



# **BOWIE BRIEF**

Your Weekly Update  
**Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

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

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

### **BOWIE NEWS**

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

**ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ART CONTEST WINNERS**

**MALCOLM "SKIP" POPP AWARD**

**HOLIDAY CLEAN-UP**

**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**

**HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING**

**CITY COMMITTEE VACANCIES AVAILABLE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 7**

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

**BOWIE NEWS & PUBLICATIONS**

**2022 CHILD CARE STABILIZATION GRANTS**

**MARYLAND HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND**

**NEW ART EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL**

**JOB OPENINGS**

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **COVID CORNER**

**UPDATED MASK GUIDANCE**

**COVID TESTING**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS DECLARES BLOOD CRISIS**

**VACCINATIONS**

**OTHER VACCINATION CLINICS**

**COVID DATA**

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

# Bowie News

## 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 is open until February 18, 2022. There are two virtual information sessions for interested applicants on [Wednesday, January 26](#) and [Wednesday, February 9](#).

The application form, session dates, and additional program information 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.

## Energy Audit Program

As the temperatures drop, energy bills rise. If you would like to learn how you can save money on your energy bills, now's the time to have a no-cost energy audit done in your home by a certified contractor. Bowie residents, apply now for our Energy Audit Program. The audit will give you a detailed list of things you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency, safety, and air quality such as ventilation, HVAC and appliances, insulation, and. Apply now at [www.cityofbowie.org/1003/Energy-Audit-Program](http://www.cityofbowie.org/1003/Energy-Audit-Program) Questions? Contact [adiaz@cityofbowie.org](mailto:adiaz@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3044.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest Winners

On Saturday, January 15, 2022, eight local students were named as winners in the City of Bowie Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest. The announcement came during the Diversity Committee's virtual program honoring Dr. King. This year's theme was "More Than a Dream". The work of the winners may be viewed at [www.cityofbowie.org/mlk](http://www.cityofbowie.org/mlk).

## Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award

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 2021.

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 18, 2022.** Nomination forms may be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/popp](http://www.cityofbowie.org/popp). For more information, contact Sharon Hunt at [shunt1@verizon.net](mailto:shunt1@verizon.net) or 301-802-0714, or Lori Cunningham at [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org).

## Holiday Clean-up

### ***Christmas Tree Recycling***

There is one more Christmas tree recycling day left in this month: January 26. Dispose of old Christmas trees on Wednesdays along with yard waste. All decorations must be removed, and the tree placed at the curb by 7 a.m. Do not place the 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

Learn more about City government, share your talents with the Bowie community, and meet others with similar interests by serving on a City Committee. See the vacancy list below and find out more at [www.cityofbowie.org/committees](http://www.cityofbowie.org/committees).

Current vacancies include the following committees: Advisory Planning Board, Arts, Board of Elections, Community Outreach, Community Recreation, Education, Environmental Advisory, Financial Advisory, Green Team, and Information Technology. 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)). For more information, please contact 301-809-3042 or <mailto:jhking@cityofbowie.org>.

## Upcoming Council Meeting – February 7

The next Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council is Monday, February 7 at 8 p.m. Agenda item:

- Environmental Initiatives Update

This meeting is open to the public or can be viewed live:

- Bowie Government TV – (FIOS 10/Comcast 71 & 996)
- [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings)
- [Bowie YouTube channel](#) (@CityofBowieMD)

## Don't Make it Easy for Criminals

The Bowie Police Department is again seeing more thefts from autos.. 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.)

## Bowie News & Publications

The City of Bowie offers several newsletters and even videos summarizing general city news.

- The [Bowie Spotlight](#) is a monthly summary of news and events in Bowie
- The [Bowie Brief](#) is a weekly update, highlighting upcoming events and important topics for that week. The Brief may also include COVID updates, as needed.
- View all our videos on Bowie's YouTube channel @cityofbowieMD

These newsletters are distributed via [Alert Bowie](#). For additional information, contact the Communications Division at 301-809-3032 or [email](#).

[Key COVID metrics](#) are tracked by Emergency Management staff and posted to the city's website each weekday.

The City also publishes the [Green Bowie Newsletter](#) and a newsletter about the [Senior Center](#) each month and produces a variety of annual reports. Visit our [Newsletters & Reports](#) page to learn more about these City publications.

## 2022 Child Care Stabilization Grants

The Maryland State Department of Education is accepting applications for the 2022 Child Care Stabilization Grant program now through January 23, 2022. Childcare providers, the deadline is fast approaching ;be sure to apply for a grant now at [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/2022arp](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/2022arp).

## Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund

The Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) is now accepting applications for the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund to assist homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage due to COVID-19. Visit the [Homeowner Assistance Fund](#) to check your eligibility.

## 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 21, 2021

- [Community Coordinator](#) – Youth Services Bureau
- [Services Program Assistant](#) (Part time) – Senior Center

### January 25, 2021

- [Assistant Water Plant Superintendent](#) – Public Works Department

**January 28, 2021**

- [Utility Services Worker](#) – Public Works Department

**Open until filled**

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) – Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) – Police Department
- [Network Administrator](#) – Information Technology

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, January 26**

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

**Tuesday, February 1**

- [Mill Branch Virtual Stakeholders Meeting](#) | 7 p.m.

**Monday, February 7**

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

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

## COVID CORNER



### Updated Mask Guidance

The rapid spread of the omicron variant has refocused attention on the importance of masking as a critical health tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

On January 14, the CDC updated its mask guidance to provide more specific information about different types of masks and how to wear them. The CDC says that respirators, such as N95 and KN95, offer “the highest level of protection”. The CDC also clarified that it is now acceptable for individuals to use respirators regularly, since there are few concerns about supply shortages. Wearing a highly protective mask or respirator may be most important for certain higher risk situations, or by some people at [increased risk for severe disease](#).

[Updated CDC Mask Guidance](#)

[CDC Article: Improve How Your Mask Protects You](#)

### COVID Testing

Testing continues to be an important component in the strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Below is a summary of current testing options:

#### ***At-home testing***

- Request a test kit through the federal government - [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#)
- Pick up a test kit at one of the local distribution points at certain libraries and community centers. [See this week's list.](#)
- Purchase a test with the help of your health insurance company. As of January 15, 2022, private insurance companies are required to cover at-home COVID-19 tests. Insurance companies and health plans are required to cover eight free at-home tests per covered individual per month. Contact your provider for details.

#### ***County and State Testing sites (as of 1/18/22)***

Testing is free. Sites are walk-in, unless otherwise noted. Sites may be affected by weather-related closures. Hours are subject to change. Be sure to check before you go.

- **First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville** | 6201 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville  
Mon & Thurs, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Sat, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- **Roseu Medical Center** | 7350 Van Dusen Rd, Laurel  
[Book testing appointments online](#) or call 301-604-8000 | Mon – Fri
- **Bunker Hill Fire Station** | 3716 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood  
Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- **Temple Hills Community Center** | 5300 Temple Hills Road, Temple Hills  
Mon – Sat, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **UM Laurel Alternate Care Site (drive-thru)** | 7300 Van Dusen Road, Laurel  
Mon - Sun, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Washington Education Zone (drive-thru)** | 6511 Princess Garden Parkway Lanham,  
Mon - Sun, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **City of Praise Family Ministries** | 8501 Jericho City Drive Landover  
Mon, 12 – 6 p.m.; Tues – Fri, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m. 1 p.m.
- **Anne Arundel Medical Center** | 2001 Medical Parkway., Annapolis  
7 days a week, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

***Pharmacies and urgent care facilities are also providing testing.***

Visit <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing> to see what’s offered nearby. The site allows you to filter by drive-through sites, pediatric testing sites, and other criteria.

***Please note:*** *At present, the City of Bowie does not have COVID test kits for distribution to the public. The City has made a request through Prince George’s County to receive some of the kits that Maryland has secured. We are awaiting a response to the request. If Bowie receives an allocation, information about distribution will be shared widely.*

## **American Red Cross Declares Blood Crisis**

The American Red Cross has declared the first-ever Blood Crisis amid the Omicron surge. The agency stated that it is facing a national blood crisis, its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. Amid this crisis, doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available.

[Source](#)

The Bowie Senior Center will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on February 12, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment. **Proof of COVID-19 vaccination must be shown** and a mask must be worn at this blood drive.

## **Vaccinations**

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.



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).

COVID-19 vaccination operations have returned to the Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Complex. Appointments are preferred, but limited walk-in-hours are available. Vaccinations are also available at pharmacies throughout the area, usually by appointment.

### Other Vaccination Clinics

**First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville** | 6201 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville  
Sat, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Sun, noon – 4 p.m. (Ages 5+)

**Brookdale Woodward Estates** | 14997 Health Center Drive, Bowie  
Thurs 1/20, 1 – 5 p.m.

The Maryland Department of Health has 100 vaccines available for ages 18+. First come, first served. Call 301-464-4400 for information. There will also be drawings, giveaways and a food truck.

### COVID Data

COVID-19 Data (as of 1/19/22)				
	Maryland	Prince George's Co.	Bowie	
Cases	913,464 (+4,040)	156,723 (+465)	Cases: 14,201 (+39)	
Deaths	12,614 (+80)	1,889 (+11)		
Positivity Rate	18.85%	18.48%		
Case Rate Per 100K	122.96	104.23	20715: 3,058 (+7)	
<b>Maryland Hospitalizations</b>			20716: 3,117 (+8)	
Adult	Total: 3,016 (-1.4%)	ICU: 542 (-1.2%)	20720: 3,560 (+12)	
Pediatric	Total: 35 (+12.9%)	ICU: 6 (-14.2%)	20721: 4,466 (+12)	
<i>Figures above in parentheses are a one day increase since 1/18/21</i>				
Vaccine Progress				
	Maryland	Prince George's Co.		
1st of 2 Dose Received	4,581,432 (75.78%)	603,393 (66.36%)		
2nd of 2 Dose Received	4,015,528 (66.42%)	524,057 (57.63%)		
Single Dose	330,669 (5.47%)	32,325 (3.56%)		
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>				
	20715	20716	20720	20721
Fully Vax	18,769 (70.12%)	14,920 (67.56%)	17,382 (73.96%)	21,303 (71.46%)
1st Dose	20,541 (76.74%)	16,565 (75.01%)	19,615 (83.46%)	23,913 (80.22%)
Vaccine totals represent total population, not eligible population. Source: Maryland Department of Health at <a href="http://coronavirus.maryland.gov">coronavirus.maryland.gov</a>				

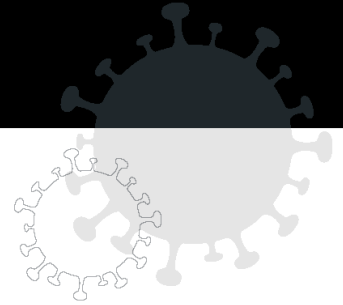


# Prince George's County and Bowie Vaccinations

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

<b>Prince George's County Fully Vaccinated Residents (as of 1/19/22)</b>	
Total #	633,526
% of Total Population	69.7%
# of Age 5+	633,504
% of Age 5+ Population	74.5%
# of Age 12+	617,909
% of Age 12+ Population	80.1%
# of Age 18+	569,263
% of Age 18+ Population	80.4%
# of Age 65+	114,165
% of Age 65 + Population	90.4%

# Facts and Misconceptions About the COVID Omicron Surge



## THE FACTS

The surge in COVID hospitalization is driven by unvaccinated and unboosted patients.

As of 11/30/21	As of 1/5/22	
Marylanders Hospitalized with COVID: <b>698</b>	Marylanders Hospitalized with COVID: <b>3,172</b>	Percentage increase in hospitalization: <b>→ 354%</b>
Marylanders Hospitalized at UMMS with COVID: <b>164</b>	Marylanders Hospitalized at UMMS with COVID: <b>800</b>	Percentage increase in UMMS hospitalization: <b>→ 388%</b>
Percent of unvaccinated COVID patients admitted to UMMS: <b>74%</b>	Percent of vaccinated COVID patients admitted to UMMS: <b>24%</b>	Percent of vaccinated & boosted COVID patients admitted to UMMS: <b>→ 2%</b>

**HOSPITALS ARE OVERWHELMED:** COVID hospitalizations are 50% higher than the 2021 peak.

**FEWER STAFF TO CARE FOR PATIENTS:** Hospitals are caring for COVID and non-COVID patients with 20% fewer employees than last year.

**WE KNOW HOW TO FIGHT THE VIRUS:** Vaccines, including boosters, masking and social distancing are proven strategies to slow the spread and prevent hospitalization and death.

**MASKS MATTER:** When PPE supplies were tight, any mask helped slow the spread. Today, masks that fit and filter better (like N95/KN95) are preferred and widely available.

## THE MISCONCEPTIONS

**I hear that people who get omicron are less likely to be hospitalized. It is not as dangerous as delta or other waves of COVID.** Wrong. Omicron is already overwhelming Maryland hospitals. Some studies say omicron comes with about a third of the risk of hospitalization as delta, but because the omicron variant is much more infectious than delta (2.7 to 3.7 times more infectious, by one estimate), many more people are ending up in the hospital over a shorter period of time.

**If I am vaccinated or boosted, it does not really matter if I get COVID. Omicron is not as dangerous as delta and it is spreading so fast that I am going to get it eventually anyway.** Wrong again. Although COVID may be mild for you, you will probably pass it on and the person you give it to could experience severe illness. When the virus spreads out of control,

we are all at risk. Nurses, doctors and health care workers who are infected at home or outside the hospital will not be available to care for patients. Meanwhile, airline pilots, bus drivers, grocery store workers, teachers, police officers, firefighters and everyone else who provides critical services and keeps us safe will also be out sick – creating not just inconveniences, but dangerous conditions for us all.

**I keep hearing different things about COVID. The advice from experts on testing, masks, vaccines and quarantines keeps changing and I do not know what to believe anymore.** It is true that guidance has changed a few times during the pandemic. As we learn about COVID, new variants of the virus and how people react to the pandemic, new advice comes along as the science evolves. It is a sign that we are getting better at fighting it.

**The COVID omicron surge will not last long. Everyone says it will be over in a few weeks.** Let's hope it doesn't last long. Just remember that every bed taken by a COVID patient is one less bed to deliver lifesaving care for people with cancer, heart disease or who have been through trauma like a car crash. As of 1/6/2022, there were about 3,200 COVID patients in Maryland hospitals and 4,600 non-COVID patients getting care. As COVID patients take more beds, people with other life-threatening illnesses could end up waiting much, much longer for care.



1/7/2022