



BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, May 4, 2023

BOWIE NEWS

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Bowie News

Spring Hydrant Flushing

The Public Works Department performs fire hydrant flushing and testing in areas served by Bowie Water Service twice a year. Spring hydrant flushing started on April 3 and will continue through May 10. Flushing takes place on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., according to the schedule below.

The work may stir up sediment in pipes and cause temporary water discoloration. The water is safe to

Spring 2023 Hydrant Flushing Schedule	
Week of May 1	Victoria Heights, Race Track Road Townhouses, Idlewild, Yorktown, & Overbrook
Week of May 8	Whitehall & Rockledge

drink, but washing clothes is not recommended when hydrants are flushed nearby. For more information, visit: www.cityofbowie.org/flushing.

City of Bowie Budget Review Worksessions and Meetings

The City Council’s review of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Capital Improvements Program is almost complete. Public hearings on the budget were held on April 10 and May 1. The final public hearing will be held on May 15. Agendas for each meeting are posted the Friday prior to a scheduled meeting at: www.cityofbowie.org/agenda.

- **May 8, 8 p.m.** – Special Meeting on Bowie Marketplace and Budget Worksession #5: Department of Planning & Sustainability, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, Appendix (including Plan of Compensation), and wrap-up.
- **May 15, 8 p.m.** - Regular City Council Meeting: Women Trailblazers Awards, Public Hearing and Adoption of FY 2024 Budget & CIP.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can tune in live at: www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings, FIOS 10/Comcast 71/996, or YouTube @cityofBowieMD.

AAA Bond Rating

In April 2023, bond agency Fitch Ratings reaffirmed the City of Bowie’s AAA bond rating. After reviewing the City’s financial situation, Fitch announced that its rating for City of Bowie government would remain at “AAA with a stable outlook”. According to Fitch, the AAA bond rating “reflects the city's strong revenue growth prospects and high legal ability to raise revenues, ample expenditure flexibility, low long-term liability burden, ample research and broad budgetary tools.” Fitch expects the city's long-term liability burden to remain low based on manageable future borrowing needs and a minimal pension liability.

Furthermore, Fitch says,

“The City retains an exceptional capacity to manage risks associated with a normal economic cycle given the combination of its substantial reserves, prudent budgetary management, and

legal revenue raising capacity. Proximity to large labor markets in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore adds breadth to the somewhat limited local economy. In addition to the city and county schools, the city's top employers include several large retailers and a medical informatics service provider. Additionally, Bowie residents benefit from employment opportunities at the National Security Agency, Fort Meade, and Bowie State University, which are all located close to the city limits. The robust regional employment base has resulted in favorable socio-economic indicators. City wealth indicators are strong, as evidenced by above-average income levels and a low poverty rate. The unemployment rate is consistently below that of the state and the nation.”

The City issued general obligation bonds in 2015 and 2019.

Bowie-Crofton Garden Club Plant Sale is this Saturday

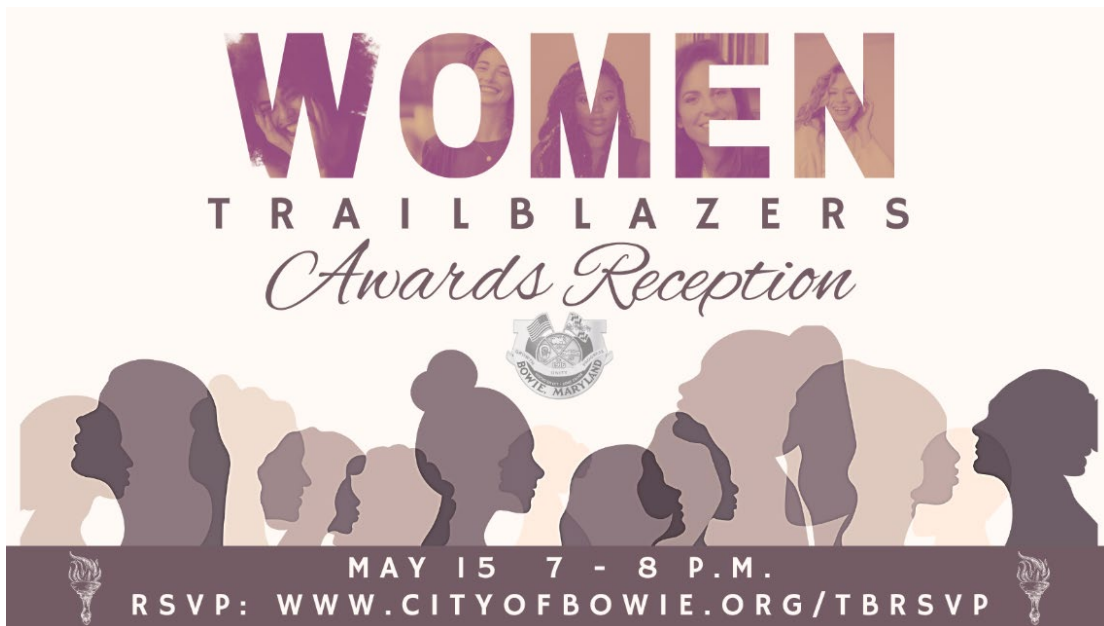
The Bowie-Crofton Garden Club is hosting the annual plant sale at the Belair Mansion on **May 6** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale includes a wide variety of member-grown plants including perennials, annuals, house plants, herbs and native pollinator plants. Master Gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions. Kids activities will educate children about nature and the importance of plants. Several native pollinator plants can be pre-ordered from the club website at <https://www.bcgardenclub.org/plantsale>. This event is co-sponsored by the City of Bowie.



Women Trailblazers Awards

The City of Bowie is proud to announce the inaugural Women Trailblazers Awards. The award program is being launched to acknowledge women who have made exceptional contributions in their careers or in public service. City Council is selecting the recipients for this award.

There will be a reception for the honorees on **May 15**, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Immediately following the reception, the awardees will be recognized for their impact and service during the City Council Meeting. If you would like to attend the free reception in honor of Trailblazing Women, please RSVP at, www.cityofbowie.org/TBrsvp or call 301-809-3011 by May 12.



Community Meeting Regarding Aroma Restaurant and Lounge

The Bowie Police Department will be hosting a virtual public meeting to address concerns regarding excessive music associated with the Aroma Restaurant and Lounge located at 4000 Town Center Boulevard in Bowie Town Center. The meeting will be held **on May 11**, at 7 p.m. The Department will provide an update on the results of decibel readings recorded and the options available to the community to address future complaints. A representative of the City of Bowie Code Compliance Division will also be in attendance to address community concerns. This meeting is open to the public and may also be attended by representatives of the Aroma Restaurant and Lounge. We look forward to hearing from the community about this important issue. Please use this link [to join the meeting](#).

Bowie Race Track Property Recreational Concepts Workshop

The Bowie Race Track Property Task Force will hold a workshop on **May 13**, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kenhill Center, to gather public comments on preliminary concepts and ideas for recreational development of the property. The workshop will review the results of the community survey and the December public workshop. At this workshop, you can also learn about recreational opportunity needs identified by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the recreational use concepts created by the Task Force.

Under current State law, the property will eventually transfer to the City, and both the City and Bowie State University have pledged cooperation in creating a recreational use plan for the property that includes public recreation areas and some university-sponsored recreational and open space activities. This will be an important opportunity to provide your input and ideas before the Task Force makes recommendations to the City Council at a public hearing tentatively scheduled for July 10. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/racetrack, email Joe Meinert at jmeinert@cityofbowie.org or call the Planning Department at 301-809-3045.



Senior Chorale Spring Concert “Love Through the Ages”

Don't miss the Bowie Senior Chorale's spring concert, “Love Through the Ages” on **May 11**, 7 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. The Chorale, under the direction of Craig L. Sparks, will perform classic and current love songs that span the decades. Songs will include movie themes, Broadway, pop, jazz, and even a lullaby - all styles to entertain and enchant. Tickets are available online at www.bowiecenter.org or at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The price per ticket is \$10.

For Senior Center members attending the concert and have no other means of transportation, curb to curb bus service will be available by appointment only. Please call the Senior Center Transportation Office at 301-809-2324 by **May 5** to make a reservation.

Do you Play Tennis? Or is Pickleball More Your Speed?

The City of Bowie has received a number of requests from residents to provide a dedicated pickleball facility (not a pickleball court overlaid on a tennis court) within the City. Rather than incur the costs of converting the Glen Allen Tennis Court (Glen Allen Park is the only City owned tennis court) or constructing a new facility, City staff has been working with the Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to have one or all the existing M-NCPPC owned tennis courts at the Huntington South Park (13311 11th St.) converted to dedicated pickleball courts. If you would like to share your opinion on this conversion, [please complete this survey](#) by **May 30** to give your input on the possible addition of dedicated pickleball courts at Huntington South Park.

Transplanting Pollinator Plants

The Green Team needs volunteers to help with transplanting pollinator plants into larger pots to further mature on **May 16** from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. Student Service Learning (SSL) hours are available for volunteers. If interested, email eozenford@cityofbowie.org to register.

Monarch Waystation Cleanups

Help Green Team members get the City's pollinator gardens ready for spring at the Senior Center (**May 11**), Belair Meadows (**May 18**), and the Kenhill Center (**May 25**) from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Learn about pollinator gardens and how to care for them. Student Service Learning (SSL) hours are available. Capacity is limited to five volunteers per cleanup event, so register today by emailing eozenford@cityofbowie.org.

2nd Star Productions Presents "Something Rotten"

Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of Renaissance rock star, William Shakespeare. When the local soothsayer foretells that the future of theater involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick sets out to write the world's very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of the opening night, the Bottom brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz.

"Something Rotten" runs at the Bowie Playhouse from **May 26 - June 24**. Performances are every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Visit [2nd Star Production's website](#) to purchase tickets.

Sign-up for Alert Bowie

Signing up for Alert Bowie is an essential step for anyone who wants to stay informed about emergencies, public safety news, and what is happening in Bowie. This service provides accurate, up-to-the-minute emergency notifications and informational messages to subscribers, via text message and email and sometimes by phone calls to your cell phone or landline. Whether it's severe weather,

road closures, service updates, or news, these alerts will help you stay safe and informed. To sign up for Alert Bowie, simply visit www.cityofbowie.org/alerts or call 301-809-3032 for assistance.

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for several positions listed below. Full time employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life and long-term care insurance, a 401(k) with employer match, and a 457 savings plan. They also have paid holidays and earn leave. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for links to job postings.

Open until May 12

- [Street Maintenance Worker](#) - Streets Division - Public Works

Open until May 19

- [Public Information-Intelligence Specialist](#) - Police Department
- [Part Time Gymnasium Attendant](#) - Community Services

Open until June 9

- [Equipment Operator](#) - Street Maintenance Division

Open until filled

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) - Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) - Police Department
- [Family Counselor](#) - Community Services
- [Part time Ice Arena Attendant](#) - Community Services
- [Part time Bus Driver](#) - Community Services
- [Building Maintenance Superintendent](#) - Community Services
- [Solid Waste Driver/Collector](#) - Public Works

Visit <http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs> for details or to apply.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 4

- [Senior Program: Salad Container Garden Workshop](#) | 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- [Senior Program: 8-Ball Billiards Tournament](#) | 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

May 6

- [Bowie-Crofton Garden Club Annual Plant Sale](#) | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 8

- [Special Council Meeting & Budget Worksession #5: Department of Planning & Sustainability, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition & Replacement Fund,](#)

[General Fund Summaries, Appendix \(including Plan of Compensation\), and wrap-up.](#) | 8 p.m.

May 9

- [Senior Program: Artist of the Month - The Art of Photography](#) | 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

May 10

- [Senior Program: Better Day Live Chat! - Be Plugged In](#) | 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

May 11

- [Monarch Waystation Cleanup at the Senior Center](#) | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- [Senior Chorale Spring Concert “Love Through the Ages”](#) | 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- [Community Meeting Regarding Aroma Restaurant & Lounge](#) | 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

May 12

- [Kid’s Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum](#) | 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

May 13

- [Bowie Race Track Property Task Force Public Workshop](#) | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

May 15

- [Senior Program: AARP Driver Safety Course](#) | 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- [Women Trailblazers Awards Reception](#) | 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- [Regular City Council Meeting: Women Trailblazers Awards, Public Hearing & Adoption of FY 2024 Budget & CIP](#) | 8 p.m.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar for details about other upcoming events sponsored by the City.