

# Bowie News Flash

**December 2014**

## News

### **Electronics Recycling Drop-off in Bowie and Fort Washington on December 6th**

Prince George's County is hosting an Electronics Recycling Day at Friendly High School in Fort Washington on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Residents who wish to dispose of old televisions, computers, and other electronics can bring items to the school for drop-off between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For the convenience of City residents, electronic items can also be dropped off at the City of Bowie Public Works Yard on December 6<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. The City has made arrangements to transport electronic items collected in Bowie to the Prince George's County facility after the 6<sup>th</sup>. (Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/electronics](http://www.cityofbowie.org/electronics) for list of accepted items and other restrictions.)

This is a one-time drop-off event in Bowie. At all other times of the year, electronics can only be recycled by bringing them to the Prince George's County Electronics Collection site at the Brown Station Landfill in Upper Marlboro on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

The Public Works Yard is located at 16500 Annapolis Road (between MD 3 and Race Track Road). There is no traffic signal at the entrance to Public Works, although there is a small turning area. For safety's sake, we recommend that drivers approach the entrance to Public Works by turning from MD 3 onto westbound MD 450. The entrance will be approximately one-half mile on your right.

### **Holiday House Decorating Contest Deadline is December 8, 2014**

Do you or someone you know in Bowie take great pride in your outside decorations for the holidays? Why not get some recognition for your/their efforts by submitting a nomination for the City's Holiday House Decorating Contest? Homes must be located within the Bowie municipal limits. Entry forms, contest rules and information are available on the City's website at [www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating](http://www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating). Entry forms and information may also be obtained by contacting Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org). Entry forms must be returned to City Hall by Monday, December 8, 2014 at 5 p.m.

### **New Speed Camera Coming in January**

The Bowie Police Department wants residents to know that they will soon see a new speed camera on Collington Road (MD 197) in the vicinity of Benjamin Tasker Middle School. The camera is being installed now and will become active on January 5, 2015. During the first two weeks of operation, warnings will be issued to violators exceeding the speed limit by 12 miles or more. After that date, violators will be issued a citation for the violation.

Speed cameras help save lives by slowing vehicular traffic near schools. They are permitted by State law within one-half mile of a school. The cameras operate year-round, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. Speed cameras already are installed near schools on Belair Drive, Annapolis Road (MD 450), Collington Road (MD 197, near Rockledge Elementary), Northview Drive, Race Track Road, and Kenhill Drive.

### **Vacancy on City Council**

After almost ten years on the Bowie City Council, Todd Turner participated in his final City Council Meeting on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Turner was elected to serve District 3 in 2005 and since 2011 has served as one of two At-Large members on the Council. Earlier this month, Mr. Turner was elected to represent District 4 (Bowie, Glenn Dale, Greenbelt, Upper Marlboro) on the Prince George's County Council. We thank him for his service and look forward to working with him in his new position.

Councilmember Turner's resignation will be effective on November 30<sup>th</sup>. After that date, the City Council will announce the process for appointing an individual to replace Mr. Turner on the City Council.

### **Winter Weather Reminders**

We've already had our first taste of winter temperatures. Snow, ice, and sleet could also be making an appearance soon. Take steps now to make sure you are prepared for the winter weather season. When snow is on the way, remember to get where you need to be before the weather gets bad.

#### Car Preparations

- Make sure you have a scraper in the car.
- Fill up your windshield washer fluid.
- Put a blanket in the car in case you get stranded.

#### Family/Home Preparations

- Have your furnace serviced.
- Make sure your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector are in working order.
- Have flashlights and battery operated lanterns and radios on hand in case the power goes out.

During inclement weather, the City government will remain open and provide services as long as it is safe to do so. If it becomes necessary to close, announcements will be posted on our website and on our Facebook page and Twitter feed. We will also send out messages via Alert Bowie and notify local television and radio stations of any change in operating status.

### **Bowie Senior Center Receives National Accreditation Again!**

Bowie's Senior Center is a one of a kind place. In fact it is the only Senior Center in the State of Maryland and only one of less than 200 of the 10,000 centers in the country to receive national accreditation by the National Institute of Senior Centers.

To earn this recognition, staff had to demonstrate how the Center meets nine standards of excellence established by NISC for senior center operations. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers at the Center who helped make this possible.

### **City Employees Honored at Recent Council Meeting**

At a recent City Council Meeting, three City employees were recognized for their quick actions and valor. Boathouse Supervisor Robert Fezell and Park Ranger Brittany Hollins were honored for saving a group of boaters at Allen Pond who had fallen into the water. These two employees rescued a pregnant woman, a child, and three others who had fallen off their pedal boats and into the water. James Elben, III, a driver in our Solid Waste Division, was also honored at the City Council meeting. When a fire erupted in the hopper of the trash truck he was driving, he quickly dumped the load onto the street where it could be easily extinguished. His quick reaction, minimized the risk of injury to himself and his trash collection crew, and prevented the truck (valued at more than \$100,000) and other nearby vehicles from being destroyed by the fire. Congratulations to each of these hardworking and conscientious employees for a job well done!

### **Shop with a Cop**

The Bowie Police Department is going to help make the holidays special for some local children in need. On Sunday, December 14, 2014 officers will escort children on a shopping trip for their loved ones, courtesy of local merchants and donations from the public. It's not too late to make a donation to help a family this holiday season. For more information, please contact Sergeant Bennie Henderson at 301-575-1824 or [bhenderson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:bhenderson@cityofbowie.org).

### **Donate to Toys for Tots**

Please donate new, unwrapped toys to Toys for Tots. Donations will be accepted at the following locations: Bowie City Hall, Bowie Police Department, Bowie Gymnasium, Bowie Ice Arena, Bowie Senior Center, Chaney Tire and Auto Service, and Melvin Motors. Please donate toys by December 18, 2014. For more information, contact Sergeant Bennie Henderson at 301-575-1824 or [bhenderson@cityofbowie.org](mailto:bhenderson@cityofbowie.org).

### **City Offices Closed December 25 and 26**

City offices are closed for the Christmas holiday on December 25<sup>th</sup> and will remain closed on Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be no refuse or recycling collection on these days. Collection will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

### **New Year's Holiday – Thursday, January 1**

Thursday, January 1 is a City holiday. City offices are closed. There is no refuse collection this day. Refuse collection will resume on the next regularly scheduled day. **Recycling collection will be provided January 1** for neighborhoods on the Thursday recycling schedule.

### **Teen Job Bank**

Teens are needed for snow shoveling this winter. If you know a teen interested in signing up for occasional work, including snow shoveling, housework, babysitting, leaf raking, and yard work, please call 301-809-3033 for an application. It's a great way for a teen to earn a few extra dollars. Bowie residents who want to hire a teen may call 301-809-3033 for more information.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest**

The City is hosting its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. art contest to promote understanding about the lasting legacy of Dr. King. The contest theme for 2015 is "Champions for the Dream." Students in kindergarten through the second grade are eligible to participate in a coloring contest. Students in grades three through five can submit entries for the poster contest, and sixth through twelfth graders are encouraged to create a short video of less than 90 seconds that reflects the contest theme.

Students who live within the municipal limits of Bowie (including homeschooled students) or students who attend an eligible school in Bowie can participate in the contest. The complete list of eligible schools is located at [www.cityofbowie.org/MLK](http://www.cityofbowie.org/MLK). Entry deadline is Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 5 p.m. Finalists will be selected in January and their work will be featured at the City's Martin Luther King program on January 17, 2015. First (\$100), second (\$50), and third prize (\$25) winners will be chosen in each category in February. For more information, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/MLK](http://www.cityofbowie.org/MLK) or contact Una Cooper, staff liaison to the Diversity Committee, at 301-809-3032 or [ucooper@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ucooper@cityofbowie.org).

### **Christmas Tree Pickup**

It may seem a little early for this announcement, but by the end of December, after all of the festivities of the season, you may be wondering how to dispose of your Christmas tree. The Public Works Department will pick up Christmas trees every Wednesday in January with yard waste. Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m. Do **not** place tree in plastic bag.

### **Don't Miss an Alert! Sign up for Alert Bowie 2.0**

Have you created your Alert Bowie 2.0 account? The City of Bowie has a new alerting system and you must have an account on the new system in order to receive alerts from the City of Bowie. Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/alerts](http://www.cityofbowie.org/alerts) and follow the link to sign up. Please contact Una Cooper at [ucooper@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ucooper@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3032 if you have questions about Alert Bowie 2.0 or any problems with the registration process.

## **Events**

**11/27 and 11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday.** City offices closed. No refuse or recycling collection on either day.

**11/30 – Trainspotting at Bowie Railroad Museum** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Watch unusual cars fly by on AMTRAK'S busiest day of the year. Visit with Santa. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/5 – Holiday Craft Fair at the Senior Center** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This event is open to the public and always a welcome part of the holiday season. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/6 – Electronics Recycling Event** 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the City of Bowie Public Works Yard (16500 Annapolis Road) or at Friendly High School in Fort Washington. See list of items being accepted at [www.cityofbowie.org/electronics](http://www.cityofbowie.org/electronics) or call 301-809-2344 for more information.

**12/6 – *Santa's Present* Presented by the Blue Sky Puppet Theater at Belair Mansion** 2 - 3 p.m. 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. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/7 – Belair Mansion by Candlelight** 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 at 7 p.m. Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are appreciated. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/7 – Holiday Tree Lighting at Belair Mansion** 7 p.m. 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. 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*. Free. For information, contact Bowie City Hall at 301-809-3011 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org) or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/11 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert – Senior Center** 1 p.m. Tickets are \$2 or a donation to the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/13 – Kinder Kristmas at Belair Mansion** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Young holiday revelers are invited to visit the Mansion for a special tour, led by their accompanying grownups, make a craft to take home, enjoy holiday games, stories, and visit with Mrs. Claus! Free, but donations to the Bowie Food Pantry are welcome. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/13 – Saturday Fun with Santa** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. 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. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

**12/13 – Skate with Santa at the Bowie Ice Arena** 1 - 3 p.m. There will be door prizes, free mini lessons, and an opportunity to make crafts. Admission is free with a toy donation for the City’s Toys for Tots drive.

**12/19 – Holiday Party at the Senior Center** 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Join us for the Center’s annual holiday party! Lunch and DJ music will be provided. Register by December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Center. The cost is \$10 residents/\$12 nonresidents. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/19 – Bowie Senior Chorale Holiday Concert – Bowie Center for the Performing Arts** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are required and cost \$6. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**12/20 – Midday Madness Stocking Stuffer Sale at the Belair Mansion Museum Shop.** Why not buy that last minute gift in Bowie at the gift shop on the ground floor of the Belair Mansion. Open noon to 4 p.m.

**12/24 – American Red Cross Blood Drive** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Bowie Gym. Give the “Gift of Life” this Christmas Eve. To register, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-Red-Cross. For more information, please contact the Gymnasium at 301-809-2388.

**12/25 – Christmas Holiday.** No refuse or recycling collection. All City facilities closed.

**12/26 – City offices closed.** No refuse or recycling collection.

**12/30 – Kringle Kaboose** 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Holiday fun on the railroad for ages 1 - 11. Enjoy games, trainspotting and “The Polar Express”. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).

**12/31 – “Noon Year’s” Party at the Bowie Senior Center** 12:30 p.m. \$4 residents/\$5 nonresidents. DJ music, noisemakers and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

**1/1 – New Year’s Day.** City offices closed. No refuse collection. Recycling will be picked up for those neighborhoods on a Thursday recycling schedule.

**1/3 – Time Travelers Twelfth Night at Belair Mansion** 1 - 3 p.m. Young historians aged 5 - 12 are invited to explore the most special 18th century holiday of all – Twelfth Night. There will be stories, games and dancing! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org).