



City of Bowie

Memorandum

Thursday, March 13, 2025
Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM,
City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Low Mow Month

The City will participate in a low mow month, where residents are encouraged to mow their lawns less frequently. This is not a formal "no mow" effort, rather an acquaintance with efforts in this arena, letting residents know the City Code allows for up to 8 inches of growth, alternative lawn covers like clover and violets, and that mowing less frequently in the Spring allows native bees to continue forming their homes under the ground (yes, many bees have homes right under our feet, and we don't even know it). Allowing our yards and lawns to fully winter over prepares them even better for the upcoming growing season and allows spring growth to unfurl naturally. Sustainability staff coordinated with Code Enforcement and agreed to have residents sign up ahead of time to formally participate. We have close to 20 sign-ups as of March 11. We will put out information regarding the April 1 start date and tips throughout the month, including reminders about the Electric Lawn Care Program, and the official end date of April 30.

[This webpage](#) has more information and the sign-up form.

2. Bowie Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The Bowie EDC met on Wednesday and received a report on the Bowie Town Center prepared by Bowie resident Terry Nuriddin and delivered by EDC Chair Billy Louis. They also received a briefing from EDC member Chris Rizzi about the proposed mixed-use redevelopment of the former Sears property that the Council had supported several years ago. The EDC then started a discussion about what could or should be done to revitalize the Town Center. An EDC workgroup was formed to expand upon the initial discussions. The next regular meeting of the Bowie EDC is Wednesday April 9, 2025.

3. Switch Together Opens April 1

Switch Together - previously called the Capital Area Solar Switch - is an annual program offered by Montgomery County that includes neighboring jurisdictions such as Bowie, and the highly regarded nonprofit Solar United Neighbors. The program makes it more affordable for homeowners to go solar by using co-operative buying power. Optional add-ons such as battery storage and electric vehicle chargers are also available through the program. Switch Together provides free educational webinars and in-person events to guide you through the process of going solar.

Switch Together conducts rigorous reviews of installer qualifications, ensuring participants receive a high-quality installation from a trusted installer, chosen by the co-op participants.

Through the current program, the average household is expected to save \$6,201 on a high-quality solar installation. The 30% federal solar tax credit can further reduce costs, making solar energy more accessible than ever before. **It is free to register and find out information and there is no obligation or expectation that you will purchase a system.** Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity by registering at SwitchTogether.com/Solar/Bowie by **June 4, 2025**, and can visit Cityofbowie.org/solar to learn more on the City pages.

Installations will occur over the summer and into the fall, with an annual celebration for participants at a yet TBD date in the fall.

Please direct questions to Ashleigh Diaz, adiaz@cityofbowie.org.

4. Electronics Recycling Event

The Public Works Department has scheduled an electronics recycling event at the Public Works Solid Waste/Recycling Building Parking Lot, 16500 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD, on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Residents can bring their electronics for recycling at no charge. See the attached list of acceptable items. Please note that hard drives will not be shredded on-site.

Our last event was a huge success, collecting over 12.5 tons of electronics!

5. Car #10 Replacement

Car #10, assigned to the Director of Public Works, was declared a total loss after an accident in 2023. The Public Works Department located a contract awarded by Baltimore County to Apple Ford (Contract #MA-4504) to purchase “off-the-lot” cars and pick-up trucks meeting the needs of the Director. The cost of the 2025 Ford Ranger XLT pick-up truck is \$43,150.

As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven-day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Apple Ford in the amount of \$43,150.

6. Federal Workers In Bowie

According to the US Census American Community Survey for 2023, the latest data available, 24,872 Bowie residents over 16 years old are full-time employed. 5,419 of those full-time employed residents work for the Federal government. A spreadsheet with that data is attached.