

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: March 22, 2012

Status Report

1. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The EDC held their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 14th. They noted that the deadline for Bowie Business Recognition Awards nominations is Friday, April 6 and reminded members to submit nominations. The main topic for the meeting was "City Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses". Emeka Onwezi reported on the results of his research into what and how the City contracts for construction, goods, and services. I responded to a series of questions from EDC members. The EDC Chairman is preparing a letter to Council with the EDC's findings and recommendations. The consensus is that the City has effective procedures in place. The EDC's next regular meeting is Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. here at City Hall.

2. BGE Smart Meter Installation

This week, BGE began communication efforts to educate customers about smart meters, the first step of the gas and electric modernization effort known as smart grid. In the spring, BGE will begin a three-year project to change the electric meters and upgrade the gas meters for all BGE residential and small commercial customers. BGE will inform all customers of this initiative with a letter that they began mailing on Monday, March 19. It will take a few weeks to complete this mailing to all of BGE's 1.2 million customers. In addition to the general mailing, BGE will begin community-specific communications in the areas where they are installing meters. Customers will also see local advertising and will be invited to attend a series of community events. The Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) has approved this initiative. The PSC is also a valuable resource for those who may have questions regarding smart meters. Attached is a copy of the BGE customer letter. The tentative installation schedule, which customers can view on

www.bge.com/smartgrid, shows that Prince George's County falls within Segment 7 (of 16) which has a "Proposed Start Window" of September 2012 – February 2013.

3. Leaf and Tree Parts Disposal

The last seven seasons, the City has collected curbside leaves and stored them at the Public Works compound for later contract disposal. In 2010 we began combining both curbside leaves and storm debris. For the FY 2012 Budget we estimated the collection of approximately 1,100 tons of leaves and 700 tons of storm debris at \$16.38 per ton.

The benefits of utilizing the contractual services for removal and disposal are as follows:

- Not hauling to the County facility will save approximately 13,800 travel miles;
- Diesel fuel savings of approximately \$11,000;
- Time saved from not traveling to the County facility is equivalent to 1,080 highway hours.

In June 2011, Calvert County awarded a contract to McKnew Chipping, Inc. for brush and wood grinding and recycling, which meets the City's needs. The price for brush and wood grinding and recycling is \$6.30 per cubic yard or \$16.30 per ton. McKnew will use the City's scale to weigh each load as it leaves the Public Works facility. All debris will be removed by April 30, 2012, weather permitting.

The Public Works Department recommends that we "piggyback" on the Calvert County contract for brush and wood grinding and recycling by McKnew Chipping, Inc. in the amount of \$ 29,484. These funds will come out of the Solid Waste Disposal Fees account.

As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to McKnew Chipping, Inc. for brush and wood grinding and recycling at \$16.38 per ton.

4. Recycling Cart Distribution

Delivery of 2,000 65-gallon, wheeled recycling carts began yesterday to homes in the Buckingham, Derbyshire, Foxhill and Kenilworth sections (the final portion of Phase 1, FY12 cart distribution). Delivery is expected to be completed by Friday, March 23rd. These carts were purchased with funds received from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. Only 11 residents who received delivery notification post cards several weeks ago contacted Public Works to indicate they did not want to receive the carts.

The remainder of the recycling carts will be purchased in FY13 (Phase 2). Public

Works has received numerous calls from residents anxious to receive carts in Phase 2.

5. Pole Mounted Speed Signs

This week the speed signs were moved to the following locations: Clearfield Drive (from Steeplechase Drive), Old Stage Road (from Beaverdale Lane), and Arbor Hill Lane (from Pittsfield Lane).

6. Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Melford)

Please review the letter (enclosed in your package) from St. John Properties, Inc. in which they are requesting Council support for a clarifying amendment to the M-X-T regulations regarding flex space. We have placed this on your upcoming April 2 Agenda.

7. Speed Monitoring Bill (SB 486/HB 944)

The Senate passed the bill allowing a civilian to sign a speed camera statement. The House referred the bill to "summer study", effectively killing the bill this year.

8. Rain Barrel Workshop

On Saturday, March 31, 2012, the City and the Bowie Lions Club will host the 4th annual Rain Barrel Workshop at City Hall at 9:30 a.m. in Training Room 243. After a brief introduction to stormwater and watersheds by Planning Department staff, the Lions Club President will present the benefits of rain barrels and will teach attendees how to install and care for their rain barrel. The Lions Club will have completely assembled, ready-to-install 55-gallon rain barrels for sale at a cost of \$75 each. All proceeds go to support Bowie Lions Club activities. Registration is not required. For more information, contact the City's Watershed Manager, Tiffany Wright, at 301-809-3043 or by email at twright@cityofbowie.org.

9. Street Sweeping Schedule

Attached is the 2012 street sweeping schedule. The street sweeping schedule is comprised of seven separate routes. The street sweeping season is 32 weeks long. We do not sweep during the Fourth of July week. The remaining 31 weeks are apportioned as follows: each route is swept four times and three of the routes receive a fifth sweep. The fifth sweeping is rotated each year so the routes receiving the fifth week will not be repeated. We are advertising this schedule on the City webpage, in the monthly Bowie News Flash, and it will be forwarded to local newspapers.



P.O. Box 1475
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1475
bge.com

Spring 2012

Dear BGE Customer,

In the next few months, BGE will begin a three-year project to change the electric meters and upgrade the gas meters for all BGE residential and commercial customers. Called **smart meters**, these digital meters allow two-way communication between the meters and BGE via a wireless network. The Maryland Public Service Commission has permitted this initiative and BGE was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to receive a \$200 million federal grant to help cover the costs of this gas and electric modernization effort.

The features of the meters will be rolled out over time. Early benefits will relate to lower operational costs. Later, we expect this modernization to result in more opportunities for you to better manage energy use and save money. Throughout the effort, BGE will continue to provide you with the necessary information and education about our smart meter initiative and what you can expect along the way.

You do not need to take any action at this time. Here is what you can anticipate:

- BGE is partnering with a company called Grid One Solutions, Inc. to install the smart electric meters and upgrade existing gas meters. In a few cases, older gas meters will also be replaced with new meters. Meter installations will be scheduled community by community through 2014 and will be performed by uniformed Grid One technicians. The technicians will be wearing dark blue pants and light blue shirts with a Grid One logo. They will be required to display proper identification badges that will read "BGE Contractor." The technicians will knock on your door prior to beginning work.
- There will be several notices and events in your community leading up to installation.
- You will experience a brief power interruption (a couple of minutes in most cases) when your electric meter is replaced.
- There will be no interruption of service if installers are upgrading your existing gas meter.
- A very small number of customers with older gas meters that require replacing will also experience a service interruption (up to 30 minutes). If you are one of those customers, we will need access to your home in order to restore service and relight any affected pilots.
- BGE customers whose meters are indoors will be contacted by Grid One to schedule an appointment for installation. Customers whose meters are outdoors, but inaccessible because of a locked fence or a dog, will also need to schedule an installation appointment.
- Customers with outdoor meters that installers are able to access will not need to be present for the installation. Grid One will leave notification and meter information after the installation is complete.
- Customers with a medical condition or other special needs, who are currently registered in BGE's Special Needs Program, will receive additional notification prior to a service interruption. To enroll in the Special Needs Program, please contact BGE's Customer Relations Call Center at **410.685.0123** or **800.685.0123**.
- Later in 2012, customers with new meters will be able to see their detailed energy usage on a new website that will also provide tools for conserving energy.

If you have questions about smart meters or the installation process, including the estimated time BGE will begin installing meters in your area, please visit bge.com/smartgrid for more information. You may also call BGE's Customer Relations Call Center at **410.685.0123** and select the "smart meter" option, or call toll-free at **800.685.0123** (TTY/TDD Maryland Relay Service – **800.735.2258**).

We thank you for your support and welcome your feedback throughout this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeannette M. Mills".

Jeannette M. Mills
Chief Customer Officer

City of Bowie

Street Sweeping Schedule

March - October 2012

Streets will be swept approximately every 7 weeks.

(Please remove cars from the street when sweeping is scheduled in your neighborhood)

Allen Pond	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Amber Meadows	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Ashleigh	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Ashleigh Station	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Belair Greens	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Belair Town I	Week of April 30, June 18, August 13, October 1
Belair Town II	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Buckingham	Week of April 2, May 21, July 16, September 4, October 22
Chapel Forge	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Collington Manor	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Collington Station	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Covington Manor	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Derbyshire	Week of April 2, May 21, July 16, September 4, October 22
Devonshire	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Enfield Chase Townhomes**	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Enfield/ Pin Oak Village	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Ensleigh	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Essington	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Fairview	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Foxhill	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Gateway/ Renaissance	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Glen Allen	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Gradys Walk	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Greystone**	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Grovehurst	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Heather Hills	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Highbride Park	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Huntington	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Huntington Crest/ Rolling Hills	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Idlewild	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Kenilworth	Week of April 2, May 21, July 16, September 4, October 22
Long Leaf	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Long Ridge	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15

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(Please remove cars from the street when sweeping is scheduled in your neighborhood)

Meadowbrook	Week of April 30, June 18, August 13, October 1
Melford	Week of April 2, May 21, July 16, September 4, October 22
Mitchelleville East	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Northridge	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Northview	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Oakpond	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Oaktree	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Old Chapel	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Old Chapel Estates	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Old Stage	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Overbrook	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Palisades	Week of April 16, June 4, July 30, September 17
Patuxent Overlook	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Pointer Ridge	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Princeton Square	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Ridgeview Estates	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Rockledge	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Saddlebrook	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Somerset	Week of April 30, June 18, August 13, October 1
Spring Meadows	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Stewarts Landing	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Tall Oaks	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Ternberry	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Tulip Grove	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Victoria Heights	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
Vistas**	Week of April 2, May 21, July 16, September 4, October 22
Westview	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Whitehall	Week of March 26, May 14, July 9, August 27, October 15
Woodmore Estates	Week of April 9, May 29, July 23, September 10
Woodmore Highlands	Week of April 23, June 11, August 6, September 24
Yorktown	Week of March 19, May 7, June 25, August 20, October 8
** HOA maintained roads and lots are excluded	