

Bowie News Flash

August 2017

News

Flash Flooding Possible July 28 and 29

Very heavy rainfall will occur through Saturday. During that time, up to 4 to 6 inches of rain may fall and there may be periods of extremely heavy downpours. The heaviest rainfall is expected Friday evening and overnight. The National Weather Service has told local governments to expect flash flooding. You can help prevent flooding in your neighborhood by clearing the storm drains near your home. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/floodtips.

Ice Arena Reopens Saturday, July 29

After a three-week delay due to maintenance issues, the Bowie Ice Arena will reopen to patrons on Saturday, July 29. There will be two public skating sessions on that date; the first from 1 to 3 p.m. and the second from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Full operations resume on Sunday, July 30.

National Night Out Against Crime is August 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park

Join the Bowie Police Department, community organizations and area businesses to learn about crime prevention and public safety awareness. It's a fun and educational event for the whole family. Contact the Bowie Police Department at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org for more information. Free.

Northern Snakehead fish at Allen Pond Park

The City is investigating a report of a Northern Snakehead fish caught at Allen Pond Park. A fisherman reported catching a 6 to 8-inch Northern Snakehead fish at Allen Pond on July 2. The fish escaped back into the pond while the angler was extracting it from the pole. While this report cannot be substantiated, the City Park Operations Division is taking it seriously. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has been contacted and we are awaiting instructions on what actions we must take, if any.

Northern Snakeheads are an invasive fish first discovered in Maryland in 2002 in a pond in Crofton, Maryland. If one is caught, it must be killed immediately. If anyone suspects they have caught a Northern Snakehead fish at Allen Pond Park, please contact Park Operations Manager Sheri Beach at 301-806-3086 or sbeach@cityofbowie.org. You may also contact the Park Ranger on duty at 240-508-3881.

Update on MAGLEV High Speed Train Proposal

Approximately 300 Bowie area residents attended the City Council meeting on July 10, 2017 to learn more about the SCMAGLEV project from Bowie Washington Rapid Rail Project Director David Henley. While Mr. Henley's presentation did not address the various routes under consideration, he did discuss the vision for the project and the technology involved.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), which is part of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), are directing the environmental study for the project and the evaluation of alternative alignments. Representatives of those agencies were invited to the July 10 meeting, but did not attend. Environmental impact analysis for this project is required under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Following Mr. Henley's presentation on July 10, 24 individuals and City Councilmembers offered comments on the proposal. State Senator Doug Peters, Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, and County Council Member Todd Turner also made brief remarks.

Residents will have another opportunity to learn more about the project and offer comments at the September 5, 2017 City Council meeting. Mr. John Trueschler, Manager of the Environmental Planning Section at MTA, will discuss the following:

- the genesis and purpose of the project
- the distinctive roles of FRA, BWRR, MDOT-MTA, and other federal and state agencies that are involved in the environmental study
- the process by which alternative alignments are proposed and evaluated
- the decision-making process – who decides what alternatives are eliminated and what alternatives are retained for further study, how that happens, and the various steps in the process
- opportunities for public input and updates to the project website
- how and when detailed maps of the alternative alignments will be shared with the public
- what has happened in the NEPA process to date and what will occur in the future
- answers to NEPA process questions we receive from the public in advance of the meeting

All are welcome to attend and participate in this meeting. Contact the City Clerk at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029 if you wish to speak at this meeting. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/maglev to view the July 10 presentation by BWRR representative Henley and other information about the project.

City's New Service Request System and Mobile App

The City has launched a new service request system to help residents obtain service or ask a question of City government. The new tool, called *My BowieMD*, is available on the home page of the City website and will soon be available as an app for your mobile device. With *My BowieMD*, residents will be able to report a street light outage, request a special metal pickup, report a pothole, or request a host of other City services quickly and easily, and can include photos with the requests.

Within a few weeks the mobile version of the *My BowieMD* application can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play. Not only will it provide a means to submit requests when you are on the go, it will also provide easy access to some of our most popular City services. Checking the trash and recycling schedules, paying a water or speed camera bill, contacting a Councilmember, viewing job openings, and keeping up with City news can all be done from one's mobile phone--soon!

We realize this tool may not be for everyone. Please don't hesitate to stop by City Hall, or contact us at 301-262-6200 or publicinfo@cityofbowie.org, with any requests or questions.

Community Outreach Committee Grants Available

The City of Bowie Community Outreach Committee (COC) is currently accepting grant applications that pertain to social services programs for youth, senior citizens and other underserved populations within the City. Individuals or organizations can submit applications. Projects or programs should be conducted, whenever possible, within the Bowie city limits. Applications and other information regarding the Grants are available on the City's website or from City Hall. The application deadline is August 4, 2017. For additional information, please contact COC Staff Liaison Sally Hein at 301-809-3014 or shein@cityofbowie.org.

National Farmers Market Week – August 6 - 12

Celebrate our nation's farmers by visiting the Bowie Farmers Market on Sunday, August 6. You will find a variety of fresh, inexpensive and healthy food. The market is held in the Bowie High School parking lot from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. On Sunday, August 13, please join us at the market for a free corn roast from 10 a.m. to noon.

The market currently hosts 21 local vendors and organizations that offer a wide variety of products such as fresh fruit and vegetables, breads and baked goods, jams and jellies, honey, beef, lamb, and goat meat, eggs, ice cream, and fresh cut flowers. Each year, the market generates over \$100,000 for these local producers, a valuable economic boost for our community.

Development Review Guidelines Update

The Planning Department is currently updating the City's Development Review Guidelines and Policies. The City Council will conduct a public hearing on proposed revisions to the document at its August 7, 2017 meeting. The public is invited to attend and provide input. Comments may be made in person at the meeting or shared with Planning Department Director Joe Meinert at jmeinert@cityofbowie.org. To obtain a copy of the draft document, contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3047 or www.cityofbowie.org/draftdevguide.

Midwood Lane Stormwater Pond Improvements

In September 2017, the City will begin construction to improve the stormwater management pond located on Midwood Lane near the Belair Swim and Racquet Club. The improvements will update this pond to current standards that improve the environmental quality of stormwater discharge to streams, rivers and bays. Specifically, modern standards reduce the nitrogen, phosphorous and suspended solids carried by stormwater discharges that are detrimental to the environmental health of downstream waters. The Midwood project is being undertaken to meet requirements specific to improving water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. The contractor is Blueridge Inc. Construction is expected to run from September 2017 through January 2018.

Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) Offers Services to Bowie Families

BYFS offers counseling for all families in the City of Bowie 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. 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.

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. It's a great opportunity to make a meaningful impact on a student's life! For information, please contact Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033 or mentor@cityofbowie.org.

Arts & Education Grants

Applications are due in early fall. Forms will be on the City's website by mid-August, www.cityofbowie.org. For more information, contact Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

City Gym Maintenance

The City Gym will be closed for annual maintenance from August 29 to September 10. The Gym will reopen September 11. For more information, visit us online at www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Please Leave Your Pet at Home

It doesn't take long for the temperatures inside a vehicle to rise and become hazardous to your pet's health. 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. Don't be foolish and endanger your pet or subject yourself to civil or criminal penalties; leave your pet at home. For more information, please contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 or slopez@cityofbowie.org.

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 also 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 information, call 301-262-6765 or visit www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Fiber Art

The City Hall Art Gallery exhibit runs through September 17. It is free and open to the public. The gallery may be visited any time that City Hall is open: Monday - 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.

\$20 Compost Bins for Sale at City Hall – Only about 20 left

Start composting and purchase a \$20 discounted compost bin at City Hall. City residents may purchase up to two bins per household. Payment is accepted by cash or check at the Finance window during the City's business hours (Monday to 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 listed above. More bin information is available at www.cityofbowie.org/compost.

Sign up for Bowie's Energy Audit Program (\$100 Value)

Save money and improve the comfort of your home with a no-cost BGE comprehensive energy audit available for Bowie homeowners. Complete an application online at www.cityofbowie.org/eap or in the Planning Department at City Hall during City Hall business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) For more information, contact Kristin Larson at 301-809-3044 or klarson@cityofbowie.org.

Public Hearing August 10th - Community Development Block Grant Program

The City of Bowie invites public participation in the development of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) at a public hearing on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Bowie City Hall.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) provides a yearly account to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of funds allocated towards the implementation of the Five Year Strategic Plan. The Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development, and Non-Housing Community Development.

New Rates in Effect for Bowie Water & Sewer System Customers

Customers of the City of Bowie Water & Sewer System will see a new fee on their bill. The *Renewal and Replacement Fee* was put in place July 1st to help pay for the replacement of aging pipes in the water distribution system.

The City of Bowie Water & Sewer System was constructed in the early 1960s when much of Levitt Bowie was being developed. The system provides service to approximately 7,900 customers, which is less than 40% of all City households. Now over 50 years old, the system is in need of upgrading.

The system operates as a separate financial entity, which means that the costs of the system are borne only by the customers. No tax revenue supports the system. In order to pay for the necessary upgrades, a new fee of \$22.75 was imposed as of July 1, 2017. Work on upgrading the pipes will take place in Long Ridge this year and will continue over the next several years throughout the entire system.

In addition to the new fee, there will also be a rate increase for Fiscal Year 2018. The water rate increase is \$.23 per thousand gallons and \$.34 for sewer services. For the average household, which uses about 13,000 gallons of water per quarter; this will result in a quarterly increase of \$7.41. This will pay for increased costs associated with managing the system. Between the new fee and the rate increase, customers should expect their bill to be approximately \$30 more per quarter.

While bill increases are never welcome, in this case, they are most necessary and they will help to keep the Bowie Water & Sewer System stable and well maintained for many years to come, so that we do not experience the problems that other aging systems around the country have faced. We appreciate your understanding.

Jobs

The City of Bowie has the following job openings:

- Emergency Management Specialist – Part Time (closes 8/4/2017)
- Solid Waste Positions (closes 8/24/2017)
- Temporary Laborer – Part Time - Parks & Grounds (closes 8/4/2017)
- Bus Driver – Senior Center (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level and Lateral (open)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for more information or to apply.

Events

7/29 – Ice Arena Reopens with public skating sessions from 1 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The opening was delayed because of equipment problems.

8/1 – National Night Out 6 - 8 p.m. at Allen Pond Park. Fun for the whole family. For information, contact the Bowie Police Department at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org.

8/6 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – *De Flame & Strykers Posse* (Reggae) 7 – 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert canceled in case of inclement weather.

8/7 – Evolution Global Politics, Part 1 – Senior Center Program 10 a.m. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/7 – City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda items include Development Review Guidelines & Policies, City Transportation Priorities List, and the Communications Plan.

8/8 – Origami Box – Senior Center Program 10 a.m. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/10 – Photography Slide Show 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/10 – Public Hearing on Community Development Block Grant Program, 7 p.m. at City Hall. The City of Bowie solicits public participation in the development of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

8/11 – Senior Center Celebrates 40 Years! 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Registration and fee required. Please contact the Center at 301-809-2300 for details.

8/11-8/26 – “The Nerd” at Bowie Playhouse For tickets and information, visit www.pglt.org or call 301-937-7458.

8/13 – Farmers’ Market Cornroast 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Bowie High School Parking Lot (15200 Annapolis Road) Enjoy free hot buttered corn on the cob (while supplies last). The Farmers’ Market is open every Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. through October 29. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

8/13 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – *The Back Pages Band* (60s Tribute) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert canceled in case of inclement weather.

8/15 – Kids Kaboose 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for youngsters ages 1 to 11. Free. For more information, please call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/15 – Nature Show and Walk 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/19 – 14th Annual Back to School Bash 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bowie City Gym. Enjoy rides, games, music, face painting, giveaways and more for elementary age school children. There will also be a parent resource area with information on programs and activities for the upcoming school year. Cost is \$3 or a donation to the Bowie Food Pantry. For more information, contact the Gym at 301-809-2388.

8/19 – Days of Vinyl – Rock and Roll at the Mansion 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/20 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert canceled in case of inclement weather.

8/21 – Learn Windows 10 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/23 – Armchair Tour: Florence and Venice 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, contact the Center at 301-809-2300.

8/25 – Games People Played 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/27 – Sunday Sunset Concert Series – US Navy Sea Chanters (various styles of music) 7 - 8 p.m. at Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, Allen Pond Park. Free. Concert canceled in case of inclement weather.

8/28 – 18th Century Housewifery Skills – Brown Bag Lunch Lecture 12 - 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

8/28 – We All Scream for Ice Cream! 1 - 3 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 5 – 11. \$2 per child. Reservations required. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.