

Bowie News Flash

July 2017

News

Independence Day Holiday – Tuesday, July 4

Tuesday, July 4 is a City holiday. City offices are closed and there will be no refuse or recycling collection on this day. There are no makeup days for holidays. Collection will resume on your next regularly scheduled day. (City offices and facilities are open for business Monday, July 3.)

Fireworks

The City of Bowie will not be hosting a fireworks display this year. For a list of nearby fireworks events, visit www.cityofbowie.org/989/Fourth-of-July. It is illegal for individuals to shoot off fireworks in Prince George's County. If you should happen to be in another county where fireworks are permitted, please be sure to follow common sense fireworks safety tips provided by the Maryland State Fire Marshall's Office at www.cityofbowie.org/fireworkssafety.

Indoor Sports Facility Decision Deferred

City Council has decided to delay any decision on building a new Indoor Sports Facility until its meeting on September 5, 2017. Revised estimates for the project to build two ice rinks and five courts at a site on Church Road now put the total cost at between \$36 and \$39 million. The new, higher costs prompted Councilmembers to re-examine the scope and location of the proposed facility at its meeting on June 19. After hearing testimony from residents and other stakeholders and much discussion, Council directed staff to analyze and provide data on other possible options that will still meet the community's need for more courts and the need to overhaul, replace, or expand the existing rink space. Staff will also provide details about the process for putting the matter to the voters in the form of a ballot question, should Council decide to take this course of action.

Bowie Library Reopened This Week

The Bowie Library on Annapolis Road reopened for business on Thursday, June 29th after being closed for a six-month renovation. Improvements include new restrooms, 8 study rooms, 64 computers, an enhanced children's area, a revamped teen space, a vending area, and charging stations. Library hours remain the same as before the renovations:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Sundays)

City Job Vacancies

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

- Communications Analyst – City Manager’s Office (closes 7/7/2017)
- Sustainability Planner – Planning Dept. (closes 7/7/2017)
- Senior Code Compliance Officer – Community Services Dept. (closes 7/6/2017)
- Police Officers – entry level and lateral (open)
- Communications Specialist – Police Dept. (closes 7/7/2017)
- Bus Driver – Senior Center (open)

Update to the City’s Development Review Guidelines and Policies

The Planning Department is currently updating the City’s Development Review Guidelines and Policies, which are intended to provide clear direction to citizens, developers, builders, government officials and other interested parties on what the City Council has stated about the desired character and physical development of the City. The text is a useful collection of development review considerations that aim to encourage and promote a carefully planned and sensitively designed community.

A draft of the updated Guidelines and Policies will be presented to the City Council at its meeting on July 3, 2017. The Council will conduct a public hearing and vote on the draft document at its August 7, 2017 meeting. The public is invited to attend the two meetings and provide input on the draft plan. Comments may be made in person at either meeting. They can also be emailed to Planning Department Director Joe Meinert at jmeinert@cityofbowie.org. To obtain a copy of the draft document, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047, visit the office at City Hall, or go to www.cityofbowie.org/draftdevguide.

Attend Open House at Bowie Ice Arena

Bowie Ice Arena will host a FREE Open House Saturday, July 8 from 12 to 3 p.m. There will be skating, music, games, free mini-lessons and lots of fun for all. And...it’s a great way to beat the summer heat!

There are still a few spots left in our summer camps and learn-to-skate classes. For more information or for a detailed class schedule, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena or call 301-809-3090.

MAGLEV High Speed Train Briefing

High-speed train service of up to 300 miles per hour has been proposed for the DC/Baltimore corridor. Some of the routes under consideration would pass through or very near Bowie. Baltimore Washington MAGLEV Project Director David Henley will attend the July 10, 2017 City Council meeting to brief Council and residents on the status of the project. The meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The public is invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting about a project that could potentially affect the City of Bowie. The meeting will also be broadcast on the Bowie Government Channel (Verizon 10/Comcast 71) and on the City website. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/maglev for more information about this project.

Senior Green Housing Grants Available

The City's Office of Grant Development and Administration is accepting applications through July 31, 2017 for the Senior Citizen "Green" Housing Rehabilitation Program. This federally funded grant program provides financial assistance to single-family senior citizen homeowners with limited financial means. The purpose of the grant is to provide energy efficiency related upgrades and repairs to correct hazardous conditions, eliminate safety hazards, repair or replace major systems, correct interior and exterior deficiencies, eliminate lead based paint hazards, and perform modifications for persons with disabilities. For more information, please contact George Jones in the Office of Grant Development and Administration at 301-809-3051 or gjones@cityofbowie.org. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/seniorrehabgrant to view details about the application process and income limits.

\$20 Compost Bins Available at City Hall

Purchase a \$20 discounted compost bin at City Hall and start composting. City residents may purchase up to two bins per household. Payment can be made by cash or check at the Finance window during the City Hall business hours (Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and by check only at the reception desk during City Hall's evening and Saturday hours (Monday thru Thursday until 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon). Learn more about compost bins at www.cityofbowie.org/compost.

Don't Leave a Pet Alone in a Parked Car

It doesn't take long for the temperature inside a vehicle to rise and become hazardous to your pet. Even on cloud covered days or when temperatures are in the 70's, the heat generated inside a parked vehicle can be deadly. Lowering a window is not a solution. Leave your pet at home.

Signs of heat distress in pets include heavy panting, glazed over eyes, rapid pulse, vomiting, or a deep red or purple colored tongue. If you see an animal in a hot car exhibiting these signs, call Bowie Animal Control or 911. You may also report the vehicle's tag number to the nearest store or business and ask that an emergency announcement be made. For more information, please contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 or slopez@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Youth and Family Services Supports Families

Bowie Youth & Family Services offers counseling for Bowie families that 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. 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. For more information, please call 301-809-3033.

Fiber Art

The current City Hall Art Gallery exhibit, entitled "Fiber Art and Artist's Choice" runs through September 17. It is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are City Hall hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Need Extra Help This Summer?

The Teen Job Bank connects residents who need help with Bowie youth who are looking for opportunities to work and make money. Find teens that can help with lawn mowing, babysitting, tutoring, shopping or other chores. You and the teen determine the particulars of the job and the fees per hour. Sign up to work or apply to hire a teen through the Job Bank by completing an application form at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms or call 301-809-3033 for assistance.

Donate to the Food Pantry

Canned fruits, soups, applesauce and spaghetti sauce are needed. Fresh fruits and vegetables, condiments (ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, etc.), financial contributions and travel size personal care items are appreciated! Donations are accepted at the Pantry (2614 Kenhill Drive), City Gym and Senior Center, Long and Foster (Crofton), PNC Bank (Rt. 450 and Stonybrook Drive) and Parcel Express (Hilltop). For more information, please call 301-262-6765 or visit www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Visit the Bowie Farmers' Market Sundays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Bowie Farmers' Market is open for the 2017 season. Market vendors offer fresh locally grown produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants, breads, pastries, jams, jellies and locally made products. The market operates in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road on Sundays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., through October 29, 2017. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Mentor a Teen

The City's Teen Mentoring Program is accepting applications for the 2017 - 2018 academic year. Adult mentors provide support to high school students and assist them in building confidence and strategies to navigate high school and beyond. Being a mentor is a great opportunity to make a meaningful impact on a student's life. For more information, please contact Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033 or mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Centennial Banners for Sale

Are you interested in keeping the memory of Bowie's Centennial celebration and our history alive? How about a special souvenir? The street light banners that marked our yearlong celebration are available for sale! They will be sold at the Belair Mansion Gift Shop, Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 (including tax), payable by cash or check.

Walk Wednesdays

Bowie Green Team's Food, Health and Wellness Subgroup hosts weekly community walks on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. Each walk is a fun and social opportunity for residents to get together for light to moderate exercise and to enjoy some of the many beautiful local walking trails in the City.

Avoiding Fraud

Scammers are always looking for new ways to gain access to your personal information or to trick you out of your money. One of the scams involves people coming to your door posing as IRS agents. Another involves individuals going through neighborhoods selling driveway sealing services, that are substandard, at best, and likely no more than paint.

Remember every door-to-door solicitor in Bowie must be licensed and must carry and display proof of that license. Report violators to the City's Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008. Trust your instincts. If something does not look right or does not sound right, close the door, hang up, or otherwise disengage. Ask someone you trust, such as friend or family member, before parting with your money or signing a contract.

The Federal Trade Commission offers a great list of tips to help you avoid fraud. The basics are listed below. The full article is at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-things-you-can-do-avoid-fraud.

1. **Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust like a government official, a charity or a company you do business with.
2. **Do online searches for scams,** using words that describe your situation.
3. **Don't believe your caller ID.** It can be easily faked.
4. **Don't pay upfront for a promise.** Be suspicious of offers for a service, a loan, a prize, a job or anything else when you did not initiate an inquiry.
5. **Consider how you pay.** Requests for payment by gift card or wiring money are not normal.
6. **Talk to someone you trust** before making a decision.
7. **Hang up on robocall sales pitches.**
8. **Be skeptical** about free trial offers.
9. **Don't deposit a check you receive in exchange for wiring money to someone.**
10. **Sign up for free scam alerts** from the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/scams.

The IRS has published information about how to verify that it is really the IRS contacting you. View it at www.cityofbowie.org/scamirs. For more information about other scams involving your taxes or the IRS, visit www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts.

Has the Contact Information for Your Homeowners Association Changed Recently?

The City of Bowie maintains contact information for all of the homeowners associations in the Bowie area. The list is used to notify residents of a particular neighborhood when something is going on in or nearby the area, such as proposed development, planned roadwork, or other activities that may affect residents. If you are the president of a homeowners association in Bowie, please help us to make sure that your HOA receives the information you need, by contacting the Planning Department at 301-809-3047 or mbaird@cityofbowie.org to provide contact information for the management company and the HOA president.

Community Outreach Grants

The City awards grant money to individuals, groups and/or organizations to assist in facilitating programs that benefit Bowie residents in a variety of ways. Grants of up to \$5,000 are awarded in the areas of social services, youth, senior citizens, and mental health. Individuals, groups, or organizations that will provide a program or project to benefit residents of the City of Bowie are eligible to apply. Grant applicants need not be City residents; however, whenever possible, the programs should be conducted within the city limits of Bowie. The complete application, including letters of recommendation, and all attachments, must be received no later than August 4, 2017 at 5 p.m. This program is a project of the City's Community Outreach Committee. Details are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cocgrants.

Events

7/1 - 7/30 – “Outlander and the Artifacts of Maryland Archaeology” Exhibit at Belair Mansion. "Outlander," a historical romance/science fiction story, is the subject of a tremendously successful series of novels by author Diana Gabaldon and a television series. The exhibit is based on Maryland archaeological artifacts excavated from different sites around the state that are contemporary to the time of the stories, and illustrate the historical reproductions used in the cable production.

7/1 – Saturday Concert Series – Alan King (R&B/Jazz) 4 - 6 p.m., Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564), Old Town Bowie. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/2 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – Big Band Theory of Baltimore (Big Band) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/3 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Proposed changes to the Development Review Guidelines document will be reviewed.

7/4 – Independence Day Holiday. City government closed. No trash or recycling pickup on the holiday.

7/5 – Walk Wednesdays 7 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Meet at the head of the trail near the parking lot and walk for 30 - 40 minutes.

7/8 – Open House at Ice Arena 12 - 3 p.m. To kick off the first day of the summer ice skating season, the Ice Arena will offer games, mini lessons, broomball and lots of fun. Admission and skate rental are free during the open house.

7/8 – Saturday Concert Series – Starvation Army (Dixieland) 4 - 6 p.m., Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564), Old Town Bowie. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/9 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Naval Academy Superintendents Combo (Jazz) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/10 – Mrs. Rumney’s Housewifery School for Young Ladies 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. The cost is \$15 per child and reservations are required. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

7/10 – Magic Show 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. All welcome. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

7/10 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. The project manager for the SCMAGLEV high-speed train project will make a presentation.

7/12 – Walk Wednesdays 7 p.m. Location to be determined.

7/14 - 7/30 – “Nana’s Naughty Knickers” at Bowie Playhouse For tickets and information, visit www.bctheatre.com or call 301-805-0219.

7/15 – Saturday Concert Series – Priceless Advice (90’s Rock) 4 - 6 p.m., Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564), Old Town Bowie. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/16 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – The Electric Company (80’s Music) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/18 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 - 11. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

7/19 – Walk Wednesdays 7 p.m. Location to be determined.

7/22 – Saturday Concert Series – Free Range Blues (Blues) 4 - 6 p.m., Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564), Old Town Bowie. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/23 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Army Blues (Jazz) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/25 – Time Travelers – Colonial Skills 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. Youth, ages 5 to 11, will learn some 18th century skills, such as butter churning, lemonade making, and bucket building. For more information, call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

7/26 – Walk Wednesdays 7 p.m. Location to be determined.

7/28 – The New Classics 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Free board games workshop. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

7/28 – Fairy Tale Friday 10 - 11 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Children ages 3 to 7 are invited to enjoy stories and an activity. Free.

7/29 – Games People Played 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

7/29 – Saturday Concert Series – Project Natale (Jazz) 4 - 6 p.m., Town Green Park, 9th Street (MD Route 564), Old Town Bowie. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/30 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – The Winstons (Motown) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert is canceled in case of inclement weather.

7/31 – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture – Belair’s Art is Not All On the Wall 12 - 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Bring your lunch. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.