

Bowie News Flash

Season's Greetings!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we watch the calendar and the clock tick away the remains of 2016, we can be justifiably proud of our terrific community. Bowie continues to stand out as the strongest, most diverse, most family-friendly community in the region. We have built a great history over the years and that strong base gives us the courage to enthusiastically embrace a future limited only by our imagination and our willingness to work together to continue that greatness. Thank you for all you do to make Bowie the remarkable "hometown" that it is for all that call Bowie home.

On behalf of the entire City Council and our City Staff I am pleased to extend best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year. As usual on these special occasions, we ask that as we celebrate the season and the coming new year that we hold in our thoughts and our prayers those special Americans serving in the military forces of the United States here and around the world. We would ask for your special thoughts for those now serving in harm's way; may they return home soon and safely.

*Happy New Year Bowie!
G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor*

January 2017

News

New Year's Holiday – Monday, January 2

Monday, January 2, 2017 is a City holiday and City offices are closed. There will be no refuse collection; however, there will be recycling collection for those neighborhoods on the Monday recycling schedule. So, if Monday is your regularly scheduled recycling collection day, please place your recycling at the curb by 7 a.m. on January 2, 2017 and it will be collected. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344.

The only City facilities that will be open on January 2nd are the City Gymnasium (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and the Ice Arena (noon to 10 p.m.).

Christmas Tree Pickup

Trees will be picked up every Wednesday in January with yard waste. Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Do not place tree in a plastic bag. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m.

Important Meetings this Month

Bowie Marketplace Housing – Public Hearing and Vote – January 3, 2017

Bowie Marketplace developer Berman Enterprises has submitted a proposal to build a 288-unit apartment building and a parking garage at the rear of the shopping center. City Council will take public comment on the matter at its meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 8 p.m. Once the public hearing has concluded, Council will vote on the proposal.

Melford Village – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing – January 10, 2017

The Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) will take comments and review the proposal for Melford Village on January 10, 2017 at 7 p.m. This proposal involves building 1,793 dwelling units, including 293 townhouse units, 1,000 multi-family market rate units, 500 senior age-restricted multi-family units, and 528,500 square feet of commercial and office uses. (A Stakeholders Meeting on this proposal was held on December 10th.) At the conclusion of the public hearing, the BAPB will make a recommendation to the City Council on whether or not it should support the proposal. The Staff Report for the BAPB hearing can be viewed at www.cityofbowie.org/melford.

Melford Village – City Council Public Hearing and Vote – January 17, 2017

Following the BAPB hearing on January 10th, City Council will conduct its own public hearing and then vote on the Melford Village Proposal on January 17, 2017 at 8 p.m.

Jobs

The City of Bowie is seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Police Officer (closes 1/1/2017)
- Solid Waste Driver/Collector (closes 1/13/2017)
- Director of Information Technology (closes 1/27/2017)

Find more information and an online application for these positions at www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 16

City offices are closed on this day. There will be no refuse or recycling collection. Collection resumes on your next regularly scheduled day.

Polar Bear Plunge

Members of the Bowie Police Department will be doing their annual “plunge” for Special Olympics on January 27, 2017. You can support the Bowie Police Team by making a donation to Special Olympics. Or better still, start your own Polar Bear Plunge team and raise some money for a great cause! Visit www.plungemd.org for more information or call 240-544-5700. To sponsor Chief Nesky’s team, visit www.cityofbowie.org/plunge.

Nominate a Neighbor for the Bowie Green Citizen Award

The Bowie Green Citizen Award recognizes individuals, schools, or groups that contribute to making Bowie a greener and more sustainable community. The award was established to reward members of the community who actively follow green living practices and encourage others in the City to do likewise. Achievements may be focused on green practices in the home, educational activities in the community, and/or actions to promote green policies and practices by community and municipal organizations. Also, potential achievements may involve protecting habitat diversity and other natural resources, promoting sustainable energy and economic activity, or encouraging neighborhood connections. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms for a nomination form. The nomination deadline is January 31st. The award ceremony will take place in April. Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Hosting Another Solar Co-op

Thinking about solar? Attend an information session on January 28, 2017 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at City Hall (Council Chambers) to learn more about joining a MD SUN Solar Co-op in Bowie. Neighbors in Bowie and surrounding Prince George's County can join the co-op to get assistance with going solar and to save money. The co-op is based on the same principle as buying in bulk, and joining is not a commitment to install panels. Once the group is large enough, the nonprofit MD SUN will help the co-op solicit competitive bids from area solar installers. Co-op members will then select a single company to complete all of the installations, and each member will then have the option to purchase or lease panels individually based on the installer's group rate. By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, each participant generally saves up to 20% off the cost of their system. For more information and to register for the information session, visit www.mdsun.org/bowie. Questions? Contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Snow Removal

A Snow Emergency is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two inches. When that happens all vehicles must be removed from City streets so that plowing can begin. All main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. In the event of a snowfall less than two inches, 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. During a snow or ice event only, it is acceptable to park your vehicle on the grass. Each resident is responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk in front of their home. To report hazardous conditions within the City, call 301-809-2344. More information about the City's snow removal program can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/snow.

Senior Trips Schedule

The Senior Center has planned an assortment of fun and interesting trips over the next few months. Seniors can pick up a trip brochure at the Center or view the trip details on the Senior Trips calendar at www.cityofbowie.org/seniortripscalendar. Contact the front desk of the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 to sign up for a trip.

Register for SAGE Classes at the Senior Center

Beginning January 13, adults 60+ can begin registering for a variety of classes at the Senior Center on the following topics: languages, exercise, history, writing, literature, music, art, healthy living and more. The semester begins February 13. Contact the Center at 301-809-2300 for class descriptions, schedule and registration information.

Contact the Teen Job Bank for Help with Shoveling and Other Chores

Bowie Youth & Family Services sponsors a Teen Job Bank, where residents can find hard-working and eager Bowie youth who are looking to make 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 snow shoveling, yard work, babysitting, tutoring, shopping or other chores. The particulars of the job and the fees per hour are determined by the person needing help and the teen. Complete the Job Bank resident application at www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank or call 301-809-3033 for assistance.

Bowie Youth & Family Services Groups Begin in January

Bowie Youth and Family Services offers 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. Registration is open for two groups starting this January. The first, *Calm, Confident Kids*, is designed to help school-age children develop strategies for managing worries. The second winter group, *The Active Parenting Program*, is open to parents with school-aged children or teens. In addition, our popular ADHD Group, for 7 - 11-year old children with Attention-Deficit Disorder and their parents, will begin in February. Call 301-809-3033 for more information or to arrange for an appointment.

Accepting Nominations for City's Hall of Honor

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize those citizens of Bowie who have made "major and lasting contributions" to the City. The first inductees were honored in 1994. A nominee to the Hall of Honor must: be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline; have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie; and have been a resident of the City of Bowie either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2017 Hall of Honor is Monday, March 6, 2017 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms.

Arts and Education Scholarships

Applications for high school seniors living in the City of Bowie will be available mid-January 2017. High school seniors interested in the scholarships should contact their guidance counselors. The application deadline will be in early Spring.

Volunteer to Mark Storm Drains

Are you part of a scout troop, church, parenting, homeschool or other group looking for a volunteer project? The City is looking for groups to apply storm drain markers in select areas across Bowie. These markers are applied to storm drains along the curbs of City-owned streets to increase awareness that what goes in them enters our streams. This can be a one-time weekend or evening project and takes anywhere from 2 - 5 hours, depending on the number of volunteers. The task involves applying a four-inch steel medallion to the top of the storm drain with an adhesive. All supplies are provided. You simply need to have a group leader and willing volunteers. Prince George's County students can earn Student Service Learning hours for their efforts. If interested, contact the City's Watershed Manager, Tiffany Wright, at twright@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3043. View a picture of a marked storm drain, visit www.cityofbowie.org/GreenProjects. Thanks for your interest in helping us Green Bowie!

Leash Law

It is against the law for any owner or custodian of any animal to allow the animal to run at large within the municipal limits of the City of Bowie. Any dog or cat found at large may be impounded and a violation notice may be issued to the pet owner. Please contact Bowie Animal Control with any questions or concerns at 301-809-3002.

2017 City Holiday Schedule

Below is a list of City of Bowie holidays. On these days City offices are closed and generally there is no trash or recycling collection. The only exception to this is on New Year's Day when recycling will be collected for those neighborhoods on the regular Monday collection schedule.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date</u>
New Year's Day (observed)	Monday, January 2, 2017
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 16, 2017
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 20, 2017
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29, 2017
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4, 2017
Labor Day	Monday, September 4, 2017
Veterans Day (observed)	Friday, November 10, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23, 2017
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 24, 2017
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25, 2017

Bowie Branch Library Closing for Renovations

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System will close its Bowie Branch on Annapolis Road for renovations beginning December 30, 2016 for approximately six months. The book drop will continue to be available for the first two months of the renovation.

A main-street-themed children's room with replicas of a fire station and a pizza parlor, a revamped teen space, a bookstore café with vending machines, a new meeting room kitchenette, new restrooms, eight study rooms and new customer service desks are some of the new features customers will enjoy when the library reopens. Other renovation enhancements include additional electric outlets for mobile devices, new lighting, carpeting, and paint. Built in 1968, the Bowie Branch Library received its last major renovation in 1999. During renovations, patrons are encouraged to use the South Bowie Branch on Hall Road.

Events

1/3 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. The sole topic on the agenda is Residential Housing at Bowie Marketplace.

1/6 – Twelfth Night Brown Bag Lunch Lecture 12 - 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. Bring your lunch – learn and munch! For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/8 – 18th Century Ladies Sewing Circle 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. The public is invited to celebrate 12th Night as the ladies sew. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/10 – Thomas Jefferson as a Father – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/10 – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Hearing on Melford Village 7 p.m. Council Chambers, Bowie City Hall. Call 301-809-3047 for details.

1/13 - 1/28 – “The Tin Woman” at Bowie Playhouse Produced by Prince George’s Little Theatre. For tickets, visit www.pglt.org or call 301-937-7458.

1/14 – Program Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10 a.m. at City Hall. The program will feature the artwork of local students who have been selected as finalists in the City's Martin Luther King Art Contest.

1/16 – City Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City offices closed. No refuse or recycling will be collected.

1/17 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad stories and fun for ages 1 - 10. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/17 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. One of the topics on the agenda for this meeting is the Melford Village proposal.

1/21 – While the Cold Winter Away 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Drop in during open hours and try your hand at early American games. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/28 – Solar Co-op Information Session 10 - 11:30 a.m. at City Hall. Learn about installing solar panels on your home and joining a MD SUN Solar Co-op in Bowie.