



City of Bowie Memorandum

Thursday, May 28, 2026
Daniel J. Mears, Acting City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Information Technology – Adobe Modernization

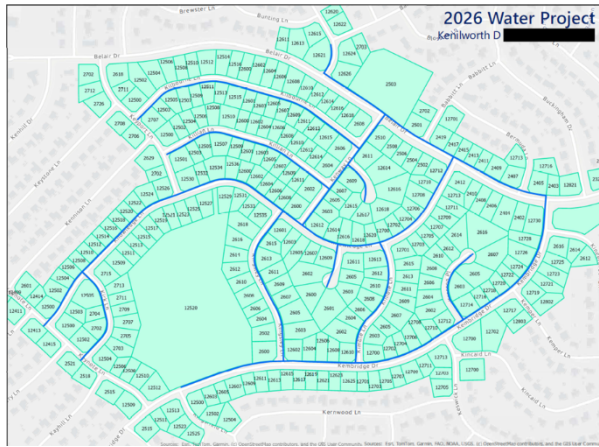
The IT team is currently piloting Adobe Acrobat Studio, an all-in-one AI-powered productivity platform that integrates Acrobat Pro, Adobe Express Premium, and the advanced generative AI tool Firefly, into a single workspace. The City has purchased 15 licenses and selected employees who work extensively with Acrobat Pro and other graphic design tools to participate in the trial. Training for the new platform will be provided on May 28 and June 17 by Carahsoft Adobe Professionals as part of our existing Adobe licensing. If Adobe Acrobat Studio meets staff needs, the City will begin a broader rollout later this summer.

Adobe Acrobat Studio offers several benefits to the organization. It provides a secure, centralized environment for creating flyers, brochures, newsletters, forms, digital content, and accessible documents, functions currently spread across multiple applications. The platform also replaces Microsoft Publisher, which will reach end-of-life on October 13. Collaboration is also significantly improved: multiple users can review, comment, and edit within a shared workspace, reducing version-control issues and speeding up approvals. The generative AI capabilities, such as AI-assisted document creation and image generation, help staff produce professional, branded content more quickly and efficiently. By consolidating these capabilities into a single platform, Adobe Acrobat Studio not only streamlines our creative and document-management toolset but also positions the City to leverage AI-driven productivity at an enterprise scale.

2. Utility Work – Kenilworth Section (FY27)

The City of Bowie has contracted with J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. to replace and/or structurally line approximately 2.8 miles of water mains located in the Kenilworth neighborhood. The contractor anticipates mobilizing beginning June 1, 2026. Construction is scheduled to start on July 1, 2026. Due to the extent of work, construction is expected to span over 9 months.

The figure below provides the project location with planned water main work areas highlighted in blue.



During this construction, temporary water bypass will be installed along the curbside to provide continued water service. To minimize disruption to the driveway, pipe ramp will be installed on the driveway where the temporary water lines cross the driveway. Work will be performed Monday thru Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding the City-recognized holidays. While the work will require equipment in the street, no road closures are expected to be required. Short disruptions to water service may be required periodically. When required, the contractor will make timely notification to affected residents. Upon completion, all disturbed areas will be restored.

Should you have any questions, please contact the City's project manager, Philip Hwang, at 240-544-5689 or the Public Works Department, at 301-809-2344.

3. FY2027 Budget - Fees Modifications, Implementation and Communication Planning

The Department of Community Services held a leadership meeting on 5/27/2026, focused on implementation of the FY2027 budget and the fee increases approved and adopted by the City Council. Staff reviewed operational requirements, implementation timelines, and interdepartmental coordination efforts necessary to ensure all approved fee modifications are successfully implemented by July 1. All Department of Community Services divisions have been provided the new adopted fee schedule.

Additional discussion focused on customer and stakeholder communication strategies, as well as integration of the updated fees into department registration and software systems. The department's goal is to ensure the new fee structure is clearly communicated, accurately implemented, and fully operational without service disruption or delay.

4. Truck #302 Replacement – Stormwater Management Division

The FY27 budget allocates for the replacement of truck #302 to be used by the stormwater management division. The Public Works Department has identified a Baltimore County Contract, #SCN-1003179, and determined that Apple Ford of Columbia, Maryland, was awarded a contract for pick-up trucks meeting the needs of the stormwater management division. Seeking new bids would not be

expected to yield better results.

The cost of the truck is \$65,076.58, which is within the budgeted amount of \$81,000.

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 \$65,076.58.

5. New Dump Truck – Stormwater Management Division

The FY27 budget allocates for the purchase of a new dump truck to be used by the stormwater management division. The Public Works Department has identified a Baltimore County Contract, #SCN-1003179, and determined that Apple Ford of Columbia, Maryland, was awarded a contract for dump trucks meeting the needs of the stormwater management division. Seeking new bids would not be expected to yield better results.

The cost of the truck is \$142,040.30, which is within the budgeted amount of \$142,100.

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 \$142,040.30.

6. Dunwood Crossing Gas Leak After-Action Report Update

In fulfillment of the request made by the Council at the April 6, 2026, meeting, Washington Gas has formally submitted its after-action report regarding the Dunwood Crossing gas leak. The document provides a detailed overview of the initial incident, tracking the timeline of the leak itself alongside the subsequent emergency response deployment by Washington Gas crews. Additionally, the report evaluates the coordination and public communication protocols utilized throughout the event, identifying critical operational takeaways. This report is intended to review the efficacy of the response measures and outline targeted strategies for strengthening infrastructure management and multi-agency communication moving forward.

7. Bowie Ice Arena Construction Progress and Structural Milestones

Construction activity at the Bowie Ice Arena continues to progress steadily as the lower-level CMU walls take shape and further define the building footprint. The project is now entering one of the most significant phases of construction, as major structural components begin arriving on-site. Within the next two months, the majority of the building shell is expected to be erected, marking a major milestone for the project.

The precast crane is currently on-site undergoing assembly, and delivery of precast wall panels is expected to begin shortly. Over the next several weeks, the contractor will erect the Ice Box wall panels surrounding the ice sheet, along with upper-level floor planks and roof steel components. As this work progresses, the building envelope will move substantially closer to completion,

allowing the facility to become enclosed and dried-in in the coming weeks.



8. Emergency Management Certifications

The Maryland Professional Emergency Management Program (MDPEMP) Certification recognizes qualified emergency management professionals in the state with a credential that formally acknowledges their experience, dedication,

and experience within the field of emergency management practice. To be eligible to receive this certification, individuals must be active Maryland Emergency Management Association members who demonstrate a robust combination of training, experience, education and commitment to emergency management. Applicants must not only perform in a manner that exemplifies a high professional standard within emergency management, but must also rigorously document and submit evidence of training completed, responses undertaken, education pursued, and more.

The Office of Emergency Management proudly announces that Emergency Management Specialist Lori Stillwell Roper and Emergency Management Specialist Andrew Henry received this distinguished certification this week at the Maryland Emergency Management Association Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. The City of Bowie congratulates Lori and Andrew on their achievement, which shows their professionalism and dedication to serving the residents.



Dunwood Crossing Gas Leak Follow-up



Dunwood Crossing Leak

The leak occurred on a natural gas transmission pipeline in a wooded area in Bowie, Maryland, away from residential zones.

Washington Gas's involvement and commitment to safety are highlighted through branding and transparent incident communication.



Leak Location Overview

•Leak Location Context

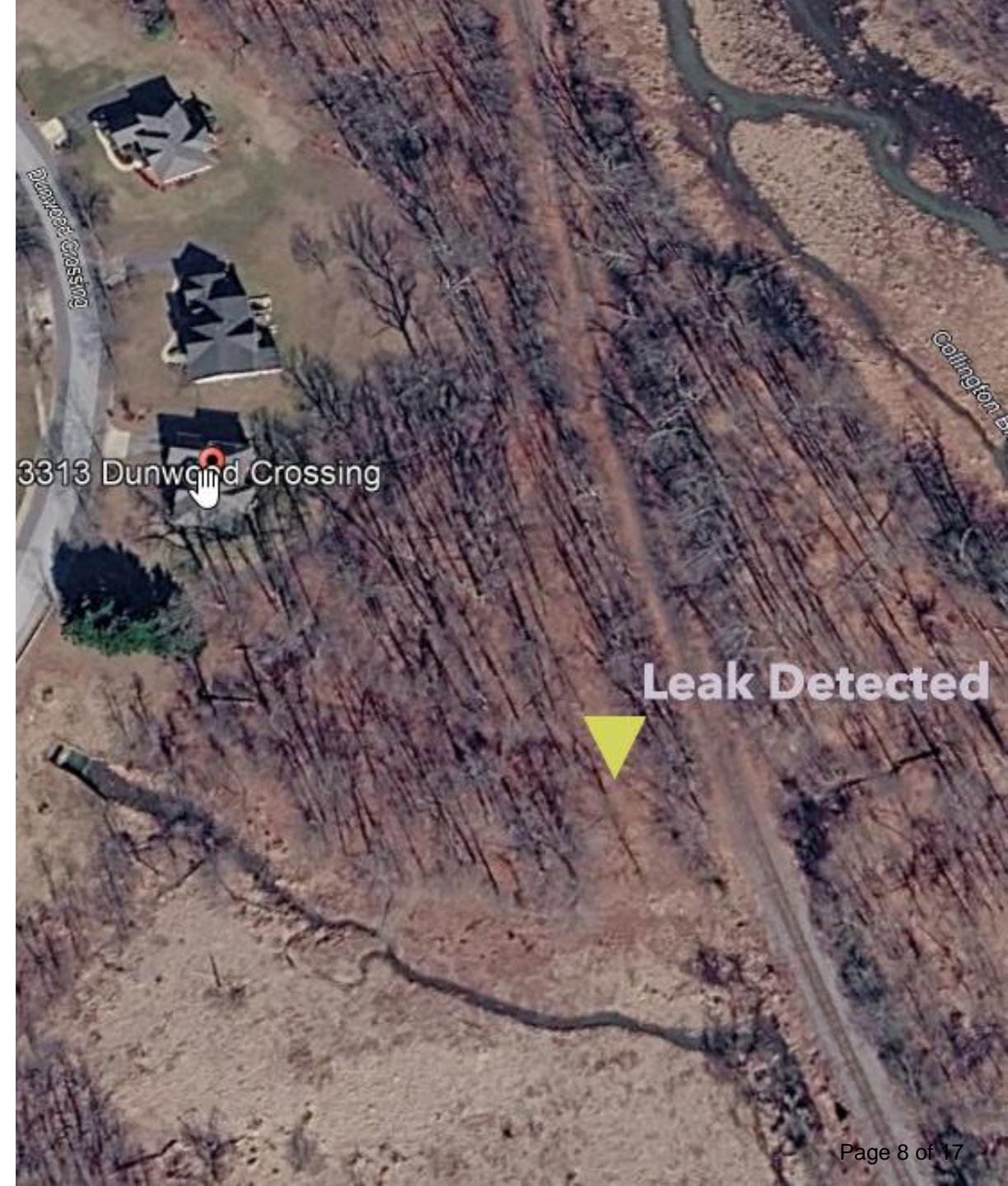
- The leak occurred in a wooded area in Bowie, Maryland, away from immediate residential structures.
- Here, the yellow triangle indicates the leak repair.

•Distance to Residences

- A leak was detected nearly 250 feet from the nearest home, indicating no imminent threat to occupants.

•Gas Migration Factors

- Gas migration patterns were influenced by terrain, vegetation, and weather, explaining varied odor report locations.





Safety Measures in Place

- Natural Gas Odorization
 - Gas is odorized with a strong chemical ratio beyond state regulations to enable early detection through smell, enhancing public safety.
- Rapid Technician Response
 - Every odor report prompts timely technician on-site arrival within 95 minutes, ensuring thorough safety checks before leaving site.
- Leak Detection Surveys
 - Regular transmission line surveys are completed twice per year by trained technicians, using sensitive detectors to find hidden gas leaks early.
 - Absent resident reports, this leak would have been found during our regularly scheduled survey of this line.



Incident Findings

•Odorant Alert Function

- Odorant effectively alerted residents, prompting reports that triggered response actions.

•Timely Technician Response

- Technicians promptly responded to reports following procedures to ensure safety at each location.

Expanded Leak Investigation

- Investigation extended beyond homes, locating the leak source in a distant wooded area.

•Safety Assurance

- No homes were in danger during the event, highlighting effective response and safety protocols.



Contributing Factors and Resolution



Environmental and Site Challenges

- Cold weather increased system demand, affecting gas flow and odor perception, complicating leak detection.



Location and Odor Complexity

- Leak location not immediately adjacent to the initial complaint locations. This made detection difficult as odor was intermittent.



Response and Monitoring

- Continuous monitoring ensured safety during four-day repair process following industry protocols without injuries.



Washington Gas Communications and Public Engagement

EAN Internal Text Notification - Issued at Alert Level 2 on January 5, 2026.

January 7, 2026

Sonia Srivastava, Communications Director for the City of Bowie, contacted Washington Gas via the media inbox.

David Lowenberg (Washington Gas) spoke directly with Ms. Srivastava.

Following coordination with Greg Stroh, the following message was relayed:

“Our crews are actively working to resolve the issue on Dunwood Crossing as quickly and as safely as possible. During this time, residents may notice a gas odor, but there is no threat to public health or safety based on the latest information. We expect repairs to be complete by Friday.”

Corporate Communications remained engaged through completion of repairs.



Washington Gas Communications and Public Engagement (CONT'D)

- Coordinated Communication
 - WGL collaborated with the City of Bowie to ensure consistent and aligned messaging during the incident response.
- Public Awareness and Updates
 - Timely updates and clear explanations helped keep the public informed about actions taken and expected outcomes.
- Lessons Learned and Best Practices
 - Ongoing refinement of communication practices and stakeholder engagement remains critical to improving coordination, ensuring alignment, and supporting successful outcomes.



Operational Communication

- Real-Time Field Communication
 - Communication between internal departments is necessary for effective incident response.
- Coordination of Response Efforts
 - Maintaining coordination ensures timely sharing of investigation findings and repair progress among all stakeholders.
- Established Communication Protocols
 - Following applicable action plans ensures responses are structured, deliberate, and consistent with safety procedures.
- Efficient Resource Deployment
 - Strong communication enables efficient resource deployment and shared understanding of operational conditions and next steps.





Conclusion and Takeaways

- Effective Incident Response
 - WGL's procedures successfully identified, located, monitored, and repaired the leak safely without endangering residents.
- Safety and No Impact
 - No injuries, property damage, or public safety impacts occurred during the leak response and repair process.
- Communication and Public Awareness
 - WGL coordinated with local authorities and maintained public awareness throughout the extended repair period.
- Commitment to Responsibility
 - The conclusion reflects WGL's dedication to safety, preparedness, accountability, and infrastructure management.



Thank You

