



BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, May 12, 2022

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

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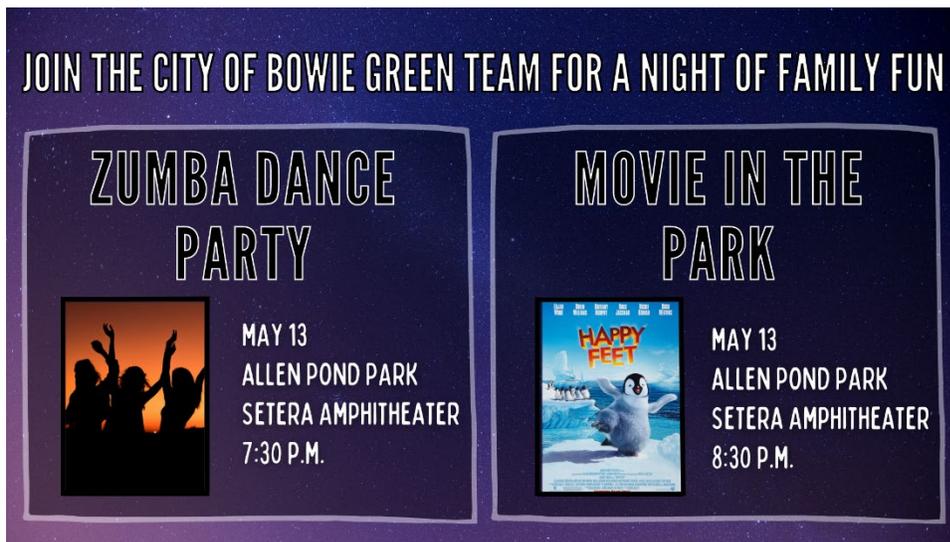
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Bowie News

Zumba and “Happy Feet”

Join the Bowie Green Team for a fun filled night tomorrow, Friday, May 13. Kick off the evening at 7:30 p.m. with a family Zumba class and dance party at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater at Allen Pond Park. At approximately 8:30 p.m., get out your blankets and chairs and enjoy the movie “Happy Feet” under the stars. The movie features a great message about saving the environment, mixed in with some great songs, and some cute penguins. Be sure to join us for this fun filled family night. Don’t forget to pack some snacks to enjoy while you watch the movie!



Bowie Farmers’ Market Opens for the Season 2022 on May 15

The Bowie Farmers’ Market opens for the 2022 season on Sunday, May 15 from 8 a.m.- 12 noon in the Bowie Center for Performing Arts parking lot (15200 Annapolis Road). The Farmers’ Market will run every Sunday through October.

Stop by and pick up some freshly roasted coffee from Black House Coffee Company. Looking for home décor? Crystal Conjure Studios will have resin coasters, trays, wall art and cheese boards. Pick up a beautiful handmade bow or wreath for your front door from Jem’s Bows & Wreaths. Have a sweet tooth? Pick up some uniquely flavored desserts from Cake Lady Desserts; or, cookies, brownies, cake, and granola from Vic’s Homemade Goodies.

View the full list of market vendors at www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket. For more information, contact Matt Corley, Special Events Manager at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

2022 Bowie Restaurant Reimbursement Grant

The Bowie Restaurant Reimbursement Grant is a grant program created by the City Council to assist small restaurant businesses located in the City of Bowie with establishing and operating outdoor

dining. Businesses with a physical establishment within the City of Bowie may be eligible to receive a one-time reimbursement of up-to \$2,500. Purchases must be made after May 2, 2022, but before November 16, 2022. Limited to one award per business entity.

Visit the program webpage at www.cityofbowie.org/restaurantgrant to read the eligibility criteria and to download the grant application.

Applications will be accepted starting Wednesday, May 18, at 7:30 a.m., and will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. The application period will end on Thursday, June 16 at 2 p.m., or may close earlier once all the available grant money has been committed, whichever date comes first.

Questions? Contact the Economic Development Office by email at jhking@cityofbowie.org for additional information.

Interested in Going Solar? Learn More About Solar Co-op

Curious about solar, or ready to make the switch? Maryland residents are invited to take part in a solar co-op virtual information session taking place today, May 12, at 6 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about solar technology, economics, financing, and more.

Register now to join the conversation at www.solarunitedneighbors.org/event/maryland-co-op-info-session2. Visit the webpage for more information and get started on your journey to energy independence. [Neighborhood Sun Solar Co-Op Webpage](#)

Budget Process

City Council is almost finished reviewing the Proposed FY23 Budget and Capital Improvements Program. The budget will take effect July 1, 2022. The final budget meeting takes place on:

- **Monday, May 16, 8 p.m.** - Adoption FY 2023 Budget and Capital Improvements Program.

Meetings are in-person and open to the public. The public can also view them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings, on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996, or on YouTube [@CityofBowieMD](#).

Update on our Career Training Program

Bowie's new job training program launched in April. This free program provides city residents with an opportunity to learn new job skills, change careers, or make themselves more marketable through a special partnership with our online training partner, Coursera.

Over 100 Bowie residents have already signed up to take advantage of our FREE online job skills training program. Slots are limited, so be sure to apply now; the only requirement is that you must be a City of Bowie resident.

This program includes two course tracks. There are still some openings in the general work training track, and several slots are still open in the “Grow with Google” professional certificate track. Classes in the Google Career Certificate track are available in fields such as data analytics, IT support, project management, user experience (UX) design, and just recently, e-commerce and digital marketing were added as options. Submit your application now at www.cityofbowie.org/jobtraining.

Mental Health Awareness Event

Did you know that May is Mental Health Month? The City has scheduled a virtual forum on mental health awareness on May 18 at 7 p.m. The Community Outreach Committee will host this forum to discuss how mental health impacts children and adults, and to bring awareness to signs or symptoms that someone is struggling. Click [here to register](#).

Walk-up COVID Test Giveaways at the Kenhill Center

Still in need of at-home COVID tests? The City of Bowie will offer free walk-up COVID test distributions starting Monday, May 16. Distributions will take place every Monday through Thursday, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Kenhill Center. Bowie households may receive up to 6 boxes of tests per family with proof of residency. Tests will also be distributed at Bowie’s Heritage Day on Sunday, May 22 at Belair Stables, as well as at Bowiefest on June 4 at Allen Pond Park. These are walk-up events only; no drive through.

Can’t make these times? Use these resources to help locate tests near you:

- The [Maryland Department of Health Test Site Locator](#) tool to find a COVID test site near you.
- The US government is distributing a second round of COVID tests. Request yours now - [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](#).

Bike to Work Week is May 16 – 22

Pedal your way to a healthier lifestyle and more environmentally friendly form of transportation during Bike to Work Week, from May 16 – 22. Put down those car keys, pick up a helmet, and join us in this national challenge. Celebrating Bike to Work Week isn’t limited to just biking to work! Ride your bike to the grocery store, bike with family and friends, bike to exercise in your local park, and, if you’re up to the challenge, bike to work.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

During the month of May, the City of Bowie recognizes Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions that individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent made to the United States. The theme for this year’s Asian Pacific American Heritage month is “Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration”. For a list of reading recommendations, events and exhibits around the county, and biographies of famous people that we celebrate this month, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/asianpacificheritage.

Bowie Heritage Weekend

Celebrate Bowie's heritage starting on Friday, May 20 and continuing through Sunday, May 22. The weekend will kick off on Friday evening with Wine and Design at the Belair Mansion. This month's creation is a patriotic red, white, and blue mesh wreath for your home. [Preregistration is required.](#) This event begins at 7 p.m. \$25 per person. Snacks and supplies are provided, just bring your own adult beverage!

On Saturday, stop by the Belair Mansion between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to purchase fresh herbs, vegetables, and flowering plants from the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and local vendors. The Bowie Green Team will also be in attendance offering eco-friendly gardening tips and tricks. This is a great way to get your young ones outside and planting!

On Saturday evening, join us for a family movie night under the stars at the Belair Mansion. The movie "Babe" will be shown at 8:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the story of an adorable pig who is not sure of his place in the world.

To round out our weekend on Sunday, come to our Heritage Day celebration at Belair Stable. It takes place from 12 – 4 p.m. Celebrate your Maryland roots as you enjoy the music from "Durham Station Band". There will also be a "Not - So - Little Three Pigs" puppet show, face painting, pony rides, craft making and old fashioned "fair games" in the kid's zone. While you are there, learn about the history of Thoroughbred horseracing in Bowie, and the farming history of the Belair Stable. For more information, please contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Youth Life Skills Group

Bowie Youth & Family Services offers a Life Skills group to help young adults aged 16 to 24 by providing the skills necessary to re-connect to high school or be successful in the workplace. The group started meeting virtually on Tuesday May 10, from 7 to 8 p.m. This group promotes health and personal development for students who are struggling with attendance at school or who are entering college or the workforce after high school. Focus is on building skills in goal setting, effective communication, managing stress, decision making and risk, time and money management, and inter-personal relationship building. Participants receive weekly gift cards to Target for participation. For more information call Rhonda Simon at Youth & Family Services 301-809-3033 or email rsimon@cityofbowie.org. Register: [LifeSkills Group](#)

Water Bill Assistance Program

City of Bowie water customers who are in arrears on their water bill accounts may be eligible for grants of \$100 - \$2,000 from the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) offered by the State of Maryland. Eligibility is determined by household income and/or participation in various state aid programs. For complete details and how to apply, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/waterassistance.

PLEASE NOTE: Bowie residents on WSSC water can obtain help with their water bills by going to www.wsscwater.com/assistance.

2021 Water Quality Report

The 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report (aka Consumer Confidence Report) has been issued by the City of Bowie. It shows that water from the City of Bowie Water System meets or exceeds all federal and state standards and that no PFAs were detected in the wells that provide Bowie water. PFA is short for per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These chemical compounds have been discovered in well water in many parts of the Country and originated from the use in fire training facilities, military installations, and airports. View the 2021 report at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr.

Honor Those Who Serve with a Flag in Bowie's Field of Honor

Between May 27 and June 5, Sussex Lane Park will be transformed into a Field of Honor, featuring a display of US flags flying in solemn formation in honor of those who serve or in memory of those who served in the past.

The park will be filled with US flags dedicated in honor of veterans, active military personnel, professions that have helped during the pandemic, and loved ones lost. Through a partnership with the Colonial Flag Foundation, those interested in participating can visit our [Field of Honor webpage](#) to purchase a flag for \$40 and dedicate it to a person or group of their choice. (Purchase deadline is May 20.) Purchased flags can be picked up at City Hall after the display concludes.

(Sussex Lane Park is the open area between Sussex Lane and Annapolis Road, located across from Bowie High School.)

Beautification Awards

The City of Bowie, in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, is seeking nominees for the 26th annual Beautification Awards Program. Nominate a garden or yard in your neighborhood.

Categories include:

- Distinguished whole yard landscaping/gardening
- Distinguished front, back, or side yard landscaping/gardening
- Distinguished specialty garden (i.e. patio garden, Japanese, butterfly, etc.)
- Distinguished wildlife habitat
- Distinguished business landscaping/garden
- Distinguished school (public or private) landscaping/garden

Nominations are due by June 24. To nominate a home or business in your neighborhood, visit www.cityofbowie.org/beautification.

Apply for the “Bowie First” Mortgage Assistance Program

The City of Bowie, in cooperation with the State of Maryland, has launched the “Bowie First” Mortgage Assistance Program. This program will provide grants to assist Bowie employees, teachers, police officers, and persons with disabilities purchasing a home in the City. The grant provides closing cost

assistance for \$2,000 and will be matched by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Mortgage Program, totaling \$4,000 for each applicant. Interested in applying? Contact bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org for additional information.

Streetlight Outages

Help us to keep the lights on in Bowie. Please report streetlight outages or other problems with streetlights to our 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 or 240-544-5690 or by visiting www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest to report the problem using our service request system.

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for several positions listed below. Full time employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life and long-term care insurance; a 401(k) with employer match; and a 457 savings plan. They also have paid holidays and earn leave. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for links to job postings.

Open until filled

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) – Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) – Police Department
- [Part-time Bus Driver](#) - Community Services
- [Part-time Theater Technician](#) – Community Services

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, May 13

- [Kid's Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum](#) | 10:30 a.m.
- [Zumba & "Happy Feet" Family Movie Night](#) | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 14

- [Straight Eight Car Show at Belar Mansion](#) | 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 15

- [Opening Day at Bowie Farmers' Market](#) | 8 a.m.

Monday, May 16

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

Wednesday, May 18

- [Mental Health Awareness Virtual Forum](#) | 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

- [Garden Cleanup at the Senior Center](#) | 10 a.m.

Friday, May 20

- [Wine and Design at Belair Mansion: Patriotic Deco Mesh Wreath](#) | 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 21

- [Heritage Weekend: Bowie-Crofton Garden Club Plant Sale at Belair Mansion](#) | 10 a.m.
- [Heritage Weekend: Movie Night at Belair Mansion](#) | 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 22

- [Heritage Day at Belair Stable](#) | 12 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

- [Fairy Tale Fun](#) | 10 a.m.

Friday, May 27

- [Field of Honor Display Begins](#) | 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 28

- [Memorial Day Parade](#) | 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 29

- [Farmers' Market](#) | 8 a.m.
- [Sunday Sunset Concert: "Rise Band & Show"](#) | 7 p.m.

Monday, May 30

- [Memorial Day, City Office's Closed](#) | 8 a.m.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar for details about other upcoming events sponsored by the City.

COVID CORNER



COVID Testing

- Use the [Maryland Department of Health Test Site Locator](#) tool to find a COVID test site near you.
- The US government is distributing a second round of COVID tests. Request yours now - [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.](#)

For updates on COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, including a complete list of clinics in the County, visit health.mypgc.us/Coronavirus

FDA Warning About Counterfeit COVID Test Kits

The FDA issued a warning informing the public that there are **counterfeit versions** of the following at-home over the counter COVID-19 diagnostic tests being distributed or used in the US:

- Flowflex COVID-19 Test Kits
- iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Kits

The [FDA website](#) contains information on how to check whether a test is counterfeit.

COVID Data

Covid-19 Data (as of 5/12/22)			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	Bowie
Cases	1,049,471 (+2,210)	175,069 (+277)	Cases: 16,300 (+41)
Deaths	14,519 (+9)	2,161 (+2)	
Positivity Rate	6.46%	7.45%	
Case Rate Per 100K	27.43	21.33	20715: 3,533 (+9)
Maryland Hospitalizations			20716: 3,543 (+7)
Adult	Total: 310 (+0.3%)	ICU: 29 (+10.3%)	20720: 4,123 (+13)
Pediatric	Total: 12 (-7.6%)	ICU: 4 (+0%)	20721: 5,101 (+12)
<i>Figures above in parentheses represent a one-day increase since 5/11/22.</i>			
Vaccine Progress - At Least One Dose			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	
CDC 18+	95%	95.0%	
CDC 5+	92.1%	94.9%	
Source: Maryland Department of Health at coronavirus.maryland.gov			

Prince George's County Vaccinations

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

Prince George's County Fully Vaccinated Residents (per CDC) as of 5/12/22 (last updated 5/10/22)	
Total #	683,227
% of Total Population	75.1%
# of Age 5+	683,191
% of Age 5+ Population	80.4%
# of Age 12+	653,017
% of Age 12+ Population	84.6%
# of Age 18+	598,981
% of Age 18+ Population	84.6%
# of Age 65+	119,592
% of Age 65 + Population	94.7%