



BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, July 29, 2021

*Welcome to the **Bowie Brief**, our new weekly newsletter about what's going on in city government. We will also include COVID updates in this document, as needed.*

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Bowie News

City Council Meetings

- **August 2**, 8 p.m. – City Transportation Priorities

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](https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofBowieMD). Those wishing to submit written testimony electronically may do so by emailing cityclerk@cityofbowie.org. (The testimony 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**.

National Night Out Against Crime

National Night Out Against Crime is back for 2021! This exciting nation-wide "block party" will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at Allen Pond (3330 Northview Drive) from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Stop by and get to know your fellow neighbors, community, and law enforcement at this free fun event for the whole family. Enjoy music, food, games, displays, and more! For more information, please contact 240-544-5792 or COPS@cityofbowie.org.

Emergency Food Distribution at Kenhill Center on Saturdays in August

The City will be distributing emergency food aid to city residents at the Kenhill Center on Saturdays in August. Non-perishable groceries will be distributed at four drive-through events, taking place on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 7
- Saturday, August 14
- Saturday, August 21
- Saturday, August 28

Food will be distributed from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (or until all food is gone). All food will be non-perishable and include ingredients for a selection of meals. Volunteers, wearing masks and gloves, will load food into vehicles and staff will gather information from residents in their cars. Residents will not exit their vehicles.

Only City of Bowie residents are eligible for this program. Residents will be required to provide ID or a piece of mail with a Bowie address on it to qualify for assistance. Please check to make sure your address is within City of Bowie limits using our [Address Check Tool](#) before applying.

Learn more at cityofbowie.org/cobcares or contact Program Coordinator Kay Starr at 301-809-3009 or email cobcares@cityofbowie.org.

Sunday Sunset Concerts

Sunday Sunset Concerts are held each Sunday, 7 - 8 p.m., through Labor Day weekend. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather. View the full concert schedule on our Summer Concerts [webpage](#). Information: **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Ice Arena Offers Camps and Low Cost/Free Skate Sessions

\$2 Tuesday Skate Sessions - \$2 per skater including skates. No other discounts or passes and no groups please.

- Tuesday, August 3 from 12 - 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 10 from 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Skate in the Shade Free Skate Sessions - (sponsored by the Shade Foundation - Children's Skin Cancer Education & Prevention). Free admission; no groups please

- Friday, July 30 from 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Summer Skating Camps

The Bowie Ice Arena will hold summer ice skating camp the weeks of August 16 and August 23 for children ages 3 – 13. These week-long camps include on-ice lessons and games as well as off-ice activities. Skaters perform in a “show” at the end of the week for the parents. Slots are limited so be sure to register in person, by mail or over the phone.

Questions about any of these offerings? Contact Carrie Robertson at crobertson@cityofbowie.org or by calling 301-809-3090. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena for more information.

Summer Basketball Camp at the Bowie Gymnasium

The Bowie Gym will hold a co-ed summer basketball camp from August 2 – 6 for children ages 8 – 14. This week-long camp will teach children basketball fundamentals and drills. Campers will walk away from camp having had a positive experience with basketball. Slots are limited, so be sure to [register](#) now. Questions? Contact Camp Director Michael Lonergan at mlonergan@cityofbowie.org or by calling 301-809-2383.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

July 30

- [Skate in the Shade](#) – 12 - 1:30

August 1

- [Bowie Farmer's Market](#) – 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- [Sunday Summer Concert](#) “4TheRoad” (Rock/Jazz/R&B) – 7 - 8 p.m.

August 3

- [\\$2 Tuesday Skates](#) – 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- [National Night Out Against Crime 2021](#) – 6 – 8 p.m

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar for details.

State & County News

Stand Up & Deliver Meals and Groceries

Friday, July 30 at 12:30 p.m.

- Faith Temple No. 2 Free Will Baptist Church – 211 Maryland Park Drive, Capitol Heights
- Victory Grace Center at Port Towns Elementary School – 4351 58th Place, Bladensburg

Saturday, July 31 at 10 a.m.

- Ebenezer Church of God – 7550 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills
- Lover AME Church @ Capitol Heights Elementary School | 601 Suffolk Avenue, Capitol Heights

Saturday, July 31 at 11:30 a.m.

- United Baptist Church – 7701 Riverdale Church, New Carrollton

Sunday, August 1 at 10 a.m.

- Community of Hope AME Church – 3701 Branch Avenue, Temple Hills

Visit a County Library

Cool down this summer and visit one of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System's 17 open branch libraries. The Library is now open Monday through Saturday for full browsing and computer use, no appointment needed. Free WiFi, study rooms, printing, scanning, curbside service (by appointment), and virtual/outdoor programs are also available. Visit pgcmls.info/reopening for current hours and location details.

COVID Corner



COVID Metrics

New COVID-19 cases have been on the rise over the past few weeks, fueled by the more virulent Delta variant and the large numbers of people who remain unvaccinated. The week of June 13 saw the fewest new cases in Prince George’s County since the beginning of the pandemic with a low of 56; however, by the week of July 18, the number of new cases had jumped to 377. The positivity rate also increased over that period, with a rate of 2.1% for the week of July 18, up from a low of 0.7% for the week of June 13. These numbers are relatively low compared to previous surges, but the increases are very concerning, since the cases are projected to continue their upward trend for the next couple of months.

Vaccinations are our best path to preventing another surge and to ending the pandemic. Until we reach the 70% vaccination threshold, we’re vulnerable to another surge here. Vaccination percentages vary based on the source and the segment of the population the calculation is based on. Maryland zip code level data is based on percentage of the total population, not the percentage of the eligible population. As of July 28, only one of the four Bowie zip codes has at least 60% of the total population vaccinated. In Prince George’s County, approximately half of the total population is fully vaccinated.

Weekly Covid-19 Data			
	Maryland	Prince George’s Co.	Bowie
Cases	466,930 (+2,195)	86,487 (+414)	Cases: 7,514 (+42)
Deaths	9,813 (+21)	1,602 (+1)	20715: 1,653 (+10)
Positivity Rate	2.45%	3.04%	20716: 1,641 (+9)
Case Rate Per 100K	5.19	6.50	20720: 1,906 (+13)
Currently Hospitalized	208 (+42.4%)	NA	20721: 2,314 (+10)
Vaccine Progress			

	Maryland		Prince George's Co.	
1st of 2 Dose Received	3,601,081 (59.57% pop.)		453,905 (49.92% pop.)	
2nd of 2 Dose Received	3,275,034 (54.17% pop.)		404,642 (44.50% pop.)	
Single Dose	271,199 (4.49%)		28,722 (3.16% pop.)	
Bowie				
	20715	20716	20720	20721
Fully Vax	15,662 (58.51%)	12,331 (55.84%)	14,306 (60.87%)	17,473 (58.61%)
1st Dose	16,841 (62.91%)	13,365 (60.52%)	15,613 (66.43%)	19,074 (63.98%)
<i>Additional cases and deaths reflect the last seven days. Vaccine totals represent total population, not eligible population. Source: Maryland Department of Health at coronavirus.maryland.gov</i>				

Prince George's County and Bowie Vaccinations

The CDC vaccination data by county is based on the percentage of the eligible population.

Prince George's County Fully Vaccinated Residents (as of 7/28, 11:01 p.m.)	
Total #	485,098
% of Total Population	53.3%
# of Age 12+	485,061
% of Age 12+ Population	62.9%
# of Age 18+	459,392
% of Age 18+ Population	64.9%
# of Age 65+	103,894
% of Age 65 + Population	82.3%

Delta Variant Prompts New CDC Guidance

The Delta variant has resulted in a [300% increase in new infections](#) across the country over the last month and as of July 17 was responsible for 83% of the new coronavirus infections. [View the latest data](#)

The growth of Delta variant cases is prompting officials to take new actions to curb its impact.

- The US [will not lift foreign travel restrictions](#) due to concerns about the variant. The US currently restricts entry for most noncitizens who have been in the UK, European Union nations, Ireland, China, India, South Africa, Iran, and Brazil within the last 14 days.
- On July 27, the CDC issued [updated guidance](#) that said all students, and faculty should wear face masks at school to protect against the spread of Covid-19, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Prior to the CDC announcement, Prince George's County Schools had already said it would require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks in schools for the upcoming school year.
- The CDC has also revised its [guidance for vaccinated individuals](#). When the CDC updated its guidance in May, the delta variant represented 1% of all cases. Today that number is more than 80% of all cases,

which is why the CDC now recommends that people in regions with “high” or “substantial” transmission rates wear face masks when indoors in public.

The CDC defines a “substantial” level of community transmission as 50 to 100 new cases per 100,000 people over a 7-day period and a “high” level as more than 100 cases. Currently no Maryland counties are at this level, though several counties in Virginia are experiencing high or substantial transmission rates. [View CDC case and vaccine data by county.](#)

- CDC Chief Rochelle Walensky said that “worrisome” new data shows that vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant can carry as much virus as those who are unvaccinated, suggesting that some vaccinated people “may be contagious and spread the virus to others.” She also said, “The big concern is the next variant that might emerge, just a few mutations away, could potentially evade our vaccine”.
- Vaccinations are still the best protection we have against COVID-19. Despite the concerns about breakthrough infections, COVID vaccines will protect most vaccinated individuals from severe illness and death from a COVID-19 infection.

Need a COVID-19 Vaccination?

Visit covidvax.maryland.gov, or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829) for vaccination locations. The state-operated mass vaccination site at Six Flags has closed permanently.

Prince George’s County is operating one vaccine clinic and three mobile units. Individuals 12 and older who live or work in Prince George’s County are eligible to be vaccinated at these sites. Visit the county vaccination [webpage](#) for details.

The County’s COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex is no longer offering vaccinations. Vaccinations are available at the Sports and Learning Complex vaccination clinic or at the County’s mobile vaccination clinics. Appointments are not necessary. Please visit mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine for more information about County vaccination clinics.

Get Vaccinated at an Orioles Game

The Maryland Department of Health has extended the partnership with the Baltimore Orioles to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations at every Orioles home game through the remainder of the regular season, on September 30.

\$1 Million VaxU Scholarship Promotion

Maryland has launched the VaxU Scholarship Promotion, a \$1 million incentive program to encourage 12- to 17-year-olds to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The VaxU Scholarship Program will randomly select two \$50,000 scholarship winners per week for 8 weeks. On Monday, September 6, four winners will be selected. To qualify for the scholarship, students must both live and be vaccinated in Maryland. Learn more on the [MHEC VaxU Scholarship Promotion website](#).

Mobile Clinics

Students ages 12 and over may receive a free COVID-19 vaccine at mobile clinics run by the Prince George’s County Health Department. Vaccines will be administered at a mobile unit at the school sites below. Parents

or guardians are welcome to accompany their child but are not required to do so. All students must bring completed consent forms to be vaccinated. Consent forms are available on the PGCPs website. It takes 5 weeks for teens to be fully vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine. If you wish to have your student (age 12-17) vaccinated before school begins, please take advantage of one of these opportunities.

All Mobile Clinics run from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 29

Ernest E. Just Middle School | 1300 Campus Way N, Mitchellville
Laurel High School | 8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel

Friday, July 30

Bowie High School | 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie
High Point High School | 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville

COVID-19 Forbearance Relief for FHA Borrowers

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on the nation's families. While the nation is starting to see an economic recovery, far too many homeowners are still behind on their mortgage payments and have not sought help. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) wants to make sure that those who have a Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgage and need help, have the information they need to avoid future foreclosure.

If you are struggling with payments on your FHA-insured mortgage, it is very important that you contact your mortgage servicer directly. Your mortgage servicer is the entity to which you make your mortgage payments. You may qualify for mortgage payment relief and assistance. For free advice and help understanding the information and options provided by your mortgage servicer, please contact a HUD-approved housing counseling agency. To find a HUD-approved agency, call (800) 569-4287, or use the visit [HUD's website](#). Housing counselors are trained to assess your financial situation and explain the options available to you.

Additional information can be found on HUD's website:

- [Important information for FHA borrowers](#)
- [COVID-19 resources for FHA borrowers, including how to request COVID-19 mortgage relief \(forbearance\)](#)

FHA, which is part of HUD, wants to keep you in your home, but you must act now to avoid future foreclosure. Contact your mortgage servicer or a housing counselor today to get the help you need.