



City of Bowie Memorandum

Thursday, August 20, 2026
Angel L. Jones, City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Getting to the Root of It: Summer Field Aeration

Parks and Grounds crews hollow-tine aerated, dragged and fertilized the City's Bermuda grass athletic fields. Hollow-tine aeration pulls cores of soil from the field, relieving the compaction that builds up over a season of play and opening the surface so water, air and nutrients can reach the root zone. Dragging breaks up and redistributes those cores as a light topdressing, and the fertilizer application supports vigorous growth during Bermuda grass's peak summer growing period. Together the treatments strengthen turf density and root depth ahead of the fall sports season, improving playing surface quality and player safety while extending the useful life of the fields.



2. Reaching New Audiences, Preserving Old Stories

A \$5,000 matching Rocket Grant awarded to the City of Bowie Museums in fall 2025 is funding the translation of the museums' interpretive panels and materials into Spanish. Museum staff is finalizing edits to the existing panels before sending them to Baker Cruz Services, a Laurel-based translation firm that pairs native Spanish speakers with museum expertise to help cultural institutions connect with a broader share of their communities. The project will make the collections and their history accessible to Spanish-speaking residents

and visitors who cannot fully use the panels as they stand today.

The Museums are also preparing a small exhibit marking the 20th anniversary of the City of Bowie Police Department, to be recognized at a celebration on September 19. The exhibit will feature original artifacts from the department's early days, including a badge and whistle, alongside an interpretive panel tracing the department's history from its original station at Belair Mansion through its expansion and relocation to City Hall. Curator Peyton Bramble will accompany the exhibit to the event to provide additional context.

3. New Ice Arena - Construction Status Report

Aerial imagery from August 7, 2026 shows the concrete wall system now complete around the entire perimeter of the new ice arena. The stadia supporting the future spectator bleachers are in place, and substantial concrete flooring panels have been placed above the locker room block on the east side of the building. Steel roof beam installation across the clearspan is the next phase of work.



4. New Festival - Old Bowie Arts on the Ave

Planning is underway for Old Bowie Arts on the Ave, a new community arts festival taking place Saturday, October 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Old Town Bowie. The festival replaces the former Bowie Celebrates event and will operate with a smaller footprint, creating a more focused celebration of local artists, artisans, and makers. Vendor applications opened August 1 and will be accepted through September 1. Additional information is available at www.cityofbowie.org/3040/Arts-on-the-Ave.



5. Permanent Pavement Markings

The Public Works Department has identified a Contract for permanent pavement markings services with the State of Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (Contract No: 479D51426) through Traffic Lines, Inc., upon which we will be able to piggyback. We will sign a Contract and issue a Purchase Order to Traffic Lines, Inc. in the amount of \$99,900.00.

As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to purchase.

6. Welcome Isabel Konopka: Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corp Fellow!
The Department of Planning & Sustainability was selected by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation to host a CCCC Fellow for a year to support and propel the City's sustainability efforts and to provide young professionals with hands-on environmental and leadership experience, training, and professional development. As a component of the Corp year, each Fellow completes a Capstone project that furthers the goals and mission of the host agency.

Isabel comes to City as a recent graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a B.S in Environmental Science and a minor in Environmental Policy and Communication. Her longtime appreciation for the natural world and growing passion for conservation led her to apply for the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Program, where she was placed with the Department of Planning and Sustainability. During her year of service, she hopes to have the opportunity to facilitate a heightened sense of environmental stewardship within the Bowie community by aiding in the expansion of outreach and education initiatives.