

Bowie News Flash



January 2018

News

Bowie Residents Vote to Recall District 2 Councilmember Diane Polangin

In a Special Election on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, District 2 residents voted to recall Councilmember Diane Polangin from office. The results were 69.23% voting “YES” to recall the councilmember and 30.77% voting “NO”. There were 1,615 votes cast in the City’s first ever Recall Election. The Special Recall Election was scheduled after a recall petition signed by more than 25% of the registered voters of District 2 was presented to the City in November and certified by the Board of Elections. The City Charter requires that a vote take place within 30 days of a recall petition being certified.

The ballot contained a single question: *“Do you vote to recall from her City elective office District 2 Councilmember Diane Polangin?”* Since a majority of the voters voted YES, Councilmember Polangin will be recalled from office and another election will be held in 60 to 90 days to fill the vacancy created by the recall. Information about filing for the District 2 seat will be available early in January.

Only residents of Bowie Council District 2 were eligible to vote in this Special Recall Election. District 2 consists of the following neighborhoods: Belair Town, Bowie Forest, Buckingham, Derbyshire, Fairview, Forest Hills, Foxhill, Glenridge, Grady’s Walk, Highbridge Park, Kenilworth, Longridge, Meadowbrook (only the streets south and west of Millstream Drive), Somerset, Stewart’s Landing, and Tulip Grove. Voter turnout for this election was 15.33%.

Councilmember Polangin was first elected to the City Council in 2007 and was returned to office in 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015. Another Special Election will be scheduled in the next few months to fill the vacancy created by the recall. The next General City Election for all City offices is slated to take place in November 2019.

Holiday House Decorating Contest

The results of this year's Holiday House Decorating Contest are in! Thanks to all the participants for helping to make Bowie more festive this holiday season and thanks also to the judges for their efforts. The complete list of winners can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/housedecorating.

Upcoming City Holidays

- **Christmas Day** Monday, December 25, 2017
- **New Year's Day** Monday, January 1, 2018
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** Monday, January 15, 2018

City offices are closed on the dates listed above. There will be no refuse or recycling service on Christmas Day or Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and no refuse collection on New Year's Day. There **will be recycling collection on New Year's Day**, January 1, for those neighborhoods on the regular Monday recycling schedule.

Public Hearing: New Bowie Ice Arena Annexation – January 2, 2018 at 8 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 2, 2018, City Council will conduct a public hearing on a proposed annexation of a 20-acre property owned by the City, and located on the east side of Church Road, north of US 50. This parcel is the site of the future home of the new Bowie Ice Arena. This new facility will include two ice rinks in a 78,000 square foot structure. Annexation of the parcel will allow the City's Police Department to provide services at the facility and will allow the building to be constructed under the City's Stormwater Management Ordinance. The City Council meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan Public Hearings – January 8 and January 22

Join the Office of Grant Development & Administration in a discussion on the process and development of the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Five Year (FY19 - 23) Consolidated Plan for the City of Bowie. Two public hearings are scheduled in January. The first is January 8, 2018, at 8 p.m. at City Hall. Topics include the needs of the community in the areas of housing, homelessness, community development and economic development. The second public hearing is January 22, at 12:45 p.m. at the South Bowie Library. The draft CPP is available for review at both public libraries in Bowie, the Bowie Senior Center, and City Hall or at www.cityofbowie.org until February 5, 2018. Please send information requests/written comments to bowieplan19@cityofbowie.org.

Melford Village Apartments Meeting – January 9 and January 16

At a Stakeholders Meeting on December 13th, Melford Village developer St. John Properties presented its plans for “The Aspen Apartments at Melford Village”, a multi-family apartment building containing 389 dwelling units and a parking garage with 587 parking spaces. The 25-acre site is located on the west side of Curie Drive, north of Melford Boulevard. This will be the first residential development at Melford Village, which received Conceptual Site Plan approval in 2014 and Preliminary Subdivision approval in 2016. This project will be reviewed by the Bowie Advisory Planning Board on January 9, 2018 and will be heard and voted upon by the City Council at a Public Hearing on January 16, 2018. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in both public hearings. For more information, please call the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

Bowie Ice Arena

New sessions of learn-to-skate classes are offered for those 18 months of age through adults, starting February 1, 2018. Also call us about our after holiday mini-series of lessons. Public skating sessions are offered daily. The monthly calendar can be viewed online. Information: 301-809-3090 or www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Point-In-Time Count of Homeless

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates an annual Point-In-Time Count of the homeless. The 2018 count is scheduled for January 24, 2018 in Prince George’s County. Most regions in the country will also conduct this count on the same day. Our team will meet at 6 a.m. at the IHOP in Bowie January 24 for final logistics and a daylong (7a.m. - 12 midnight) engagement and count of the homeless in the following areas: Bowie, Lanham, Riverdale Park, Hyattsville, College Park, Greenbelt and Laurel. For more information, contact Jesse Buggs at jbuggs@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3094.

Snow Removal

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. 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. During a snow or ice event only, it is acceptable to park your vehicle on your 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 or after hours, call the Police Non-Emergency Call Center at 240-544-5700. More information about the City’s snow removal program can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/snow.

Snow Removal Time Waiver

Do you have a limitation that may prevent you from removing ice and snow from the public sidewalk or driveway quickly? The City provides additional time for people with factors such as age, physical handicap or disability, but you must submit a waiver application and be approved. The application is available on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or dmichelle@cityofbowie.org.

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

Teens are needed for snow shoveling this winter. Bowie Youth & Family Services sponsors a Teen Job Bank, where residents can find Bowie youth who are looking for opportunities to make extra money, on either an occasional or a regular basis. Residents may use this service to find teens to help with snow shoveling, yard work, babysitting, tutoring, shopping or other chores. The resident and the teen determine the particulars of the job and the fees per hour. To participate, complete the Job Bank Teen application or Resident Application found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobbank or call 301-809-3033.

Refuse and Recycling Notes:

- There **will be recycling collection on New Year's Day**, January 1, 2018, for those neighborhoods on the regular Monday recycling schedule. Trash will not be picked up that day.
- **Christmas trees** will be picked up with yardwaste every Wednesday in January through January 24. Make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Do not put the tree in a plastic bag. Place at the curb by 7 a.m.
- Due to a scheduled training event, yard waste and special collections (scrap metal and tires) is cancelled on **Wednesday, January 31**. Household recycling collection will be completed as normally scheduled. Yard waste and special collections will resume on Wednesday, February 7.

What's Bouncing at the City Gym?

- **Morning Walking** Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m.
- **Basketball Open Gym** Weekdays, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- **Pickleball** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Learn to play!
- **Coed Recreational Volleyball** Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. No experience needed.
- **Senior Fit** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 - 10 a.m. Hosted by Holy Cross Hospital at the Gym. Participants must register with Holy Cross. For information and registration, call Sara McKechnie at 301-754-7895.
- **Friday Night Open Gym** 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 7:30 - 10 p.m. Three courts open.

We Like to Recognize Our Residents

Throughout the year, the City of Bowie honors residents, businesses, and those who serve Bowie in a variety of ways. At present, the City is soliciting nominations for two different recognition programs:

- **Green Citizen Award**

The Bowie Green Citizen Award recognizes individuals, schools, or groups that contribute to making Bowie a greener and more sustainable community through innovative practices, educational programs, and community leadership. This award was established to reward members of the community who have actively promoted green living practices in the city and encouraged others to do likewise. Nominations are due by **January 31, 2018**. For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie or contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

- **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; 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 2018 Hall of Honor is Monday, **March 5, 2018 at 5 p.m.** at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms.

Student Scholarships

The City Council also believes it is important to recognize and help students through various City scholarship programs:

- **Art Scholarship** – This scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing studies in an arts-related field. The deadline is early spring.
- **Education Scholarship** – Scholarships are awarded to Bowie students who have excelled during their high school career. Students should contact the Guidance Department at their high school as soon as possible in order to be considered for this scholarship.

Scholarship applications for high school seniors with Bowie addresses will be available mid-January 2018. For information about either scholarship program, please contact Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Pet Overpopulation

Pet overpopulation is a serious challenge faced by Animal Control Officers everywhere. The problem exists because pet owners fail to spay and neuter their animals. Bowie Animal Control provides education on this issue as well as a list of low-cost spay and neutering clinics. For more information, please contact the City’s Animal Control Office at 301-809-3002.

***Generations* City Hall Art Gallery Exhibit**

The show runs through February 9, 2018 and is free and open to the public during City Hall hours. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org

Jobs

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

- Bus Driver – Senior Center (closes 1/1/2018)
- Police Officer – Entry Level and Lateral (open)
- Family Counselor (closes 1/19/2018)

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

Events

1/1 – New Year’s Day Holiday. City offices closed. No trash collection, but recycling will be picked up for those on the regular Monday collection schedule.

1/2 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. The agenda includes annexation of the future Ice Arena property.

1/6 – 18th Century 12th Night Sewing Circle 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/7 – Games People Played 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/8 – Public Hearing on Five-Year Consolidated Plan 8 p.m. at City Hall.

1/9 – Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing on Melford Village Apartments 7 p.m. at City Hall.

1/9 – *The Kissing Sailor* – Second Tuesday Lecture 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

1/11 – Fall Risk Assessment 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Appointment needed. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/11 – Vascular Health Presentation 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/13 – Program Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10 a.m. at City Hall. The program is a tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. King. It will feature the artwork of local students who have been selected as finalists in the City's Martin Luther King Art Contest.

1/15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. City offices closed. No trash or recycling collection.

1/16 – 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.

1/16 – Regular City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Topics include The Aspen Apartments at Melford Village and an Auditors Presentation.

1/18 – Parenting the Second Time Around 9:45 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/19 – New Classic Board Game Workshop 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

1/22 – Public Hearing on Five Year Consolidated Plan 12:45 p.m. at the South Bowie Library.

1/22 – While the Cold Winter Away - 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.

1/22 – Tap Dance 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. Short program. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.