

Bowie News Flash

March 2020

News

Get the Facts on the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

News about the novel coronavirus is everywhere and it is sometimes difficult to separate the facts from the hype. To help, we have compiled some basic facts about the virus, and how to protect against the flu and other viruses at www.cityofbowie.org/corona. We have also produced a very short video about the virus. We plan to update the information regularly.

The Office of Emergency Management is monitoring the rapidly evolving situation and staff members are in constant contact with the Maryland Department of Health and the Prince George's County Health Department. These agencies have statutory responsibility to respond to any and all health emergencies.

Currently, the primary goal is to provide coordinated and consistent information to the public to prevent any person-to-person spread. If the situation worsens and a health emergency is declared, the goal will be to take steps to limit the spread of the virus. The City will support the efforts of the Health Department to isolate or quarantine those who have contracted the virus and may take actions such as social distancing (cancellation of public meetings, gatherings and events).

Make Sure Bowie Counts!

It is Census time! The 2020 Census is the first one that can be completed electronically or by telephone. Paper forms will also be available in a few weeks, but the hope is that most people will complete the form electronically.

You will soon receive mailings from the Census, including an invitation to complete the form online. April 1 is designated as *Census Day* because that is the day that the count is based on. In other words, you will be reporting how many people live in your household as of April 1, 2020. However, you can complete the form online as soon as the website goes live, which is expected to be around March 12. We encourage you to respond just as soon as you are able.

For those who do not have internet access, but want to file their response electronically, we can help! The City will have three Census Hubs set up for the next two months. At City Hall, the City Gymnasium, and the Senior Center there will be a computer set up for

you to come in and complete your form online. The two Bowie libraries will also function as Census Hubs.

Federal law requires that every household complete the Census. Not only is it the law, but the 10-year census helps to determine funding levels for schools, transportation, emergency response, and a variety of other programs. Getting a complete count is critically important to making sure that Bowie and Prince George's County get their share of funding. Estimates are that each County resident counted equates to \$1,825 per year in funding. Undercounting means that our City and County will miss out on funding for critical programs. Let's all do our part to make sure that doesn't happen by completing the Census.

Learn more about the upcoming Census at www.2020census.gov or pgcensus2020.org.

City Council Meetings to Note

- **March 16** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Traffic Calming Device Criteria

City Accepting Nominations for the Hall of Honor

The Hall of Honor is a way of recognizing those citizens of Bowie who have made "major and lasting contributions" to the City. A nominee must be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline, have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie, and have been a resident of the City either during the time of their contribution or at the time of their death. For information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m. **March 9, 2020** at City Hall.

Student Scholarships

The City Council believes it is important to recognize and help students through various City scholarship programs.

- **Art Scholarship** – This scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing studies in an arts-related field. **Deadline is March 9, 2020.**
- **Education Scholarship** – Scholarships are awarded to Bowie students who have excelled during their high school career. Students should contact the Guidance Department at their high school as soon as possible in order to be considered for this scholarship. **Deadline is March 9, 2020.**

Scholarship applications for high school seniors with Bowie addresses are now available. For information about either scholarship program, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Lightbulbs and Libations at Crescent Wine & Spirits

On March 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., properly dispose of your old mercury Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) at this lightbulb exchange! Bring up to ten CFLs and City staff will provide you with one LED bulb. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

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 calendar year 2019. 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 20, 2020. Download the nomination form at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms or pick one up at City Hall. For more information, contact Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Attention Employers and Job Seekers

Bowie Youth and Family Services has opened registration for our Fourth Annual Young Adult Job Fair. The event will take place at the City Gymnasium on Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Approximately 30 employers and 315 young adults participated in 2019. The overwhelming majority of last year’s attendees connected with a potential employer. We will also offer Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshops, conducted by seasoned professionals at the Job Fair. Tables are free, but space is limited. Employers may register their businesses now at www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair.

An additional Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshop will be held at Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive) on Thursday **March 12**, from 6 to 8 p.m. The workshop is free and open to all young adults. Space is limited and registration is required at www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair. For more information, please call Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033.

Weed Warrior Workday

On **March 28**, join members of the Bowie Green Team and volunteer in the community to remove English Ivy from trees. English Ivy is an invasive species that hurts trees so we work to remove it from our local parks. All Weed Warrior Workdays are at Whitemarsh Park, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, or to register, please contact Ashleigh Armentrout at aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org. This is a Student Service Learning (SSL) opportunity.

Bowie Ice Arena Events

Public skating sessions are offered daily; the calendar can be viewed online. For information, call 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

- Two Dollar Tuesdays –every Tuesday in March, from 4 - 5 p.m. Admission and skate rental is \$2 per person.
- Summer Camp registration begins March 15
- April Group Lessons registration begins March 19

What's Bouncing at the City Gym?

- **Morning Walking** Weekdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m.
- **Pickleball** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **Coed Recreational Volleyball** Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. No experience needed.
- **Senior Fit** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 - 10 a.m. Hosted by Holy Cross Hospital at the Gym. Participants must register with Holy Cross. For information and registration, call Sara McKechnie at 301-754-7895.

The Bowie Gymnasium will host two **basketball camps** this summer for boys and girls, ages 8 – 14. They will take place the weeks of June 22 - 26 and July 13 - 17. Register now. For more information, contact Mike Lonergan at mlonergan@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-2383.

Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 15

Save the date for Bowie's annual Bike to Work Day. It is Friday, May 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. at two Bowie pit stops – the Bowie City Gym and the Old Town Bowie Fire Station. This is a free event full of food, fun and prizes. Online registration opens in early March at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. For more information, contact Frank Stevens at 301-809-3053 or fstevens@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Race Track

The future of the Bowie Race Track site is under discussion in the 2020 session of the Maryland General Assembly. There are two bills pertaining to the racing industry. The Senate version would require a majority of the race track site go to the City, while the House version of the bill would create a task force to study what should be done with the property. The Mayor and City Council support turning over the property to the City of Bowie for open space and recreational uses. Learn more about the issue at www.cityofbowie.org/racetrack.

Planning a Home Improvement?

Are you planning a home improvement? Building permits from Prince George's County and the City of Bowie are required to ensure proper construction and compliance with community standards. Projects requiring permits include: addition, deck, driveway extension or replacement with different material, fence, porch (new or enclosing), sign, shed and solar panels. Failing to obtain permits can be very expensive and frustrating, especially when a structure has to be removed because it does not comply with County or City standards. Do not take a chance; check before you build. For more information,

please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance.

Join the Chorus of Residents Supporting a Trader Joe's in Bowie

The City Council believes that Trader Joe's would be an excellent addition to the grocery store offerings in Bowie. If you agree, and would like to see Trader Joe's open their next store in Bowie, please visit our link at www.cityofbowie.org/traderjoes and make sure Trader Joe's management knows what you are thinking.

Never been to a Trader Joe's? There is one located at 160F Jennifer Road in Annapolis Plaza next to Annapolis Mall. It is a small, upscale grocery store offering a variety of unusual healthy foods and products. For more information about economic development in the City of Bowie, contact John Henry King at 301-809-3042 or email jhking@cityofbowie.org.

Streetlight Outages

Help us to keep the lights on, Bowie. Please report street light 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 Dawn Cullins at 301-809-2336 or dcullins@cityofbowie.org or visit our service request system to report the problem (www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest)

City Hall Art Gallery: Bowie Schools Youth Art Show

This exhibit runs through April 2020. The Gallery is free and open to the public during City Hall hours. For more information, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City of Bowie Water System is required to issue a report on the quality of the drinking water. The 2019 Drinking Water Quality Report can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/wqr.

Early Voting for Maryland Primary Election

Maryland's Presidential Primary takes place on Tuesday, April 28. Polls will be open that day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters may opt to vote by absentee ballot or during the Early Voting period (April 16 to April 23). The Bowie Gymnasium, located at 4100 Northview Drive, is one of several Early Voting sites in Prince George's County. Voters can cast their vote at the City Gym from Thursday, April 16 to Thursday, April 23, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you wait to vote on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned polling place (not the City Gym). For more information about the upcoming Presidential Primary, please contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 301-341-7300.

Chief Chat #2 is Available

The Bowie Police Department is focused on community policing and on building bridges between residents and the officers who serve them.

To that end, Chief Nesky has begun a monthly video chat with the community. Last month's chat was about thefts from auto. This one is more ambitious. It covers the organization of the Police Department, speeding, neighborhood patrols, and addresses many of the comments regarding the Police Department that came up at the recent listening sessions. The video may be viewed on the government channel, on the Police Department's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bowiecitypd), and on the City's YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/8O189wa5C3Y>). The latest video is 27 minutes, but it's well worth your time.

Litter

During the recent listening sessions, a lot of you raised concerns about the litter problem in our community, especially along the major roads like Crain Highway (US 301), Central Avenue (MD 214), and Annapolis Road (MD 450). Visit www.cityofbowie.org/listening and click the "Litter" tab for information and links to online forms for reporting litter.

Jobs

The City of Bowie is seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Building Maintenance Worker I –Part time (closes 3/13)
- Park Aide (closes 3/13)
- Park Attendant (closes 3/13)
- Temporary Laborer – Seasonal (closes 3/13)
- Solid Waste Collector (closes 3/13)
- Utilities Supervisor (closes 3/13)
- Accounting Technician (closes 3/16)
- Temporary Laborer – SWM (closes 3/16)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level (open)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for more information, or to apply.

County Hearing March 23 on Countywide Sectional Map Amendment

County residents recently received a letter from the Prince George's County Planning Department providing notice of public hearing on March 23, 2020 on the Countywide Sectional Map Amendment (CMA). This is the countywide rezoning related to the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite that was approved by the Prince George's County Council in 2018. It is not related to the Bowie Master Plan, which will be updated over the next two years.

The new zones proposed in the CMA are basically the same as the old zones, as they apply to properties. For the most part, the proposed zoning is a change in name only. The Joint Public Hearing of the County Planning Board and District Council is scheduled for

March 23. More information and a comparison map is available on the County's project website: <http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com>. The City Council received a briefing about the CMA at its meeting on Monday, March 2, 2020. You can view that meeting at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings.

If you have any questions regarding the Countywide Sectional Map Amendment, please contact the project team at 301-952-4944 or email zoningpgc@pgplanning.com. The meeting takes place at Prince George's Community College in the Largo Student Center, located at 301 Largo road in Largo. It begins at 7 p.m.

Events

3/9 Hall of Honor Nominations Due at Bowie City Hall by 5 p.m. For information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org. Nomination forms are available at www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms.

3/9 Arts and Education Scholarship Applications Due at Bowie City Hall by 5 p.m. For information about either scholarship program, please contact Lori Cunningham at 240-544-5601 or lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

3/10 Fairy Tale Fun 10 a.m. at Belair Mansion. Ages 2 - 8, with adult. Stories, snack and a craft. Free. For more information, contact museumevents@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3089.

3/10 Two Dollar Tuesdays 4 - 5 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

3/10 DAR Lecture Series: News Broadcasting During WWII 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, contact museumevents@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3089.

3/12 Creative Coloring 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

3/12 "In a League of Their Own" Panel Discussion 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

3/12 Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshop 6 - 8 p.m. at Kenhill Center. Space is limited and registration is required at <https://www.cityofbowie.org/2358/Young-Adult-Job-Fair>. For more information, please call Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033.

3/13-3/29 Fences weekends at Bowie Playhouse. For ticket information: 301-805-0219 or www.bctheatre.com.

3/14 Women’s History Series: *The Lady Editor, Sarah Josepha Hale* 1 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Free. For more information, contact museumevents@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3089.

3/15 Summer Camp Registration Begins Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

3/16 City Council Meeting 8 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda item: Traffic Calming Device Criteria

3/17 Two Dollar Tuesdays 4 - 5 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

3/17 *Lightbulbs and Libations at Crescent Wine & Spirits* 4 - 6 p.m. at Crescent Wine & Spirits, Bowie Marketplace. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

3/19 “Show Stoppers” Variety Show 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

3/19 April Group Lessons Registration Begins at Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

3/20 Bowie Senior Magic Show 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300.

3/20 Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award Nominations Due at Bowie City Hall by 5 p.m. For information about either scholarship program, please contact Lori Cunningham at 240-544-5601 or lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

3/20 Wine N’ Design: Spring Wreath 7 p.m. at Belair Mansion. \$25 per person. Advance reservation required. For more information, contact museumevents@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3089.

3/21 Young Adult Job Fair 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the City Gymnasium. Employers may register at www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair. For more information, please call Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033.

3/21 Feral Cat Information Class 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Kenhill Center. For more information, please contact Bowie Animal Control at ldowell@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3002.

3/23 Prince George’s County Sectional Map Amendment Public Hearing 7 p.m. at the Largo Student Center at Prince George’s Community College.

3/24 Two Dollar Tuesdays 4 - 5 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

3/28 Weed Warrior Workday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Whitemarsh Park. For more information, contact Ashleigh Armentrout at 301-809-3044 or aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org.

3/31 Two Dollar Tuesdays 4 - 5 p.m. at Bowie Ice Arena. For more information, contact the Ice Arena at 301-809-3090 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Mark your calendars...

- Electronics Recycling Day – April 25
- Prescription Drug Take Back Day – April 25
- Community Shredding Event – June 20
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