

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: September 13, 2012

Status Report

1. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The EDC held its regular monthly meeting but no action was taken because there was no quorum present; only six (6) members attended. The Chairman discussed the topic and meeting schedule and topic leaders verbally outlined their topics. The Chairman provided general comments about the Arts Survey results which were distributed to the EDC members. The initial review of the 92 responses doesn't show a large arts community in Bowie. Further analysis and discussion about the survey and an A&E District will take place at the EDC's February 13, 2013 meeting. The next regular meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday October 10, 2012.

2. Recycling Carts Phase 2 Update

The distribution for the final phase of the recycling cart program began Monday, September 10, one day earlier than planned. To date, only 13 residents have opted out of the program. The majority of this final phase is comprised of 4400 single family homes, all of which should receive their 65 gallon carts by the end of this week. The remainder of Phase 2 is comprised of 2700 townhomes which receive the 35 gallon carts. We have been notified by the manufacturer that there will be a slight delay in receiving the 35 gallon carts. These carts are now scheduled to arrive the week of September 24 at which time they will be delivered to the townhomes in the remainder of Phase 2.

3. West Nile Virus

An announcement about protecting one's self from West Nile Virus has been posted to the City's home page and will be shared with residents. The information addresses the current outbreak, provides tips on protecting oneself, and also links to our ongoing efforts to control mosquitoes in Bowie.

There are currently 25 reported cases of West Nile Virus in the state of Maryland, including six in Prince George's County. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided the following information yesterday in a briefing:

- Reports on the number of people who have become ill with West Nile virus disease continue to go up.
- This year's outbreak is the most serious outbreak to-date, since West Nile virus was discovered in the United States, with 2,636 cases reported so far in 2012.
- The CDC expects the numbers will remain high through October, but they believe the worst of the outbreak is behind us.
- Because the West Nile virus season will last several more weeks, it is important that people take actions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and minimize the areas in their yards where mosquitoes can breed. Information about this can be found on our website.

Ponds and storm water management areas in Bowie have been treated for mosquitoes and surveillance of mosquitoes and spraying will continue in the city through September. Residents should report areas of concern to the Public Works Office at 301-809-2336.

4. Emergency Preparedness

Since September is National Preparedness Month, the City is encouraging residents to check their emergency supplies, review their emergency plans and learn what they can do to be better prepared for emergencies. In addition to our usual preparedness materials we are promoting a Preparedness IQ Quiz that we've developed to help people determine what they know about emergencies. The quiz can be completed on our website. Once visitors complete the quiz online, they'll be taken to a page on our site that links to a preparedness checklist and other materials. The quiz and checklist are also attached.

Staff will also be distributing information about Alert Bowie and emergency preparedness at the Bowie Health Fair on September 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DJD/JLF/adf

Attachment

What's Your Disaster IQ?

1. What's the most common disaster that occurs in the United States?

- a) Fire
- b) Flood
- c) Earthquake
- d) Tornado

2. Which of these should not be part of your portable disaster supply kit or "go bag"?

- a) Map
- b) Candles
- c) Radio
- d) Medication

3. What's the number one disaster related killer in the United States?

- a) Fire
- b) Flood
- c) Hurricane
- d) Tornado

4. Which is more severe – a tornado watch or a tornado warning?

- a) Tornado watch
- b) Tornado warning

5. How long should you be prepared to survive on your own, without running water, electricity or outside help after a major disaster?

- a) Help should be immediate
- b) 6-12 hours
- c) 24 hours
- d) 72 hours

For more information on preparing for emergencies go to:
www.ready.gov or call Bowie City Hall at 301-809-3079.

What's Your Preparedness IQ?

1. What's the most common disaster that occurs in the United States?

- a) Fire ◀ *The Red Cross and Emergency Managers respond to fires more than any other disaster each year.*
- b) Flood
- c) Earthquake
- d) Tornado

2. Which of these should not be part of your portable disaster supply kit or "go bag"?

- a) Map
- b) Candles ◀ *Candles should not be in your "go" bag. Every major disaster is complicated by fires due to improper use of candles. It's just better not to use them at all.*
- c) Radio
- d) Medication

3. What's the number one disaster related killer in the United States?

- a) Fire
- b) Flood ◀ *Fires may be the most common disaster, but floods kill more people every year in the US than fires do.*
- c) Hurricane
- d) Tornado

4. Which is more severe – a tornado watch or a tornado warning?

- a) Tornado watch
- b) Tornado warning ◀ *A tornado warning is more severe than a watch. A watch means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to form during a thunderstorm. A tornado warning is the ultimate in severe warnings, it means that a tornado is either occurring or imminent based on radar. You should take cover immediately.*

5. How long should you be prepared to survive on your own, without running water, electricity or outside help after a major disaster?

- a) Help should be immediate
- b) 6-12 hours
- c) 24 hours
- d) 72 hours ◀ *People should expect to survive on their own for 72 hours (3 days) following a major disaster.*

For more information on preparing for emergencies go to:
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How Prepared Are You?

The quiz was just a little warm up to get you thinking about emergencies. The true test is how you will manage in a real emergency. Answer the questions below to gauge just how ready you are.

		Yes	No	Maybe
1	Do you have a battery operated radio and batteries?			
2	Do you know what local radio stations are part of the Emergency Alert System and will be providing information in an emergency?			
3	Do you have enough food and water for three days if the electricity shuts off and there's no refrigeration, or the water supply is considered temporarily unsafe?			
4	If you're relying on canned food, do you have a non-electric can opener?			
5	Have you planned for your special needs in an emergency – medications, baby supplies, or other special supplies?			
6	Do you have at least 2 working flashlights and batteries?			
7	Do you have a "Go Bag" in case you have to leave your home suddenly?			
8	Do you have an emergency contact sheet with key phone numbers on it?			
9	Do you have a car charger for your cell phone?			
10	Do you have some emergency cash on hand in case you can't use plastic or get to a bank?			
11	Are your important papers (or copies of your papers) in a safe, waterproof place?			
12	Do you have the numbers for BGE, Washington Gas, Comcast/Verizon, and the City of Bowie in a handy place?			
13	Do you have a first aid kit?			
14	Have you taken a CPR and/or first aid class?			
15	Do you have a plan for communicating with family members after a disaster?			
16	Do you test the smoke detectors in your home twice a year?			
17	Do you have a fire extinguisher at home?			
18	Have you had a fire drill or discussed your emergency plans with family/friends?			
19	Do you have an inventory list of your valuables?			
20	Have you signed up for Alert Bowie?			

Scoring: (# of yes answers)

0-5: Not prepared. Luckily, you still have time to develop an emergency plan. But don't wait too long; you never know when a natural disaster can occur.

6-10: Not as prepared as you should be. No need to worry; start taking action. The time that you take now to get your family more prepared for a potential disaster will save you more time and anxiety during an actual disaster.

11-15: Somewhat prepared. Nice job. You and your family will avoid some stressful and tense situations because of your preparations. Most homeowners and businesses are not prepared for a disaster, so you are ahead of the game.

16-20: Consider yourself a graduate of the School of Emergency Preparedness! You've spent some time thinking about this and probably would know what to do in an emergency and would keep a level head. Keep up the good work and remember that practice makes perfect!