

Bowie News Flash

February 2021

NEWS

Workforce Development Program

The City of Bowie is offering residents a free online Workforce Development and Life Skills Training Program in April and May 2021 for adults and youth between the ages of 15 and 25. The online program will cover life skills topics such as effective communication, stress management, and decision-making, as well as highlighting careers in STEM industries. Applications for this program can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining and will be accepted until the March 19 deadline. Online public forums about the program are scheduled for **February 10** and **February 24, 2021** at 7 p.m. on Zoom. For additional information, please call 301-809-3009 or email worktraining@cityofbowie.org.

[Zoom registration link for 2/10 forum](#)

[Zoom registration link for 2/24 forum](#)

Presidents' Day Holiday - Monday, February 15, 2021

City offices are closed on the date listed above. There will be no refuse or recycling service on this date.

City Council Meeting to Note

- **February 16 (Tuesday)** – Regular City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Update on Environmental Initiatives, Mid-Year Budget Report, and Police Department Update

City Council meetings are still being held virtually during this pandemic. View them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996 or on Youtube @CityofBowieMD.

Those wishing to submit comments for public hearings, or the Citizen Participation portion of Regular Meetings may do so by emailing written testimony to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org. Testimony must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Meeting agendas are posted at www.cityofbowie.org/agenda. For assistance or more information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.

Sustainability Webinar Series: Recycling and Plastic

Welcome to our new Sustainability Webinar Series! Part 1 will focus on the lifecycle of waste, focusing on recycling and single-use plastics and will take place on **February 17** at 3 p.m. Learn the staggering numbers behind the waste we generate, and learn the ins and outs of market demands

for plastic. This will be a live Zoom event with time allotted for Q & A and discussion. To participate, you must register for the event at <https://bowie.fyi/sustseries>. The webinar will be recorded and can be viewed online after the live event. For more information, please contact aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

#Bowie Speaks Community Conversations

On February 25, the City of Bowie will host the second community conversation in the #BowieSpeaks social justice series. The next conversation is entitled, *The Role of Religious Organizations in the Quest for Social Justice*. The event will be held at 7 p.m. on Zoom and will be moderated by members of the Community Outreach and Diversity Committees and panelists from Faith Works, Temple Solel, United Parish of Bowie and Village Baptist Church.

Attendees must register at <https://bowie.fyi/bowiespeaks>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and Zoom link to join the webinar. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Planning a Home Improvement?

Are you planning a home improvement? Many common home improvement projects require Prince George's County and City of Bowie building permits to ensure proper construction and community standards. Even when replacing an existing structure, both permits may be required. Projects requiring permits include: additions, decks, driveway extensions or replacements with different material, fences, porches (new or enclosing), signs, sheds, and solar panels.

Failing to obtain permits can be very expensive and frustrating, especially when a structure has to be removed because it does not comply with County or City standards. Don't take a chance; please check before you build. Be sure to allow ample time for County and City permit review when planning your project timeline. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or visit <https://www.cityofbowie.org/116/Building-Permits>.

Learn More About the Bowie Master Plan Update

If you are interested in knowing what is being planned for our community's future, look for the complete *Playbook of Strategies* document, which will be posted soon on the M-NCPPC project website: <http://www.mncppc.org/3390/Bowie-Mitchellville-Master-Plan>.

The Playbook of Strategies provides a broad range of strategies for three key sites: Old Town Bowie, Freestate Shopping Center/Bowie Marketplace on MD 450, and parcels along US 301 in Bowie Local Town Center in addition to the plan area corridors of US 301, MD 450, and MD 197. Be sure to let us know what you think by calling **301809-3045** or emailing jmeinert@cityofbowie.org. The City's public review of the Preliminary Master Plan will take place this summer.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest Winners

On Saturday, January 16, 2021, nine local students were named as winners in the City of Bowie Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest. The announcement came during a short virtual program honoring Dr. King. This year's theme was "Joining Hands for Justice". Each of the contest finalists

were also recognized during the ceremony. View the work of all the finalists and a list of the winners at www.cityofbowie.org/mlk.

Arts Committee Virtual Galleries

The City of Bowie Arts Committee celebrates local artists by sharing the artwork they curated. To view the Diversity, Unity and Inclusion Gallery, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/unitygallery.

Hall of Honor Accepting Nominations

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was created to recognize those citizens of Bowie who made “major and lasting contributions” to the City. The first inductees were honored in 1994.

In order to be nominated to the Hall of Honor, a nominee must be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline, have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie, and have been a resident of the City of Bowie, either during the time of his/her contribution or at the time of death.

Once a nomination is received, the submission is reviewed by the City’s Community Outreach Committee. The committee recommendation is then forwarded to City Council for final approval. Following approval, the honoree’s name is added to the Wall of Honor at City Hall and a reception is held in memory of that person and their contributions to Bowie.

The **deadline to submit an application is Monday, March 8, 2021**. For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Manager, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.
[2021 Hall of Honor Nomination Form](#)

Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award Nominations

The Community Outreach Committee is accepting nominations for the Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award. This award recognizes Scouts and/or Scout Leaders who have rendered “extraordinary and distinguished” community service within Scout organizations in the City of Bowie during calendar year 2020.

To be eligible for this award, Scouts or Scout Leaders must be affiliated with a Scouting group within the limits of the City of Bowie, and/or a Scouting group for which 50% or more of their youth members are City of Bowie residents. They must also be registered with the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts, USA. Please see the [nomination form](#) for details regarding eligibility criteria and information required. The deadline is **Friday, March 19, 2021**.

For more information, please contact Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Winter Weather – Snow Emergency

A Snow Emergency is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two (2) inches. All vehicles must be removed from the City streets during a snow emergency and parked in driveways. If driveway space is unavailable, you may park your vehicle on the grass on your property, but do not block the

sidewalk. Parking on the grass is acceptable only during the snow or ice event. Once the snow has been cleared, please move your vehicle back onto the street.

City property owners are responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their property within 48 hours of cessation of a snowfall. The City provides additional time for people with considering factors such as age or physical disability, but you must submit a waiver application, found at www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver. Information: dmichelle@cityofbowie.org or **301-809-3008**.

Learn more about the City's snowplowing operations at www.cityofbowie.org/snow.

Bowie Senior Center

The Senior Center is closed to the public due to the pandemic. Staff is available Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., to answer questions and assist with referrals; call **301-809-2300**.

- **Online SAGE Classes** – Begin the week of February 8 via Zoom. Register now.
- **February Activity Packet Giveaway** – February 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Drive by and pick up a packet.
- **Grief Support Group Virtual Workshop** – Weekly from February 18 to March 25 at 2 p.m. Register now.
- **See the Center's February Newsletter** at www.cityofbowie.org/seniornews.

City Gym

New Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Walkers only between 9 and 10 a.m.)

- The Gym is open, with restrictions, to resident members with up to two guests. Members are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a time slot.
- The only activities permitted at the Gym are walking, volleyball and pickleball. Per a Prince George's County order, **basketball is prohibited at this time**.
- Capacity limits will be enforced and face masks, and social distancing is required.

The City Gymnasium is located at 4100 Northview Drive. Phone number: 301-809-2388.

www.cityofbowie.org/gym

Bowie Ice Arena

The Bowie Ice Arena is currently operating under strict capacity limits due to COVID and staff is doing its best to accommodate skaters. Due to these restrictions, city residents will be given priority in scheduling reservations for open sessions. Pre-paid reservations will be accepted for City of Bowie residents beginning at 12 noon on Thursdays for Saturday and Sunday public sessions. Remaining spots will be made available to non-residents beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day before the scheduled session. There are no walk-ins for open sessions at this time.

The Ice Arena is located at 3330 Northview Drive in Allen Pond Park. Phone number: 301-809-3090. www.cityofbowie.org/icearena

Prince George's County is Developing a New Plan for Youth Sports

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's, Department of Parks and Recreation is working to create more opportunities for sports and recreation. The department will be developing a Youth Sports Strategic Plan to create new programs and strengthen existing ones while improving facilities for the next generation. They are asking for input from youth, adults, families, coaches, athletes, and community leaders.

If you are interested in this effort, visit <http://www.pgparcs.com/4987/Game-On-Plan> to complete an online survey and sign up to receive updates about the development of the Youth Sports Strategic Plan.

Security Camera Rebate Program

The City of Bowie and the Bowie Police Department are pleased to offer a Bowie Security Camera Rebate Program. The program offers a \$50 rebate for the purchase and installation of one (1) outdoor video camera. The camera must be installed on a residential property within the City of Bowie.

The camera must have been purchased and installed on the residential property on or after November 17, 2020. The camera must be installed on the exterior of the home or residential property fence/shed/garage (as long as the camera is installed outdoors and within the residential property). For more information on the Bowie Security Camera Rebate Program, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/camerarebates.

Mental Health Matters

Mental health concerns have been prevalent in our community as pressures on kids, teens and parents have increased. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than more than 40% of respondents in a recent study reported mental health symptoms related to the current pandemic. Teens and young adults, in particular, were found to be at increased risk.

Here are some signs of stress that may indicate a need for help:

- Changes in mood
- Lack of interest in once-loved activities
- Changes in friendships
- Changes in eating and sleep patterns
- Less attention to personal hygiene
- Alcohol or other drug abuse

Please know that you are not alone. If you are concerned for yourself or a loved one, affordable and confidential help is available:

- City of Bowie Youth & Family Services: 1-513-817-3158
- Prince George's County Hotline: 301-864-7161
- Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-SUICIDE
- Prince George's County Crisis Response Hotline: 301-429-2185

Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers Counseling

Counselors at Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) are available to help families and individuals during this stressful time. They offer counseling and stress management groups for all families in the City who have children in the home who are high school age or younger through our new, confidential online platform. They also can offer referrals and support by phone to all residents who are experiencing stress and who need assistance. Staff members are licensed clinicians who each hold a graduate degree in a mental health specialty and who have years of training and experience in treating individuals and families. Call **1-513-817-3158** for assistance, or to arrange for an appointment. For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/youthservices.

Bowie Reads Aloud

Bowie has teamed up with some local readers to provide a series of Read Aloud videos for our young residents. Follow the links below for our current offerings and visit www.cityofbowie.org/bowiereadsaloud.

Streetlight Outages

Help us to keep the lights on Bowie. Please report streetlight outages or other problems with streetlights to the Public Works Department. We depend on the public to let us know when there is a problem with a streetlight. Please do not assume that the problem has been reported.

You can report an outage by contacting Robert Holt, rholt@cityofbowie.org 240-544-5690 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest to log the problem in our service request system.

COVID-19 NEWS

New Federal Mask Order for Travelers

The CDC issued an [Emergency Order](#), requiring the wearing of masks by all travelers into, within, or out of the U.S. It includes those traveling on airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares. The mask requirement also applies to airports and seaports; train, bus, and subway stations; and any other areas that provide transportation. The Order went into effect on February 1 and requires transportation operators to enforce the requirement.

Scheduling a Vaccine Appointment

In accordance with federal guidelines, Maryland is currently in Phase 1C of the vaccine distribution plan, which includes residents 65 and over, as well as critical workers in high-risk settings. While federal guidelines make 2 million Marylanders eligible for vaccination, the state is only receiving 10,000 doses per day. This disconnect between those eligible and the current supplies is causing a lot of frustration, especially for the many individuals in Phase 1B that have been unable to schedule a vaccine appointment yet.

Until vaccine supplies improve, scheduling an appointment will continue to be challenging. Our best advice for those eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1 is to explore all options for getting vaccinated and to be persistent. It may seem as if there are no appointments, but we are hearing daily from residents who have been successful in getting vaccinated at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex or at the Bowie Giant.

Prince George's County residents should pre-register on the County vaccine site, no matter what phase of the vaccination plan you are in. When you are eligible for vaccination you will receive an email inviting you to schedule your appointment. The email contains a unique link to the County Health Department's vaccine appointment scheduling site. Seniors and others who do not have access to the internet or are having trouble using the pre-registration site, can now call the Pre-Registration Hotline at 3-1-1 and press # for assistance.

Vaccination Options

1. **County Health Department Facilities** – Requires pre-registration (see link below). When an appointment is available you will receive an email inviting you to schedule your appointment.
2. **Hospital systems** – University of Maryland, Luminis, MedStar, and Adventist are offering appointments as supplies permit.
3. **Retail pharmacies**, such as Giant and Safeway. (So far, none of the Rite Aid and Walmart locations are in our area).

The Maryland vaccination website provides links to schedule appointments with hospital systems and retail pharmacies or you can use the direct links below.

Links to Vaccine Appointment Information / Scheduling Sites

- **Maryland vaccination locator site:** covid.maryland.gov
- **Prince George's County pre-registration site:** <https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>
- **Giant** - <https://giantfood.com/pages/covid-info>
- **Safeway** - <https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt>
- **Medstar Health** - <https://www.medstarhealth.org/mhs/about-medstar/covid-19-vaccine-information/>
- **University of Maryland Medical System** (includes Prince George's Hospital) - <https://www.umms.org/capital>
- **Luminis Health (includes Anne Arundel Medical Center and Doctor's Hospital)** <https://living.aahs.org/community-vaccine-clinics/>
- **Adventist Health** - <https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine/>

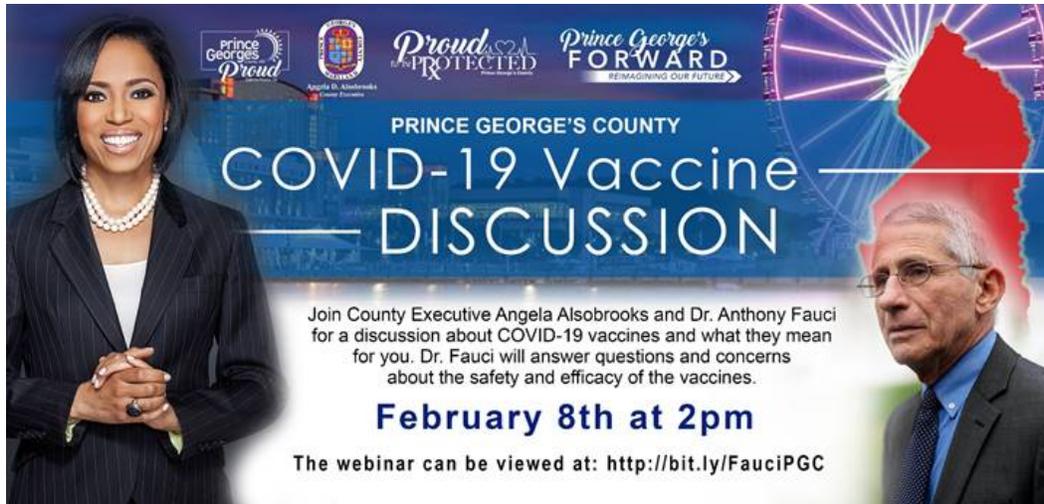
The State of Maryland expects to open a mass vaccination site at Six Flags on February 5. No information is available yet about hours, scheduling, or how this site will operate.

More Retail Pharmacies to Begin Distributing Vaccines as Supplies Permit

This week some Safeway and Rite Aid pharmacies joined the list of retail pharmacies administering COVID vaccinations. According to the list of participating locations on the state website, the Safeway at Bowie Town Center will be one of the vaccination sites. No appointments are available at this time, but we encourage you to keep checking as appointments will likely become available soon.

Prince George's County COVID-19 Vaccine Discussion with Dr. Fauci

Join County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Dr. Anthony Fauci for a discussion about COVID-19 vaccines on Monday, February 8 at 2 PM. Dr. Fauci will answer questions and concerns about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines. View the webinar at <http://bit.ly/FauciPGC>.



Stay in the Know with Alert Bowie

To keep up with the latest news about COVID-19 and the restrictions in place, please sign up for Alert Bowie at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts. You will receive text and email updates regularly about the spread of the virus, updates to CDC guidance, restrictions in place, and resources for those impacted by the pandemic, and more. These updates are also posted on the City website (www.cityofbowie.org) by 5 p.m. daily. Receive text messages from the State by texting "MDready" to 898-211.

COVID-19 Testing

For a list of all COVID-19 testing sites in the state of Maryland, visit the www.coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing. Testing is available at some pharmacies, urgent care facilities, and sites run by Prince George's County and sites run by the State of Maryland. Call the Prince George's County Health Department testing line for information about County testing locations at 301-883-6627 or visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus.

Please note: the state-run testing site at Six Flags on Central Avenue is being converted into a mass vaccination site and is no longer doing testing.

Prince George's County Message about Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a critical tool in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community. When someone is diagnosed with COVID-19, the Health Department makes a phone call to that person within 24 hours. When you see MD COVID on your caller ID, please answer so the Health Department can help you with managing your condition, and with getting you resources that you need. If you don't have caller ID, look for the phone number 240-466-4488.

The Health Department will also ask who you might have been in contact with, so that they can be offered the same resources and minimize the spread of COVID-19. They will never ask for personal information from you, like your social security number or a bank account number. For FAQs, testimonials, and more information about contact tracing, please visit www.coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/contact-tracing.

Maryland Department of Health Hotline: 410-767-6871

Prince George's County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline: 301-883- 6627

Food Programs

There are a variety of programs underway in Bowie and in the surrounding community to help make sure that no one goes hungry during these uncertain times. We have gathered the information together on a page on our website so that it is easy to find and easy to navigate. If you are in need of food or know someone who is experiencing food insecurity, we encourage you to visit www.cityofbowie.org/food.

Senior Grab & Go Meal Giveaway

County Council Member Todd Turner will host a “Senior Grab & Go” Meal Giveaway for his constituents (age 60+) on February 12, 2021 in the parking lot of the Bowie Senior Center. Hours are 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Bowie Senior Center, located at 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie.

To be eligible for the giveaway, you must register for the event. The registration deadline is February 5. Registration can also be taken by phone by calling Evelyn Archie in the Council Member Turner’s Office at 240-619-9775.

Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund

Visit the Pantry website for information about the services offered at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has expanded the volunteer-based Neighbors Helping Neighbors program to offer free grocery and medication delivery for seniors and disabled residents of the City of Bowie. Those most vulnerable can stay home and allow volunteers to shop for groceries and deliver goods to their home. Seniors are only responsible for reimbursing the volunteer for the cost of the groceries. There is no delivery fee.

If you are a City of Bowie senior or disabled person in need of assistance, please complete the NHN Senior or Disabled Application at www.cityofbowie.org/nhn. If you would like to volunteer to help seniors or disabled residents, please complete the NHN Volunteer Application at www.cityofbowie.org/nhn. If you have any questions or know of a senior that may benefit from this program, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

State Programs Accepting Applications for Electric, Gas, and Utility Bill Assistance

The **Maryland Energy Assistance Program** provides financial assistance with home heating bills, natural gas arrearage assistance, crisis assistance, and furnace repair or replacement. Payments are made to the fuel supplier and utility company on the customer’s behalf. Learn more on the [Office of Home Energy Programs website](#)

Bowie Business Recovery Program

The new Bowie COVID-19 Business Recovery Assistance Program kicked off in January 2021 and will feature eight months of technical assistance programs and online resources to help Bowie businesses meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, build resilience and accelerate the post COVID-19 economic recovery. This program is a collaboration between the Bowie Business Innovation Center and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, and is funded by the City of Bowie. For information, please visit <https://bowiebusinessrecovery.com>

All COVID-19 information provided is subject to change based on the status of the pandemic. To obtain the most up to date information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/corona.