

Bowie News Flash

July 2021

NEWS

City of Bowie Reopening

In February 2020, the City of Bowie began monitoring the outbreak of a novel coronavirus and in mid-March of last year, the Emergency Operations Center was activated to manage the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the ensuing 15 months, that response took many forms including closing our buildings to the public, modifying operations to protect both the public and employees, supporting local healthcare providers and nursing homes, coordinating food and gift card distribution events, checking in with seniors, and matching those in need with various COVID assistance programs. The City also hosted flu clinics, helped seniors and other housebound individuals secure masks and groceries, funded a Business Recovery Program, launched a vaccine navigator program, and kept residents informed about the ever-changing state of the pandemic. The City of Bowie also operated its own vaccination clinic in partnership with Safeway. Now, with good news on COVID case rates and substantial progress on vaccinations, the City is ready to return to normal operations!

On June 30, the vaccine clinic at the Senior Center closed, the Emergency Operations Center returned to normal monitoring status, and the daily COVID-19 updates to the public shifted to weekly communications updates. Some precautions will remain in place, developments with the virus will continue to be monitored, and information will be shared when necessary.

Re-opening has been a gradual process for the last several months and the final stage begins July 1 when the City of Bowie re-opens all of its buildings to the public.

City of Bowie Operations as of July 1, 2021:

- **City Hall** is completely open for business and for scheduling conference rooms. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; rooms can be scheduled between 5 and 9:30 p.m.*
- **City Council Meetings** are now in-person and open to the public.
- **Picnic areas** at Allen Pond and Whitemarsh Park are available for booking.
- **Ballfields** are open for team practices and games (most require permits).
- All activities at the **Bowie Gym** have resumed. These include basketball, pickleball, volleyball and walking. Hours are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and weekends, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Senior Center** is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for limited activities. Facemasks and proof of vaccination required.
- **Historic Properties** buildings are open to the public Friday through Sunday from noon – 4 p.m. In-person programs are being offered and event rentals can now be scheduled.

- **Kenhill Center** is open to the public, to tenants and their guests, and to those needing meeting space. Meetings can be scheduled between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. Bowie Youth & Family Services continues to offer and recommends virtual counseling. In-person counseling can be requested. The Bowie Television Studio is scheduling sessions. The status of the Comcast payment office is still to be determined.
- **Ice Arena** reopens July 10. Offerings include open skating sessions, lessons, and summer camps.

Visitors to all City facilities will be required to submit to temperature checks and will be asked about symptoms before entry. Masks will not be required, but consistent with federal, state and county guidance, unvaccinated persons are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks. For more information, call **301-262-6200**.

**While meeting space is now available, because of on-going concerns related to the pandemic, we recommend that meetings take place virtually whenever possible.*

City Council Meetings to Note

- **July 6** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan contract award
- **July 12** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Bowie Loan Programs briefing.

City Council meetings are now in-person and open to the public. You may also view them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996 or Youtube @CityofBowieMD. Those wishing to submit written testimony electronically may do so by emailing cityclerk@cityofbowie.org (It will not be read during the meeting, but will be included as part of the record.). Testimony must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. For more information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at **301-809-3029**.

Sunday Sunset Concerts

The City's Annual Sunday Sunset Concert Series begins **Sunday, July 11**, with Rise Band & Show (R&B, Motown). Concerts will be held each Sunday, 7 - 8 p.m., through August. Concerts will be cancelled in inclement weather. Information: **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org

StoryWalk Trail

Have you visited Bowie's StoryWalk® trail yet? It is located at the Blacksox Tot Lot off of Mt. Oak Road at Aloha Lane. It provides a great opportunity to read a book while taking a walk outdoors as laminated pages from a children's book are posted along an outdoor path. The current book, *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner, takes readers on a walk with a mother and son as they explore wildlife above and below the water. Books will change every six weeks.

Brick Paver Replacement in Northridge

The City of Bowie has contracted with Priority Construction Corporation to rebuild the brick paver intersections. Below are the locations and dates of work:

Item	Location	Dates of Work
1	Quintette Lane at Fletchertown Road	July 6 – July 16, 2021

2	Quetzal Drive at Fletchertown Road	July 19 – July 28, 2021
3	Quisinberry Way at Fletchertown Road	August 2 – August 14, 2021
4	Quadrille Lane at Hillmeade Road	August 16 – August 28, 2021

Quadrille Lane will be closed at Hillmeade Road during construction; however, Hillmeade Road will remain open. Quisinberry Way will require a partial road closure. While the road closures do inconvenience the Northridge community, a public street route remains available to all properties.

Work will be performed Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays (7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21 and 8/28) from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents will have continual access to their driveways during the construction period. The duration of this project is limited to 60 days. The City will have an inspector assigned to this project to observe the daily work. The contractor will have a superintendent on site during construction.

The City appreciates your patience during this temporary disruption in the Northridge neighborhood. Please contact Jackie Tayman at jtayman@cityofbowie.org if you have questions or concerns about this project.

Farmers' Market is Open

The Market is open 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Bowie High School parking lot (15200 Annapolis Road), each Sunday through October 31. A variety of vendors offer fresh, locally grown produce, fruit, plants, breads, pastries, jams and jellies, eggs, beef, pork and poultry. For information, contact Matt Corley at **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Malcolm "Skip" Popp Award

The Malcolm "Skip" Popp Award recognizes leaders who have performed "extraordinary and distinguished community service within Scout organizations in the City of Bowie."

Alexandria Calloway was nominated and selected by the Community Outreach Committee to be the 2021 recipient of the Popp Award. Ms. Calloway served as a committee chair, a den leader with Cub Scout Pack 403 and a troop leader with Girl Scouts Troop 2713. In 2020, she led the formulation of the first Girl Troop in the Bowie area. This significant achievement created a welcoming organization for girls to experience the benefits of scouting for years to come. She was instrumental in keeping the troop together throughout the pandemic, helping with rank advancement and community service and hosting a summer virtual summer camp where scouts earned 36 merit badges.

Homeowners Association Leaders

The City of Bowie will host a meeting for leaders of homeowners associations located within the incorporated city limits. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the needs of the associations and how to best collaborate with City departments. The meeting will be held this summer and is open to the president or vice president of the association. For more information and to ensure the correct contact information is on file, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Sustainability Webinar Series

Audubon Habitat Program, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. Love the planet? Create habitat! Kathy Shollenberger and Barry Stahl will introduce a new Prince George's County initiative, the Audubon Wildlife Habitat Program. This program offers County residents the opportunity for a no-cost, on-site, in-person visit with trained Habitat Advisors who can help them transform their properties, no matter the size, into bird-friendly habitats. Register: <http://bowie.fyi/audubon>

Welcome To Your Watershed! July 24 at 12 p.m. An afternoon thunderstorm drops rain onto your roof, dripping down the siding and rolling down the driveway, where it runs into the road and eventually to those giant drains you see. This is stormwater. Do you know where it goes? Learn all about the waterways that surround us and why we should keep them clean! City Watershed Manager Tiffany Wright wants to welcome you to your watershed. Register: <http://bowie.fyi/watersheds>. For more information, contact adiaz@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie.

Free Native Trees Available to Bowie Municipal Residents

A big "Thank You" to each resident who has participated in the Plant One Tree On Us program. If you have not received a native tree planted for you by a City contractor, now is your chance. Starting July 1, you can request a tree from the City's website www.cityofbowie.org/PlantOneTree for the fall planting season. Trees will be planted between mid-October and the end of the year. For more information, contact Tiffany Wright at **301-809-3043** or twright@cityofbowie.org.

Street Sweeping

City streets are cleaned regularly during the non-winter months. For more information and the schedule, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/sweep.

Mosquito Control Program

The Maryland Department of Agriculture provides mosquito control services to the Bowie area. The mosquito control program for 2021 began with spring larviciding in March. The regular season began in May and will continue into late September. Work may continue into October, if necessary. The program consists of larviciding (control of immature stages of the mosquito), public education about the Asian tiger mosquito, and adult surveillance with possible spraying.

An individual resident may have his/her owned or leased real property excluded from the adult mosquito control spraying. A resident wishing to exclude their property must submit a request directly to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Information on excluding a property and the required submission forms are available on the [Maryland Department of Agriculture](http://www.maryland.gov/agriculture) website.

If you need assistance locating breeding areas around your house or would like to report stagnant water near your property, call the Public Works Office at **301-809-2336**.

Lawn Mower Rebate Program

Buying a new mower? Let us help! City residents* who purchase a new mulching, electric, or manual reel mower are eligible to receive a \$50 rebate from the City of Bowie. To obtain your cash rebate, bring proof of municipal residency* and the receipt for a mulching, electric, or manual reel mower to the Finance Department at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road. If the receipt

does not specify that the mower is one of these three types, bring a manual or other documentation for the mower. Finance Department hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Rebates are limited to one per household. If you have questions, please call **301-809-3020**.

****Only those who live within the municipal limits of the City of Bowie are eligible to receive this rebate. Having a Bowie mailing address does not necessarily mean that you live within the City of Bowie limits.***

Get Involved in Your Community – Join a City Committee

In addition to the newly formed Youth Council, there are 16 committees made up of community volunteers, providing advice and support to the City Council and City government on a variety of subjects, from environmental issues, to development, to public safety, and much more. Serving on a City committee is also a great way to learn more about City government, share your talents with the Bowie community, and meet others with similar interests.

Committees are meeting virtually during the pandemic and the meetings are open to the public. The list of upcoming meetings can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/calendar.aspx. Current vacancies include seats on the following committees: Arts, Administrative Review Board, Education, Ethics, Recreation, Green Team, Arts Committee, Recreation, EAC, the Community. Read about the work of all City committees and how to apply at www.cityofbowie.org/committees.

Door to Door Sales

Everyone who goes house to house selling merchandise or services, offering free estimates, or leaving informational flyers at your door (except non-profit organizations) must have an individual City of Bowie Solicitors Permit with picture. If a solicitor cannot provide a City Permit, we ask that you refrain from doing business with them. To report a company soliciting without a permit, please submit a company brochure or business card and the street they were soliciting to codecompliance@cityofbowie.org or call **301-809-3008**.

Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers Counseling

Counselors at Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) are available to help families and individuals during this stressful time. BYFS serves individuals, families and groups in the Bowie community. **We will also be offering counseling and stress management groups for tweens and teens who are experiencing stress due to the impending transition back to in-person instruction.**

We are also available to offer referrals and support by phone to all residents who are experiencing stress and who need assistance. Our 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.

Mental Health Matters!

Mental health concerns have been prevalent in our community as pressures on kids, teens and parents have increased. According to the Center for Disease Control, more than more than 40%

of respondents in a recent study reported mental health symptoms related to the 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**

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, visit www.cityofbowie.org/unitygallery.

City Museums

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

Hours: Friday through Sunday from noon –4 p.m.

Museum Events:

- **Kids Kaboose** July 16, 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Ages 5 - 10, with adult. Free.
- **Wine and Design, Decorative Glass Block** July 23, 7 - 9 p.m. at Belair Mansion. \$25/person. Space limited. Reservations required.
- **Museum Summer Fun at Belair Mansion** July 19, 21 & 22, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. ages 6-8, with adult; July 26 & 28, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. ages 3-5, with adult. Space limited. Reservations required. Free.
- **Fairy Tale Fun** July 28, 10 a.m. at Belair Stable. Stories and craft. Ages 2 - 8, with adult. Free.

Bowie Senior Center

14900 Health Center Drive

301-809-2300

www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter

Open Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Available available:

Activity Calendar

Information & Referral Services

Transportation by Appointment

Bowie City Gym

4100 Northview Drive

301-809-2388www.cityofbowie.org/gym**Hours:**

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

(9 - 10 a.m. is reserved for walkers only)

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The City of Bowie Gymnasium is open for organized sports activity as well as unorganized recreational activity.

Activities available:

Walking (9 a.m. - 10 a.m., weekdays only)

Basketball play

Volleyball play

Pickleball play

Bowie Gym Basketball Camp August 2 - 6, 2021, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This week-long instructional camp for boys and girls ages 8-14 is directed by former college basketball coaches with over 25 years experience running youth basketball camps. Campers will learn the fundamentals of the game of basketball and enjoy individual instruction in a fun and safe environment. All campers participate in stations, contests and games. Fee: \$210 for Bowie residents; \$225 for nonresidents.

For registration and information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or contact Camp Director Mike Lonergan at mlonergan@cityofbowie.org or **301-809-2383**.

Bowie Ice Arena

3330 Northview Drive

301-809-3090www.cityofbowie.org/icearena

The Ice Arena reopens July 10, celebrating its 50th year! Register now for summer lessons (beginning July 15) and camps (few spots remain). Enjoy free ice skating during *Skate in the Shade* events and \$2 Tuesday sessions; learn more at www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Jobs

The City of Bowie is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Public Works Director (closes 7/9/21)
- Business Operations Specialist (closes 7/2/21)
- Entry Level Police Officer (open)
- Communications specialist II (open)
- Assistant Transportation Supervisor (closes 7/2/21)

- Parks and Grounds Superintendent (closes 7/9/21)

To learn more or to apply, visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

COVID-19 NEWS

To keep up with the latest news about COVID, please sign up for Alert Bowie at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts.

All State Emergency Mandates and Restrictions End July 1

As of Thursday, July 1, all emergency mandates and restrictions of any kind ended.

- Masks are no longer be required in any setting, including schools, camps and childcare facilities. Businesses and other workplaces may set their own policies, but there will be no legal mandate from the state requiring masks at any location.
- A 45-day grace period (through August 15) began when certain regulations will be relaxed to complete the transition out of the pandemic. This includes an additional 45 days to renew expired driver's licenses and an extension of the moratorium on evictions related to COVID-19. Health officials will have that 45-day period to transition from emergency operations.

These changes apply to state mandates and restrictions. Prince George's County has not announced any changes at the county level.

Vaccination Resources

- **State of Maryland** – To get vaccinated visit www.covidvax.maryland.gov or call **1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829)**. The call center is available seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Six Flags mass vaccination site closes operations on July 17.
- **Prince George's County** – Appointments are not necessary at the two COVID-19 vaccine clinics operated by the County Health Department (located at Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex, Ft. Washington and Sports & Learning Complex, Landover). Individuals who live or work in the County can walk into the sites or if they prefer, appointments can be booked in advance at www.mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine. You can also use the County's [COVID-19 Vaccine Locator](#) to find additional vaccination sites operated by pharmacies, hospitals and other healthcare partners.
- **City of Bowie** – The Bowie Senior Center Vaccination Clinic ended **June 30**.

COVID-19 Testing

For a list of all COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland, visit <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing> You may also 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.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing will continue to be a critical tool to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community. When someone is diagnosed positive 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 <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/answer-the-call/>

FEMA Funeral Assistance

The FEMA Funeral Assistance Program can help you cover the burial and funeral costs of a loved one who passed due to COVID-19. Applications are open and you can apply by calling 1-844-684-6333. Learn about requirements at www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance.

State Health Insurance Special Enrollment Period Extended to August 15

The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange announced that the state health insurance marketplace, Maryland Health Connection, will extend its current Coronavirus Special Enrollment Period. Uninsured Marylanders can enroll in health coverage until August 15. Those who are eligible for Medicaid can enroll any time of year. Health coverage through Maryland Health Connection covers costs for coronavirus tests at doctor's offices, urgent care centers, or emergency rooms. To learn more about coverage options, visit www.marylandhealthconnection.gov.

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 new page on our website so that it is easy to find and easy to navigate. If you need food or know someone who is experiencing food insecurity, we encourage you to visit www.cityofbowie.org/food.

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 (65+) 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. Also, there is limited transportation available for important medical appointments.

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.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Offers Aid to Eligible Households

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail in application. Learn more about eligibility and enrollment information at <http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit> or by calling 833-511-0311.

IRS Child Tax Credit

The IRS and the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that the first monthly payment of the expanded and newly-advanceable Child Tax Credit from the American Rescue Plan will be made on **July 15**. Roughly 39 million households, covering 88% of children in the U.S. are estimated to be eligible to begin receiving monthly payments without any further action required. Payments will be made on the 15th of each month unless it falls on a weekend or holiday. Eligible families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under the age six and up to \$250 per month for each child age six and above.

Job Assistance for 55+

Did you know Employ Prince George's has a 55+ Older Work Program Coordinator to support older adults? The American Job Center in Largo is launching direct services to support 55+ job seekers, including information sessions on Tuesdays from 1 - 3 p.m. Register at <http://mwejobs.maryland.gov>.

Bowie Business Recovery Program

Bowie businesses are opening up now, and they can get ideas for attracting new customers and tapping into new revenue opportunities by attending one of the four free business webinars presented every Thursday in June by the Bowie Business Recovery (BBR) Program. Visit www.bowiebusinessrecovery.com to register for a webinar, review all the other business development activities on the calendar in June and check out the recordings of previous webinars over the last five months.

The BBR program is an eight-month online program of free technical assistance to help Bowie businesses accelerate their growth following the COVID-10 pandemic BBR is collaboration between the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC) hub for Bowie business acceleration and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce (BGCC). BBR is funded by the City of Bowie. For more information, contact Lisa Smith at the Bowie Business Innovation Center, 301-524-5654 or lisa.smith@bowiebic.com.