-four (24) hour extension. The twenty-four (24) hour extension does not exempt one from clearing snow and ice from the public sidewalks and driveway area. It only provides a waiver of the forty-eight (48) hour rule and grants a twenty-four (24) hour extension. The extension will permit the applicant seventy-two (72) hours (3 days) to comply with the City Code. It is strongly suggested that you make arrangements now with a company or individual for snow removal during the winter months. It will be more difficult to find someone once the snow/ice season has begun.

Qualified residents may apply for the 24-hour extension by submitting an application to the Code Compliance Office at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. The application is available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org. An application may also be obtained at City Hall or by contacting the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org. **Applications should be submitted before December 1, 2014.**

Need someone to shovel snow? Consider the Bowie Youth and Family Services Teen Job Bank program. Bowie youths between the ages of 13 and 18 willing to shovel snow are listed with the Teen Job Bank. For more information, visit the website, www.cityofbowie.org/index.aspx?NID=674 or contact the Teen Job Bank at 301-809-3033.

Code Compliance Office Contact Information

Main Office	301-809-3008	Fax# 301-809-2314
Assigned Areas:		
Alice Legare-Martinek	301-809-3007	amartinek@cityofbowie.org
David Findlater	301-809-3006	dfindlater@cityofbowie.org
John Rogers	301-809-2306	jrogers@cityofbowie.org
Tiara Andrews	301-575-5607	tandrews@cityofbowie.org
Special Assignments:		
Jamie Braun, Commercial	301-809-3012	jbrown@cityofbowie.org
Francis Murphy, Rentals	301-809-3005	fmurphy@cityofbowie.org
Evening and Weekend:		
Henry Skip Gormley	301-575-5605	sgormley@cityofbowie.org
Freddie Glass	301-575-5606	fglass@cityofbowie.org
Administrative Office Associate:		
Denise Michelle	301-809-3008	dmichelle@cityofbowie.org
Supervisor:		
Steve Roberts	301-575-5600	sroberts@cityofbowie.org

Bowie Youth and Family Services

Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) serves individuals, families and groups in the Bowie community. We offer counseling for all families in the City who have children in the home who are high school age or younger. Other services include outreach activities and a mentoring program for students at Bowie High School. Our staff members are licensed clinicians who each hold a graduate degree in a mental health specialty and who have years of training and experience in treating children, teens and their families.

We will accept registrations for three groups this October. The first, **The Active Parenting Program**, is run by our Clinical Supervisor, Debby Shipler, and is open to parents with school-aged children or teens. The second, **Girls Count**, is an after-school program for 9-12th grade girls. Finally, our popular **ADHD Group**, for 7-11 year-old children with Attention Deficit Disorder and their parents, will begin in October. Families are encouraged to call **301-809-3033** for information or to arrange for an appointment.

Teen Job Bank

Bowie Youth & Family Services sponsors a Teen Job Bank, where residents can find Bowie youth who are looking for opportunities for making extra money, either on an occasional or a regular basis. Residents may use this service to find teens that can help with tasks such as lawn mowing, babysitting, tutoring, shopping or other chores. The particulars of the job and the fees per hour are determined by you and the teen. You may access this program by completing the Teen Job Bank resident application found on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org or by calling us at **301-809-3033**.

BYFS is located at the Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, MD 20715.

Mentoring Makes a Difference at Bowie High School

Caring adult mentors are needed! Please consider volunteering. Bowie Youth & Family Services and the Bowie Prevention Network look forward to another successful year for the Teen Mentoring Program at Bowie High School. Our mentors and students are a fantastic group who are making a difference in each others' lives. You may be surprised to find that your contribution of time and caring significantly impacts your life as well as the success of a local teen.

As a mentor, you can: make a big difference in the life of a teen; create a valuable relationship; provide support and offer encouragement; share wisdom and experience; help achieve goals and support school success; offer guidance; and be a role model.

We welcome you as a mentor if you are willing to: make a commitment to a teen for the academic year; meet weekly with a teen; participate in mentor training; and agree to a security screen and fingerprinting.

The Teen Mentoring Program is provided by the Community Prevention Network, under the direction of the City of Bowie Youth & Family Services Bureau and in cooperation with Bowie High School. For information or to apply, please contact Rhonda Simon, Volunteer Coordinator, at mentor@cityofbowie.org, or Andra Berry, City Prevention Coordinator, at 301-809-3080.

“Imagine an Hour that Impacts a Lifetime, Imagine Mentoring.”

Beware of Roaming Deer

Deer are very active this time of year. It is their primary mating season and the peak time for deer hunting. The high point for deer breeding in Maryland occurs during the first three weeks of November when bucks will be most active. Commonly referred to as the “rut”, it lasts for approximately 20 days. The firearm hunting season is from November 29 thru December 13. For these and many other reasons, there are more deer sightings and vehicle collisions in November and December. Here are some important tips to consider when driving this time of year:

- Slow down and be alert especially during the early evening hours and the early morning hours when deer are most active.
- On darkened roadways, travel with your high beams on.
- When you see a deer on the side of the road, slow down and honk your horn. Deer travel in groups so there are probably more.
- If a collision is unavoidable, brake and don't swerve. If you try to avoid the deer you may lose control and swerve into oncoming traffic or off the roadway.
- If you strike a deer, protect yourself and ensure the safety of the occupants in your vehicle. Do not approach the injured deer. Dial 911 and await the arrival of a Bowie Police Officer.

Animal Hobby Permit

The Bowie Animal Control Office assists the Prince George's County Animal Management Division with their Animal Hobby Permit program. No person may “keep or harbor five (5) or more animals larger than a guinea pig or over the age of four months, without first obtaining an animal hobby permit” from Prince George's County. An animal hobby permit must also be obtained for any household that may keep, harbor or foster five (5) but no more than ten (10) companion animals. For more information on the Hobby Permit, please contact the Prince George's County Animal Management Division at 301-780-7200.

Holiday Season and Gift Giving

This is the season for generosity and gift giving. Please consider donating to your local animal welfare charities, spay and neuter clinics and the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility. These groups, and especially the animals and pets, will greatly appreciate your gifts, donations, and volunteer work. For a list of agencies and charities, please contact the Bowie Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002 or lransom@cityofbowie.org



Community Outreach Committee Seeks Input

Would you like to know what services are provided by a specific state/local government or nonprofit agency? Do you need information on services for seniors, teens, or families? Is there a particular social, economic or educational service, topic, or subject that is of interest to you? We can help.

The Bowie Community Outreach Committee (COC) is responsible for providing information about community programs, services, and activities available to Bowie residents. This is done by interviewing local experts who represent a broad variety of services and agencies for broadcast on Bowie government television. Examples of past COC shows, including shows featuring the Bowie Food Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund and the Bowie Senior Center, can be seen on the Community Outreach Committee section of the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org/coc.

The COC is open to ideas from the Bowie community about future topics and subjects. While many services are available, the COC is specifically interested in highlighting the areas that have been identified by you and are of benefit to you. What areas of service would you like addressed next? If you would like to learn more about community services and programs available to residents of Bowie, please let us know by emailing baugust100@aol.com.

You Can Help the Hungry

The Community Outreach Committee appreciates the generosity of community members who supported its efforts to collect food and other items for the Pantry. Donations at the Summer Sunday Concerts at Allen Pond, at the International Festival, and at all other times of the year really make a difference!

The Bowie Food Pantry is located at the rear of the Kenhill Center at 2614 Kenhill Drive. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 - 11 a.m., as well as 6 - 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for food distribution and to accept donations.

There are also collection containers near each of the front doors of the Kenhill Center, the Bowie Gym and the Senior Center where you may drop off nonperishable food, paper goods and personal items. Tax deductible contributions are also a great way to donate. Checks should be mailed to the Bowie Food Pantry, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Suite 134, Bowie, MD 20715. For information, see the Pantry website at www.Bowiefoodpantry.org or contact the Pantry at 301-262-6765 or BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com.

Leaf Collection Begins

November 3

The City's leaf collection service begins **November 3**. Each residential neighborhood will have two collection dates. Residents should rake leaves into piles at the edge of their grass for pickup by the City crews. Collection will take place from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the schedule on Page 9.

Crews will work rain or shine. However, in the event of snow or ice storms, leaf collection will be temporarily suspended, as the trucks and crews will be redeployed to salt or plow City streets.

Some sections of the City are listed on two consecutive days. Due to expected volume, these sections may take more than one day to complete. The leaves must be raked to the curb by 7 a.m. on the first scheduled date. The second day is built into the schedule to allow extra time if it is needed. Crews will visit areas not completed on the first scheduled day.

For up-to-date information, please call 301-262-6200 and select the prompt for the Leaf Collection Hotline.

For more information, call 301-809-2344.

2014 Leaf Collection Schedule

Section	First Leaf Collection Date	Second Leaf Collection Date
ADNELL (City portion only)	Tues. 11/4	Tues. 11/25
AMBER MEADOWS	Thurs. 11/20	Tues. 12/9
ASHLEIGH	Wed. 11/5	Mon. 11/24
ASHLEIGH STATION	Wed. 11/5	Mon. 11/24
BELAIR GREENS	Thurs. 11/13	Fri. 12/5
BELAIR TOWN I	Wed. 11/12	Thurs. 12/4
BELAIR TOWN II	Wed. 11/12	Mon. 12/8
BUCKINGHAM	Mon. 11/3	Wed. 11/26
CHAPEL FORGE	Tues. 11/4	Tues. 11/25
COLLINGTON MANOR	Wed. 11/5	Tues. 12/9
COLLINGTON STATION	Wed. 11/5	Tues. 12/9
COVINGTON MANOR	Thurs. 11/20	Thurs. 12/11
DERBYSHIRE	Mon. 11/3	Wed. 11/26
DEVONSHIRE	Fri. 11/14	Tues. 12/9
DIXON CROSSING	Wed. 11/5	Wed. 12/10
ENFIELD (excluding townhomes)	Thurs. 11/13	Thurs. 12/4
FAIRVIEW	Wed. 11/5	Thurs. 12/18
FOREST HILLS	Fri. 11/14	Mon. 12/15
FOXHILL	Tues. 11/18	Tues. 12/16
GLEN ALLEN	Mon. 11/10	Fri. 12/5
GRADYS WALK	Mon. 11/3	Mon. 12/8
GROVEHURST	Fri. 11/14	Tues. 12/9
HAMPTONS	Wed. 11/5	Fri. 12/5
HARVEY MANOR	Tues. 11/4	Tues. 11/25
HEATHER HILLS	Thurs. 11/20	Wed. 12/17
HIGHBRIDGE PARK	Wed. 11/5	Thurs. 12/18
HUNTINGTON*	Tues. 11/4 (& 11/5)	Mon. 11/24 (& 11/25)
HUNTINGTON CREST	Tues. 11/4	Tues. 11/25
IDLEWILD	Thurs. 11/13	Mon. 12/8
KENILWORTH	Mon. 11/17	Wed. 12/10
LONGLEAF	Mon. 11/3	Wed. 12/17
LONG RIDGE*	Mon. 11/17 (& 11/18)	Tues. 12/16
MEADOWBROOK*	Wed. 11/12 (& 11/13)	Thurs. 12/4
MITCHELLVILLE EAST	Mon. 11/10	Fri. 12/5
NORTHRIDGE*	Mon. 11/3 (& 11/4)	Tues. 11/25
NORTHVIEW	Thurs. 11/13	Tues. 12/9
OAKTREE	Wed. 11/5	Thurs. 12/11
OLD CHAPEL	Mon. 11/3	Thurs. 12/18
OLD CHAPEL ESTATES	Mon. 11/3	Thurs. 12/18
OLD STAGE*	Mon. 11/24	Wed. 12/10 (& 12/11)
OVERBROOK	Mon. 11/10	Tues. 12/2
PATUXENT OVERLOOK	Mon. 11/3	Wed. 12/17
PEACH PRESERVE	Mon. 11/10	Fri. 12/5
POINTER RIDGE	Thurs. 11/6	Wed. 12/3
ROCKLEDGE	Wed. 11/12	Mon. 12/1
ROLLING HILLS	Wed. 11/5	Thurs. 12/18
SADDLEBROOK	Wed. 11/12	Mon. 12/1
SADDLEBROOK WEST	Wed. 11/12	Mon. 12/1
SOMERSET	Wed. 11/19	Mon. 12/15
SPRING MEADOWS	Wed. 11/5	Wed. 12/10
STEWART'S LANDING	Wed. 11/5	Thurs. 12/18
TALL OAKS	Mon. 11/24	Wed. 12/17
TERNBERRY	Wed. 11/5	Tues. 12/9
TULIP GROVE*	Tues. 11/18 (& 11/19)	Mon. 12/8
VICTORIA HEIGHTS	Mon. 11/3	Thurs. 12/11
WESTVIEW	Wed. 11/5	Wed. 12/10
WHITEHALL	Tues. 11/4	Mon. 12/1
WOODMORE ESTATES	Wed. 11/5	Mon. 11/24
WOODMORE HIGHLANDS	Wed. 11/5	Mon. 11/24
YORKTOWN	Mon. 11/10	Tues. 12/2

*Leaves must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on the first scheduled date. The second date is only for those areas not visited on the first date.

It Pays to be Green in Bowie

The City is offering incentives for City of Bowie residents who plant trees, complete energy audits, or certify their yards as wildlife habitats. There are \$50 and \$100 tree rebates available at Patuxent Nursery with lowered delivery and 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 is a free BGE comprehensive energy audit available for Bowie homeowners, which is a \$100 value. Homeowners should complete an application online at www.cityofbowie.org/eap or stop by the Planning Department at City Hall Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to fill out an application.

Additionally, there is a \$20 rebate if you have not certified your yard as a National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat yet. Send receipt of certification to klarson@cityofbowie.org to receive your rebate. See details at www.cityofbowie.org/habitat. Also, if you have any questions about these green incentive programs, please contact Kristin Larson at klarson@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044.

Your input needed - please complete Stream Team Survey located online at www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie.

State of Environment Report

Did you know the City now has 239 homes with solar panels installed? Or that more than 200 street trees were planted between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014?

Learn about Green Bowie progress in the 2014 City of Bowie State of the Environment Report. It is available at www.cityofbowie.org/DocumentCenter/View/2445 and provides a summary of the City's environmental actions and sustainability initiatives undertaken during the last fiscal year.



City Outreach Grants Awarded

The Community Outreach Committee (COC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2014-2015 Grant Program. Each year the COC reviews grant applications from groups offering programs which provide a needed service to residents of the City. Funds are appropriated by the City Council to support these programs. This year's recipients are:

Girls who Code @Bowie Branch – This program is designed to expose girls to the world of computer programming and the engineering fields. It will provide an organized afterschool program for middle and high school aged girls with the goal to “inspire, educate and equip them with the computing skills needed to pursue 21st century opportunities”. This program will be coordinated by the Bowie Branch Library.

Grief and Loss Counseling for Seniors – This service is for seniors who have suffered a loss in their lives. A licensed counselor will work in concert with the Senior Center staff and through publicity in the local media to identify seniors who have suffered a loss and provide free counseling services to help them heal. This program is being hosted at the Bowie Senior Center.

Mentoring through Athletics – This program is designed to mentor underprivileged and disadvantaged elementary school students through flag football. Students will meet weekly for both mentoring and physical activity. Character development focusing on discipline, accountability and responsibility will be the focus. Students at Northview Elementary will be selected by their Principal to participate.

**The City of Bowie
Presents the 33rd Annual
HOLIDAY HOUSE
DECORATING CONTEST**



HOUSE DECORATING ENTRY FORM (Form may be reproduced.)

DECORATING CATEGORY

CIRCLE ONE: COLONIAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

By sending this form, participant gives the City of Bowie the right to use their name and picture of their house for future publicity.

**FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014.
BOWIE CITY HALL, 15901 EXCALIBUR ROAD, BOWIE, MD 20716
ATTN: HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST**

**HOLIDAY HOUSE
DECORATING CONTEST**

Judging Categories and Criteria

Entrants will select one of three categories:

***Traditional** (colored or white lights, children's fantasies, Santa Claus and friends, etc.)

***Religious** (of any denomination)

***Colonial** (candles in the windows, greenery, white lights, the Williamsburg look.)

Entries will be judged on the following:

- **Creativity**
- **Appearance**
- **Effort**

Contest Rules:

- Home must be located within the Bowie City limits. (Please check with us if you're not sure.)
- Contest is limited to what can be seen from the street side of the house at night.
- People or live animals are not allowed as part of the display.
- All participants are requested to keep their houses decorated through December 31st so the community may view and enjoy them.
- Entry deadline is Monday, December 8, 2014 at 5 p.m.
- **Judging is on Wednesday, December 10, during the hours of 6 to 11 p.m.** (Participants: please turn on displays by 6 p.m. so that the judges may evaluate your entry.)
- Winners will be notified by phone on Friday, December 12.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Awards will be given at the Holiday Awards Reception on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. All contest entrants are invited to attend. Awards include Pirmohamed and Mateik-Pitts Family Awards (\$100), Best of Bowie Awards (White House ornaments), and Bowie Spirit Awards (Belair Mansion ornaments). *For more information, please contact City Hall at 301-809-3078 or mcormley@cityofbowie.org.*

Top Gardens Honored

The lovely yard of William Green Jr. captured the top award as *2014 Distinguished Yard* at the 19th Annual City of Bowie Beautification Awards held at the Bowie Senior Center.

The event was once again cosponsored by the Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton. The City and the Soroptimist extends its thanks and appreciation to all of the nominees, whose hard work and creativity have helped make Bowie a more beautiful and pleasant place to live, and to the sponsors who provided the prizes and decorations for the program. The sponsors were Frank's Garden Center and Patuxent Nursery. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients!

Winners	Award
William Green Jr.	<i>2014 Distinguished Yard Award</i>
Tony Key	<i>Distinguished Back Yard</i>
Daniel and April O'Neil	<i>Distinguished Front Yard</i>
Joyce Qwinn	<i>Distinguished Whole Yard</i>
Diane Bahr	<i>Distinguished Wildlife Habitat</i>
Gerald and Marilyn Feldman	<i>Distinguished Shade Garden</i>
Joseph Neuvenschwander	<i>Distinguished Pond</i>
Bowie Montessori Children's House	<i>1-Star Maintenance</i>
John Hall	<i>1-Star Maintenance</i>
Mark Kallal	<i>1-Star Maintenance</i>
Sue Livera and Annellen Moore	<i>1-Star Maintenance</i>
Anita Reyes	<i>1-Star Maintenance</i>
Ken and Karen Wood	<i>1-Star Maintenance</i>
Mary Caraker	<i>2-Star Maintenance</i>
Laura Ritter	<i>2-Star Maintenance</i>
Virginia Smith	<i>2-Star Maintenance</i>
Gaye Williams	<i>2-Star Maintenance</i>
Maria and Chuck Arnold	<i>3-Star Maintenance</i>
William Bachteler	<i>3-Star Maintenance</i>
Trisha Patterson	<i>3-Star Maintenance</i>
Jack Croft	<i>All Star Gardens</i>
Marty Gigger	<i>All Star Gardens</i>
Francis Pelkey	<i>All Star Gardens</i>

Bowie Playhouse Presents



THE MURDER ROOM -- 10/31 - 11/15

Mavis Templeton Hollister returns home for the night to Brynwood Cottage in northern England, surprised that her new husband, Edgar Hollister is still alive. Her aim must have been terrible since she shot him three times! After filing a missing persons report on her husband, Mavis is visited by the police who inform Mavis that her cat was found dead from ingesting a poisoned cup of cocoa meant for Edgar. Do you think she's trying to kill her husband? Add to the zaniness, Susan Hollister, the dimmest bulb in the chandelier, and Edgar's only child by his first wife. Mavis is distressed to learn that upon Edgar's death, the bulk of his estate will go to Susan. But if the girl suddenly dies... *Presented by Bowie Community Theatre, www.bctheatre.com, 301-805-0219. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays.*



The Bowie Playhouse is located on Route 3 South in Whitmarsh Park. For information about the performances or to purchase tickets, please call the theater company at the telephone number listed above. All companies offer online ticketing.

***Playhouse News** The Bowie Playhouse will be dark (no shows) from November 17, 2014 through early January 2015. The Playhouse will be shut down to allow for stage and stage step reconstruction. Plays will start again January 9 when Prince George's Little Theatre stages "A Shot in the Dark."

Winter Interest in the Landscape

Like many folks, we don't think much about landscaping and planting trees, shrubs and flowers during the winter. While you wouldn't want to do much yard work that time of year, it's a great time of year to take notice of plants that exhibit characteristics that make them interesting and/or beautiful in the winter time.

So what kinds of characteristics might we see along the way that make a plant valuable in the winter landscape? Here are just some of the things to look for and examples of such plants:

- Textured, exfoliating and/or colorful bark - Crape Myrtle, Paperbark Maple, Lacebark Elm, River Birch, Chinese Dogwood, Japanese Stewartia and Bald Cypress
- Unusual, interesting branching structure - Japanese Black Pine, Hollywood Juniper, Sourwood, Ginkgo, Weeping Flowering Cherry and other weeping tree species cultivars
- Colorful or unique overwintering fruit or seed structures - Winterberry Holly, American Holly, Nellie Stevens Holly and Flowering Dogwood
- Winter flowers (especially during mild temperature periods) - Winter Jasmine, Lenten Rose (some varieties), Winter Daphne, Burkwood Viburnum and Witch-hazel
- Evergreen shrub or trees that change colors in the winter time - Bar Harbor Juniper, Andorra Juniper, Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia aquifolium*), some Azalea varieties, Glossy Abelia and Cryptomeria varieties

So if you are so inclined, get adventurous, do some Googling yourself, and look to plant some of these to enjoy the winter beauty! Rick Kellner, Community Forester



A Friendly Reminder

As fall and winter approach, the City's Code Compliance Office respectfully requests that residents remember that it is in everyone's interest that residents return trash and recycling containers from the curb as soon as practical after collection. And remember also that containers must be stored in an enclosed structure or at the rear or side of each residence in such a manner as to be out of public view.

Thanks for all you do! If you need additional information, please contact the City's Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008.

News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

Kids Kaboose

Tuesday, November 18, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for ages 1-11. Free.

Black Friday on Saturday!

Saturday, November 29, 12 - 4 p.m. 20% discount on everything at Belair Mansion Museum shop!

Holiday Tea for Young Ladies

Saturday, November 29, 2 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Young ladies ages 5-12 are invited to celebrate a colonial holiday with tea, goodies and dancing! **All children must be accompanied by an adult.** \$20 per person. Advance reservation and payment required by November 24.

Trainspotting at the Bowie Railroad Museum

Sunday, November 30, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. AMTRAK's busiest day of the year – heavy rail traffic and unusual rail cars. Visit with Santa. Free.

“Santa’s Present” Presented by the Blue Sky Puppet Theater

Saturday, December 6, 2 - 3 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Santa is off to make King NFAFETMHL – the man who Never Found Anything Funny Enough To Make Him Laugh – laugh as a present for Christmas. Great fun for the whole family! Free.

Belair by Candlelight at Belair Mansion

Sunday, December 7, 12 - 6:30 p.m. Traditional holiday greenery, refreshments and the lovely (and fun!) music of Bedlam will create a holiday from the past. The Mansion will close at 6:30 p.m., but stay for holiday carols, Santa's arrival, and the annual Bowie tree lighting. Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are appreciated.

KinderKristmas at Belair Mansion

Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Young holiday revelers are invited to visit the Mansion for a special tour, led by their accompanying grownups, holiday games, stories, a craft to take home, and visit from Mrs. Claus! Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are welcome.

Kringle Kaboose

Tuesday, December 30, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Holiday fun on the railroad for ages 1-11. Games, trainspotting and “The Polar Express” Free.

Time Travelers Twelfth Night at Belair Mansion

Saturday, January 3, 1 - 3 p.m. Young historians aged 5-12 are invited to explore the most special 18th century holiday of all – Twelfth Night. Stories, games and dancing! **Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Free.

For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Hours of Operation

Belair Mansion, Tuesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 12207 Tulip Grove Drive. Free.

Belair Stable Museum, Tuesdays through Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 2835 Belair Drive. Free.

Old Town Bowie Welcome Center, Tuesdays - Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8606 Chestnut Avenue, 301-575-2488. Free.

Bowie Railroad Museum, Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8614 Chestnut Avenue. Free.

To schedule a group tour of any of these City Museums, or for more information, please call 301-809-3089.

Radio and Television Museum, Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m., 2608 Mitchellville Road. Free. *To contact this Museum, call 301-390-1020.*

The Prince George's Genealogical Library, Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (first Wednesday of the month 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.), Tulip Grove Drive. Free. *For information, call 301-262-2063 during open hours.*

Senior Services Overview

The Senior Center provides a wide variety of educational and recreational programs and services that include information and assistance, transportation, and a nutrition program for the active adult 55 years and older.

Social Security

Administration

**Wednesday, November 5
10 a.m.**

Join Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist from Social Security, as she provides new information and instructions on how to get a copy of your Social Security statement.

Honoring Our Veterans

**Thursday, November 6
12:30 p.m.**

We invite all veterans and members of the community to join us for a special celebration program. Music provided by the Bowie Senior Choraleers. Refreshments served.

Holiday Craft Fair

**Friday, December 5
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

A welcome part of the holiday season! Open to the public.



Senior Transportation for Early Voting and General Election

**Early Voting - October 23, 24, 27-30
at Bowie Community Center**

Call 301-809-2324 to schedule a ride at 10, 10:30 or 11 a.m.

General Election - Tuesday, November 4

Shuttle service will be provided for Pin Oak Village, Evergreen, and Willows senior communities from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For others, service will be provided 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; call the Center at 301-809-2324 by **October 31** to schedule.

Bowie Senior Chorale Concerts - "A Season of Lights"

Thursday, December 11 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center

Friday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets are required for both concerts. \$2 or a food donation to the Bowie Food Pantry is required for a Senior Center performance ticket. Tickets for the performance at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts are \$6. Tickets are available at the Senior Center as long as supplies last. Call the Center for more information.

Holiday Party

Friday, December 19, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Register by December 10 at the Center. Lunch and DJ music. \$10 residents/\$12 nonresidents.

"Noon Year's" Party

Wednesday, December 31, 12:30 p.m.

\$4 residents/\$5 nonresidents. DJ music, noisemakers and light refreshments.

Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive

301-809-2300, www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter

Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;

Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.;

and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CITY OF BOWIE
15901 EXCALIBUR ROAD
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20716

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR G. FREDERICK ROBINSON
MAYOR PRO TEM ISAAC TROUTH
DENNIS BRADY
HENRI GARDNER
JAMES L. MARCOS
DIANE M. POLANGIN
TODD M. TURNER

Upcoming Events

Veterans Day

*Tuesday, November 11, 2014
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.*

Thanksgiving Holiday

*November 27 and 28, 2014
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.*

Christmas Holiday

*Thursday, December 25, 2014
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
or Recycling Collection.*

New Year's Day

*Thursday, January 1, 2015
City Offices Closed. No Refuse
Collection.*

2015 City Holidays

New Year's*	Thursday	January 1, 2015
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday	January 19, 2015
Presidents' Day	Monday	February 16, 2015
Memorial Day	Monday	May 25, 2015
Independence Day	Friday	July 3, 2015
Labor Day	Monday	September 7, 2015
Veterans Day	Wednesday	November 11, 2015
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 26, 2015
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	November 27, 2015
Christmas	Friday	December 25, 2015

City offices will be closed on the dates listed above. There will be no refuse or recycling services on these dates; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

***Recycling will be collected Thursday, January 1, 2015
for those regularly scheduled that day.**

Please Note: The *Bowie Spotlight* is distributed in an electronic format. To sign up to receive notice of availability of the newsletter, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org. Print copies are distributed to senior housing communities and public facilities in the City, as well as to residents who request mailing. To request mailing, please contact Cathy Flaherty at City Hall at 301-809-3040 or cflaherty@cityofbowie.org.