



# City of Bowie Memorandum

Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Daniel J. Mears, Acting City Manager

## STATUS REPORT

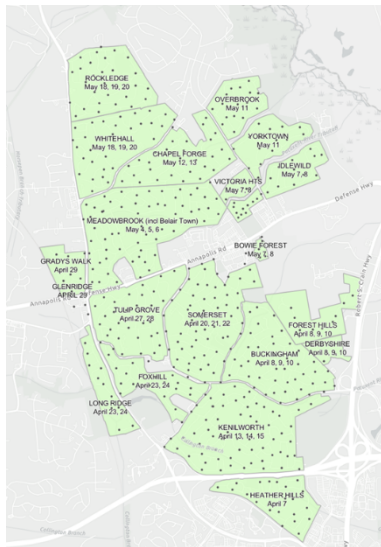
### 1. Fire Hydrant Flushing

The Public Works Department will be conducting routine hydrant flushing in the Whitehall and Rockledge neighborhoods during the week of May 18, 2026, from 9am-3pm.

The flushing may stir up some sediment in the water lines, which can result in some discoloration of the water. The water is safe for drinking and bathing, but clothes washing is discouraged. If clothes become discolored, they are to be kept wet and rewashed using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices.

The discoloration should clear in approximately 24-48 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could affect the water as well.

For more information or questions about hydrant flushing, please call the Public Works Department at 301-809-2344 or email [alivingston@cityofbowie.org](mailto:alivingston@cityofbowie.org).



### 2. Annual Plant Sale at Belair Mansion:

The City hosted the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and annual Plant Sale on May 9 at the historic Belair Mansion, welcoming approximately 340 visitors from across

the community. Held each year on the Saturday prior to Mother's Day, the event featured a wide variety of houseplants, vegetables, herbs, and native outdoor plants for gardening enthusiasts of all experience levels.

In addition to plants, attendees enjoyed shopping for lavender products, ceramic containers, and locally produced honey. Proceeds from the event support the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club's ongoing community projects and beautification efforts throughout the City of Bowie.

**3. Youth Basketball Tournament Highlights Community Recreation in Bowie**

The Charm City Next Level Basketball Series hosted its second basketball tournament of the 2026 season on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3, at the City of Bowie Gymnasium. A total of 45 teams competed throughout the weekend, bringing athletes, coaches, and families from across the region to Bowie.

Since 2000, Charm City Basketball has built a strong reputation as a premier grassroots basketball organization dedicated to providing competitive, organized, and memorable experiences for youth athletes of all skill levels. The tournament highlighted the City of Bowie Gymnasium as a premier venue for regional athletic events while supporting opportunities for teamwork, discipline, community engagement, and youth development through sports.

**4. Recreation and Parks Honey Bee Program**

On May 8, the City expanded its honey bee program with the introduction of six Italian nucleus colonies at new locations across Bowie. This continues the 2025 pollinator initiative focused on strengthening local ecosystems and supporting biodiversity.

Two of the nucleus colonies were installed on the roof at Kenhill Center, where the bees have already begun actively foraging on pollen and nectar from the adjacent community garden.

An additional two colonies were placed at the new pollinator meadow at Centennial Park and are likewise already engaged in foraging activity within the established habitat. This meadow is being developed in an area that was previously maintained through frequent mowing and is now being transitioned to a pollinator-friendly landscape.

The remaining two colonies were located in a green space managed by the Department of Public Works near the Yorktown neighborhood.

Each nucleus colony consists of a young, newly mated queen and approximately 10,000 bees. Through summer, each colony is expected to grow substantially, potentially reaching populations of up to 100,000 bees.

Beekeeping is a byproduct of broader agricultural and environmental management practices, and in this context serves primarily an ecological and educational purpose. While honey production may occur as a natural outcome of

healthy colonies, this program is not designed as a revenue-generating enterprise. Given the scale of operational costs associated with colony maintenance, placement, and program management, it is not a financially self-sustaining initiative and should be viewed as an investment in environmental stewardship, habitat restoration, and community education rather than a revenue source.

This expansion builds upon the success of the 2025 program and continues the City's commitment to pollinator health, environmental stewardship, and the enhancement of sustainable green spaces throughout Bowie.

**5. Information Technology - Desktop Computer Purchase**

The FY26 Budget includes funding within the Information Technology Division to replace staff computers as part of the City's five-year equipment refresh cycle. The City is proposing to purchase 30 Lenovo desktop computers and monitors through the State of Maryland Desktop, Laptop, and Tablet 2015 Master Contract (060B5400007). HCGi, a contract vendor, has provided a quote totaling \$61,410.00 for this purchase.

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 HCGi in the amount of \$61,410.00.

**6. Information Technology - Email Security Summary – April 2026**

In April 2026, the City received 196,683 inbound emails, a 13.6 percent decrease from the previous month. Of these, 43.5 percent (85,483 messages) were blocked as threats, spam, bulk, or other unwanted content. Detected threats declined to 3,696 messages, indicating a reduction in malicious activity. The City's email security systems continue to effectively filter harmful traffic while ensuring reliable delivery of legitimate communications.

**7. Electronic Message Board Replaced – Rt. 450 and Race Track Road**

The electronic message board located at Rt. 450 and Race Track Road has been successfully replaced. The original sign was damaged in a vehicular accident on October 4, 2025.

The replacement of the sign was managed by the Department of Community Services (DCS), while the landscaping boulders installed in front of the sign were completed by Parks and Grounds to help minimize the risk of future damage.

The Communications Division within the City Manager's Office is responsible for programming and managing the electronic message boards.



8. Project Status of the Chestnut Avenue Bridge Replacement CIP

On December 30, 2024, Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) closed Chestnut Avenue Bridge No. P-0115B located over Newstop Branch on Chestnut Avenue between Chestnut Lane and Fletchertown Road. The temporary closure was needed for the reconstruction of the existing bridge. After months of closure and construction, the project is complete and the road and bridge are now open.

