

BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

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

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BOWIE HERITAGE WEEKEND

THE CITY OF BOWIE CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

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Bowie News

Bowie Heritage Weekend

Celebrate Bowie’s heritage starting this Friday, May 20 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 info, contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.



The City of Bowie Celebrates National Public Works Week

National Public Works Week is May 15 through May 21. Join us in honoring the amazing work of those who support the daily functions of our city. Over the years, the Public Works Department has provided countless essential services to Bowie residents - such as trash and recycling collection; maintenance of roads, sidewalks, curbs and gutters; streetlights; snow plowing operations; and more.

This week, and every week, we celebrate the members of the City of Bowie Public Works Department who have remained ready and resilient no matter the challenges faced. If you see a member of the Public Works Department this week, take a minute to thank them for their indispensable contributions to keeping our city clean and beautiful.

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 today, 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.

Volunteer to Clean Up the Senior Center Garden on 5/19

Join the Bowie Green Team tomorrow, May 19 at 10 a.m. to help clean up the beautiful garden at the Senior Center. Come ask questions, learn about the plants, and even take home some of your own! For more information contact Ashleigh Diaz at adiaz@cityofbowie.org or 301-909-3044.

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.



Walk-up COVID Test Giveaways at the Kenhill Center

Still in need of at-home COVID tests? The City of Bowie is offering free walk-up COVID tests. 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 US government is distributing a third round of COVID tests. Compared to previous rounds, you’ll be sent double the number of tests — eight instead of four – and they’ll be shipped in two separate packages. If you skipped any of the previous rounds, you’ll also be able to place a second order. Request yours now - [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#)
- Use the [Maryland Department of Health Test Site Locator](#) tool to find a COVID test site.
- County residents can receive free rapid test kits and masks at various Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) community centers. Visit the [County Health Department website](#) for a complete list of locations, dates, and times.

Bike to Work Week Ends this Friday, May 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.

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.

Memorial Day Parade

It's back! Join us on Saturday, May 28 for the annual Memorial Day parade. The parade steps off at 11 a.m. sharp. It leaves the Bowie Annex, proceeds South down Belair Drive (towards 450), turns right onto Sussex Lane, and then another right onto Stonybrook Drive. The parade finishes at Acorn Hill Park. Bands, cultural groups, girl and boy scouts, and community organizations all participate to make this parade a showstopper. Parking is available at Bowie High School and Bowie library. Bring your chairs or blankets, a snack, and an American flag to wave as the parade passes.

Parts of Belair Drive, Sussex Lane, and Stonybrook Drive will be closed Saturday morning for the parade. Please plan to take an alternate route.

After the parade, be sure to view the Field of Honor display, at Sussex Lane Park (the grassy area between Sussex Lane and 450). The flags displayed here honor veterans and active military personnel, loved ones, and other heroes. Walk through, read the card attached to the flag, and remind yourself of what Memorial Day weekend is about.



2021 Water Quality Report

The 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report (a.k.a. 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. The purchase deadline is this Friday, 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.

Closing May 27

- [Street and Storm Drain Inspector](#) – Public Works

Closing June 3

- [Part Time Ice Arena Attendant](#) – Community Services

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

Wednesday, May 18

- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

- [Garden Cleanup at the Senior Center](#) | 10 a.m.
- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.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

- [Bowie Farmers' Market](#) | 8 a.m.
- [Heritage Day at Belair Stable](#) | 12 p.m.

Monday, May 23

- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24

- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

- [Fairy Tale Fun](#) | 10 a.m.
- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.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.

Tuesday, June 1

- [Staying Active in Your Senior Years with Proper Footwear](#) | 10 a.m.
- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 2

- [COVID Test Kit Giveaway at the Kenhill Center](#) | 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 4

- [Bowiefest](#) | 11 a.m.

Sunday, June 5

- [Bowie Farmers' Market](#) | 8 a.m.
- [Sunday Sunset Concert: "Priceless Advice" \(90's music\)](#) | 7 p.m.

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

COVID CORNER



COVID Testing

It's allergy season. COVID-19 & seasonal allergies share some symptoms, but not others. If you feel sick, you may need a COVID-19 test.

	COVID-19	Allergies
Fever or Chills	✓	✗
Cough	✓	✓
Body Aches	✓	✗
Headaches	✓	✓
Tiredness	✓	✓
Loss of Taste or Smell	✓	✗
Shortness of Breath	✓	✗*
Sore Throat	✓	✓
Sneezing	✓	✓
Itchy or Watery Eyes	✗	✓
Runny or Stuffy Nose	✓	✓

COMMON
 NOT COMMON

*Seasonal allergies do not usually cause shortness of breath, unless a person has a respiratory condition such as asthma that can be triggered by pollen.

Visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

- The US government is distributing a third round of COVID tests. Compared to previous rounds, you'll be sent double the number of tests — eight instead of four – and they'll be shipped in two separate packages. If you skipped any of the previous rounds, you'll also be able to place a second order. Request yours now - [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#)

- Use the [Maryland Department of Health Test Site Locator](#) tool to find a COVID test site.
- County residents can receive free rapid test kits and masks at various Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) community centers. Visit the [County Health Department website](#) for a complete list of locations, dates, and times.

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.

County Recommends Voluntary Mask Wearing in Indoor Public Places

Due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, COVID-19 cases have been steadily rising in Prince George’s County and the State over the last seven weeks. This recent rise is substantially lower compared to the winter Omicron case surge.

However, out of an abundance of caution and to help the County avoid rising into the CDC’s “Medium” COVID-19 Community Level, the Prince George’s County Health Department recommends residents ages two and older wear masks in indoor public places voluntarily. Masks remain required in congregate health care settings, County public schools and libraries, and in any business or organization that chooses to require them.



COVID Data

Covid-19 Data (as of 5/17/22)			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	Bowie
Cases	1,060,243 (+2,292)	176,416 (+759)	Cases: 16,523 (+114)
Deaths	14,542 (+18)	2,166 (+2)	
Positivity Rate	8.02%	8.98%	
Case Rate Per 100K	34.31	27.96	20715: 3,580 (+33)
Maryland Hospitalizations			20716: 3,583 (+12)
Adult	Total: 403 (+14.4%)	ICU: 38 (+2.7%)	20720: 4,187 (+32)
Pediatric	Total: 12 (-29%)	ICU: 1 (-75%)	20721: 5,173 (+37)
<i>Figures above in parentheses represent a one-day increase since 5/16/22.</i>			
Vaccine Progress - At Least One Dose			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	
CDC 18+	95%	95%	
CDC 5+	92.2%	95%	
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 5/18/22 (last updated 5/16/22)	
Total #	684,282
% of Total Population	75.3%
# of Age 5+	684,245
% of Age 5+ Population	80.5%
# of Age 12+	653,936
% of Age 12+ Population	84.8%
# of Age 18+	599,846
% of Age 18+ Population	84.7%
# of Age 65+	119,880
% of Age 65 + Population	94.9%