



# **BOWIE BRIEF**

Your Weekly Update  
**Tuesday, January 4, 2022**

Welcome to the **Bowie Brief**, our weekly newsletter about what's going on in city government.

## **In This Week's Update**

### **BOWIE NEWS**

**TRASH AND RECYCLING UPDATE - JANUARY 4, 5 P.M.**

**WINTER WEATHER – GENERAL INFORMATION & UPDATES**

**FREE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR AGES 15-25**

**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**

**HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING**

**CITY COMMITTEE VACANCIES AVAILABLE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

**DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR CRIMINALS**

**VIDEOS FROM THE CITY OF BOWIE**

**NEW ART EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL**

**JOB OPENINGS**

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **COVID CORNER**

**NEW COVID ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**VACCINATIONS**

**TESTING**

**ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE**

**COVID VARIANTS**

**COVID DATA**

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND BOWIE VACCINATIONS**

# Bowie News

## Trash and recycling update - January 4, 5 p.m.

The City would like to thank residents for their patience with the disruptions to trash and recycling collections this week.

Assuming the freezing rain forecast for Wednesday morning does not further complicate the situation, here's what the Public Works Department is planning to do to get collections back on schedule:

### Planned Services for Wednesday 1/5

- Tuesday trash routes
- Wednesday recycling routes

### Adjustments and Cancellations

- Special pickups are canceled for 1/5. Items will be picked up on 1/12 (no need to reschedule).
- Yard waste and Christmas tree recycling is canceled for 1/5. These items will be picked up next Wednesday (1/12)
- If Monday was your trash or recycling day, your next collection will be on your next regularly scheduled day.
- If Tuesday was your recycling day, please hold onto recyclables until next Tuesday (1/11).

Parked cars and snow piles will severely hamper the ability of trucks to maneuver down narrow streets or in cul-de-sacs. You can help by moving cars off the street and into driveways or on the grass. Tomorrow, Public Works will be deploying bobcats in some neighborhoods to clear snow piles to improve access for trucks.

The schedule for Wednesday is ambitious given the early morning forecast and expected road conditions. We are hopeful that conditions will improve as the temperatures rise mid-morning, but if this does not happen, further adjustments to the schedule may be necessary. We appreciate your continued patience.

## Winter Weather – General Information & Updates

General information about City snow operations can be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/snow](http://www.cityofbowie.org/snow).

- When the snowfall is below two inches, only main drives, hills and collector roads are treated.
- When snowfall is greater than two inches, as is expected with the January 3 storm, all streets will be plowed/treated, beginning with the most heavily traveled roads and progressing through to side streets and cul-de-sacs. Until main thoroughfares are passable, crews will not move to side streets.
- Cars must be moved off the street and into driveways when snow reaches two inches so that plows can clear the streets most efficiently. (During a snowstorm it is acceptable to park on your grass if you can't park in a driveway)

- Clearing sidewalks in front of homes is the responsibility of the resident and must be done within 48 hours of the snowfall ending. 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/snowwaiver).

During and after a storm, dangerous road conditions on City roads may be reported to the Public Works Department on weekdays, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at 301-809-2344. After business hours and on weekends, dangerous conditions can be reported to the Bowie Police Department Call Center at 240-544-5700.

City crews plow streets that are maintained by the City of Bowie. The Maryland State Highway Administration takes care of highways and numbered routes (50, 3, 301, 564, 450, 197, etc.). Prince George’s County maintains Race Track Road, Church Road, and Mitchellville Road.

**Important Numbers:**

- City of Bowie: 301-809-2344 (after hours: 240-544-5700)
- Prince George’s County: 3-1-1
- Maryland State Highway Administration: 800-543-2515  
Report online at: <https://roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/index.aspx?pageid=519>
- BGE: 1-877-778-2222 / Washington Gas: 1-800-752-7520 (you can also report outages on their websites or using their apps)
- WSSC: 301-206-4002

**Free Workforce Development for Ages 15-25**

The City of Bowie will present a free online workforce development course for City residents aged 15–25 from March 5 – April 7, 2022. The application period runs from January 10 to February 18, 2022. The application form, additional program information, and session dates are all available at [www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining](http://www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining). Have questions? Contact program coordinator Kay Starr at [worktraining@cityofbowie.org](mailto:worktraining@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3009.

**Christmas Tree Recycling**

Trees will be collected on January 12, 19, and 26 along with yard waste. All decorations must be removed, and the tree placed at the curb by 7 a.m. Do not place tree in a plastic bag.

**Holiday Light Recycling**

MOM’s Organic Market is hosting its 11th annual Holiday Light Recycling Drive. Bring your unwanted holiday lights to any MOM’s location by January 31, 2022 for recycling.

**City Committee Vacancies Available**

Is one of your New Year’s resolutions to serve your community? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you! Join a City committee today! See the vacancy list below and find out more at

[www.cityofbowie.org/committees](http://www.cityofbowie.org/committees). With only 12 meetings a year, it's a resolution that will be easy (and fun) to keep for 2022. For more information, contact [cityclerk@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3029.

## Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan

Bowie residents, the City Council needs your input on the development of the City's economic strategy goals. Share your thoughts and suggestions either by participating in an online survey ([www.surveymonkey.com/r/LXL2TB2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LXL2TB2)) or at the January 18 City Council [meeting](#). For more information, please contact 301-809-3042 or [jhking@cityofbowie.org](mailto:jhking@cityofbowie.org).

## Don't Make it Easy for Criminals

The Bowie Police Department is seeing an increase in thefts from autos and in the number of vehicles being stolen. Please make sure that you are not making your car an easy target for criminals.

- Stay with your car while it warms up.
- Remove valuables from the car.
- Make sure you have your keys or key fob when you get out of your car.
- Lock it and then pull the handle to double check that it is really locked.  
(Remember -- if you leave a key fob in the car, it won't lock AND if your key fob is inside but still close to your vehicle, it may prevent the lock from engaging.)

Please share this information with friends and neighbors. View Chief Nesky's latest [video message](#).

## Videos from the City of Bowie

### PSAs and more

- [Bowie Employee Service Awards](#)

### Event Highlights

- [Bowie Police Town Hall for District 4 \(1 hr 17 min\)](#)
- [Bowie Police Town Hall for District 2 \(1 hr 16 min\)](#)
- [Bowie Police Town Hall for District 3 \(1 hr 4 min\)](#)
- [Bowie Police Town Hall for District 1 \(58 mins\)](#)

View all our videos on Bowie's YouTube channel [@cityofbowieMD](#)

## New Art Exhibit at City Hall

Now through the end of February, visitors to City Hall can enjoy a new Winter Art show. The gallery features 30 works of art from 8 regional artists. City Hall is open Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for the following positions:

### January 7, 2021

- [Services Program Assistant](#) (Part time) – Senior Center

- [Communications Analyst I](#) (Full time & Part time) – City Manager’s Office

**January 21, 2021**

- [Community Coordinator](#) – Youth Services Bureau

Visit <http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs> for details or to apply.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Monday, January 17**

- [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) | All Day

**Tuesday, January 18**

- [City Council Meeting](#) | 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 26**

- [Fairy Tale Fun](#) | 10 a.m.
- [Information Session on Workforce Development Program](#) | 7 p.m.

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/calendar](http://www.cityofbowie.org/calendar) for details about other upcoming events sponsored by the City.

## COVID CORNER



Recent developments on COVID are summarized below:

### New COVID Announcements from the Governor

Governor Hogan hosted a press briefing on January 4 about COVID. Below is a summary of his comments:

- The governor has declared a 30-day state of emergency to take urgent short-term actions to combat the COVID-19 winter surge.
- Today, Maryland hit a record high of 3,057 COVID hospitalizations, which is an increase of more than 500% in the last 7 weeks.
- State officials expect the next 4 - 6 weeks will be the most challenging of the pandemic. Newest projections show that COVID hospitalizations could reach more than 5,000, which is more than 250% higher than the previous peak.
- New actions to address the hospital crisis:
  - An executive order is being issued today authorizing the Secretary for the Maryland Department of Health to direct and expediate the transfer of patients between hospitals and establish additional alternate care facilities.
  - Another executive order will authorize actions to further augment our EMS workforce.
  - 1,000 MD National Guard (MDNG) members are being mobilized to assist state and local health officials with emergency pandemic response. This includes 250 guard members who will be deployed to support COVID-19 testing sites at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities and to assist with patients transport as needed.
  - MDNG members will be assigned to support operations at the state's two new testing sites at Upper Chesapeake Hospital in Bel Air and Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis. These sites are accepting walk-ups seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - The MDNG will assist with opening 20 new testing sites outside Maryland hospitals to meet rising demand for testing and to divert people away from visiting emergency rooms for COVID tests.
- In 2021, 75% of Marylanders who tested positive for COVID were not fully vaccinated, 84% of COVID hospitalizations were people who were not fully vaccinated and 84% of COVID deaths in Maryland were not fully vaccinated. Vaccinations can help to lessen the impact of this crisis.

- Following the latest action from the FDA, Maryland is now able to provide COVID-19 booster shots for children between the ages of 12 and 15.
- Marylanders are also now eligible to get a booster 5 months after completing their primary doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
- To date, 33% of 5- to 11-year-olds in Maryland have been vaccinated. The governor encourages parents to get their school-aged children vaccinated.
- Face coverings are now required in all state government buildings in Maryland. To encourage booster shots, the state is providing 2 hours of paid leave for state employees to get a booster.
- Other Maryland employers are also encouraged to incentivize vaccination/ boosters and encourage mask wearing.

The governor concluded his comments by saying, “It’s important for Marylanders to go back to using common sense and doing the things that will keep us safe: avoiding crowds, keeping your distance, washing your hands, and yes – once again – wearing the damn mask.”

## Vaccinations

Yesterday, the FDA endorsed giving Pfizer booster shots to 11 to 15 year-olds, but CDC has not yet issued its approval for the 11 to 15 year old group. Both the CDC and FDA approved boosters for 16 and 17 year-olds in December.

Prince George’s County has moved its public vaccination clinic to the student center at Prince George’s Community College in Largo. Doses are no longer being distributed at the Sports and Learning Center in Landover. Appointments are preferred, but limited walk-ins hours are available.

Vaccinations are also available at pharmacies throughout the area, usually by appointment. To find a clinic, visit [covidvax.maryland.gov](https://covidvax.maryland.gov) or call the state’s multilingual call center, available seven days a week, at 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

**State officials continue to urge all eligible Marylanders to get vaccinated for COVID and the flu and get their booster shots just as soon as they are eligible.**

## Testing

Free COVID-19 testing is available to County residents, regardless of insurance coverage, at various locations throughout the County. Sites are walk-in, unless otherwise noted; however, you must present identification. (Sites may be affected by weather-related closures. Be sure to check before you go.)

- **City of Praise Family Ministries** | 8501 Jericho City Dr, Landover  
Mon from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Wed from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Sat from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville** | 6201 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville  
Mon & Thurs from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Sat from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Roseu Medical Center** | 7350 Van Dusen Rd, Laurel  
[Book testing appointments online](#) or call 301-604-8000 | Monday – Friday



- **Bunker Hill Fire Station** | 3716 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood  
Mon-Fri from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Visit the [Maryland coronavirus website](#) to find a testing location near you. **Please keep in mind that testing centers are currently experiencing long waits as demand for testing has grown rapidly.**

**At-home Test Kits** – County libraries are expected to have a new supply of COVID tests to distribute by January 5. Updates on library supplies are being posted to their “Ask a Librarian” line - 240-455-5451 and on their social media accounts.

The County says another county test kit distribution site will be announced in early January. For more information about COVID-19 testing or to use the testing site locator to find a testing site near you, visit the County Health Department website [here](#).

## Isolation and Quarantine

CDC updated [isolation and quarantine recommendations](#) for the public on January 4. These recommendations do not apply to [healthcare personnel](#) and do not supersede state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.

People with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others.

Recommendations for people who are [exposed to COVID-19](#) are also updated. If you are unvaccinated or more than 6 months out from your second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and you are not yet boosted, CDC recommends a quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. If a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person [wear a well-fitting mask](#) at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure.

People who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for COVID-19 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19. Read the full updated isolation and quarantine guidance on the [CDC website](#).

## COVID Variants

The Omicron variant is rapidly becoming the dominant variant in Maryland and across the country. The [Omicron page on the CDC website](#) includes this information (last updated Dec 20):

- **How easily does Omicron spread?** The Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and how easily Omicron spreads compared to Delta remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms.



- **Will Omicron cause more severe illness?** More data are needed to know if Omicron infections, and especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated, cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variants.
- **Will vaccines work against Omicron?** Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. The emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.
- **Will treatments work against Omicron?** Scientists are working to determine how well existing treatments for COVID-19 work. Based on the changed genetic make-up of Omicron, some treatments are likely to remain effective while others may be less effective.

## COVID Data

COVID-19 Data (as of 1/4/22)			
	Maryland	Prince George's Co.	Bowie
Cases	765,944 (+14,494)	135,379 (+2,937)	<b>Cases: 12,267 (+290)</b>
Deaths	11,944 (+48)	1,790 (+1)	
Positivity Rate	27.44%	36.12%	
Case Rate Per 100K	213.71	249.38	20715: 2,616 (+46)
<b>Maryland Hospitalizations</b>			20716: 2,700 (+63)
Adult	Total: 3,057 (+11.3%)	ICU: 513 (+11.5%)	20720: 3,085 (+87)
Pediatric	Total: 51 (+18%)	ICU: 10 (+42%)	20721: 3,866 (+94)
<i>Figures above in parentheses are a one day increase since 1/3/21</i>			
Vaccine Progress			
	Maryland	Prince George's Co.	
1st of 2 Dose Received	4,489,336 (74.26%)	588,251 (64.69%)	
2nd of 2 Dose Received	3,943,024 (65.22%)	510,704 (56.16%)	
Single Dose	327,959 (5.43%)	32,074 (3.53%)	
Vaccine totals represent total population, not eligible population. Source: Maryland Department of Health at <a href="http://coronavirus.maryland.gov">http://coronavirus.maryland.gov</a>			

## 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 1/4/22)**

Total #	617,492
% of Total Population	67.9%
# of Age 5+	617,471
% of Age 5+ Population	72.6%
# of Age 12+	607,021
% of Age 12+ Population	78.7%
# of Age 18+	560,137
% of Age 18+ Population	79.1%
# of Age 65+	113,053
% of Age 65 + Population	89.5%