



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

April 2020

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Limit the Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The City of Bowie continues to coordinate with State and County Health Departments and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency on all response actions. Officials are taking appropriate steps to address the situation and work to limit the spread of the virus.

Everyone can do their part to help respond to this evolving public health threat. Experts recommend frequent and thorough hand washing; covering coughs and sneezes; cleaning frequently touched surfaces regularly with disinfectant; and staying home and practicing social distancing. If you have any reason to suspect coronavirus infection, contact your health care provider for guidance.

In keeping with Governor Hogan's orders, and the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, all City facilities are currently closed to the public. City services will continue with some modifications for social distancing. More information and updates may be found on the City's coronavirus page at www.cityofbowie.org/corona.

Please note the following:

Public Works Curbside Collections Continue with Modifications In an effort to protect the solid waste crews, the following changes to curbside collections will be put in place **effective Wednesday, March 25**: 1) Trash must be placed in trash cans or closed bags. No loose trash will be picked up; 2) Special pickup is suspended; and 3) Recycling must be in recycling bins or carts. No loose items will be picked up. Thank you for your understanding.

Utilities The City of Bowie Water System and other utilities in the region have suspended late fees and shutoffs during this emergency. Contact your provider or visit their websites for details.

Parks Update Allen Pond, Buckingham, Centennial, Glen Allen, Kenhill and Whitmarsh Parks are open. However, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, playgrounds, picnic areas, courts, ballfields, and fitness equipment are now closed and off limits. Do not participate or allow your children to participate in activities or group play involving more than 10 people (per the Governor's order).

Bowie Police Department currently has restricted access to the facility. Please call **240-544-5700** for assistance or use the intercom in the small vestibule area at the entrance to the Department. Speed camera citations may be paid online or by calling **301-809-3016**; late fees are waived.

Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund The Pantry is open, with some changes in operations. Visit the Pantry website for information, www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Helping Families Cope with the Pandemic Bowie Youth & Family Services has published a list of resources to help families cope with the pandemic. Find the link on the resources tab at www.cityofbowie.org/corona.

Meals for School Children Grab & Go meals are available to Prince George's School System students weekdays at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and other schools; for details, www.pgcps.org.

Need Health Care? Sign up for Maryland Health Connection Uninsured Maryland residents may enroll in a health plan through April 15, 2020. Coverage begins April 1, 2020, regardless of enrollment date. Visit www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov, select "Coronavirus Special Enrollment Period". For more information, call 855-642-8571, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., weekdays.

COVID-19 Testing The State of Maryland and County health departments are working to make more testing available. FEDEX field is going to be a major testing site, as are five Vehicle Emissions Testing facilities around the state. When they receive the necessary tests and supplies, they will open for drive through testing. Tests will be administered to those who have doctor's orders to be tested and those with symptoms, but only after they have gone through a brief screening process to confirm that testing is warranted. Individuals should contact their primary care physician to discuss their symptoms and determine if a test is necessary. Visit the symptoms page on the CDC website, www.cdc.gov, for a list of symptoms and to use the Coronavirus Self Checker.

We are all in this together. It is imperative that we all do our part to limit contact with others and exercise social distancing.

Make Sure Bowie Counts!

It is Census time! The 2020 Census is the first to be completed electronically or by telephone. Paper forms will also be available, but the hope is that most people will complete the form electronically. Take time while you are home now and cross this off your "to do" list.

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 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 Census at www.2020census.gov.

City Council Meetings to Note

- **April 6** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Bowie Town Center, 2020-2025 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Recognition of former Mayor G. Frederick Robinson
- **April 13** Special City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Introduction of Budget Ordinance and CIP Resolution, Budget Worksession #1

City Council Meetings are currently closed to public attendance. Residents may view meetings online at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings or on Verizon channel 10 or Comcast channel 71 and 996. Those wishing to submit testimony for public hearings, or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Council meeting, can send a text message to 240-335-3282 or email written or video testimony/comments to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org. Or, mail the comments to City Hall. For more information, contact the City Clerk at **301-809-3029** or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

Budget Review Begins in April

City Council begins reviewing the Proposed FY21 Budget and Capital Improvements Program in April. This Budget takes effect **July 1, 2020**. Meetings begin at 8 p.m.

- **April 13** Budget Introduction, Public Hearing, & Budget Worksession #1 – General Fund Revenues, Capital Improvement Program, and Capital Projects Fund
- **April 20** Budget Worksession #2 - Public Works Department and Water and Sewer Fund
- **April 27** Budget Worksession #3 - Community Services Department
- **April 29** Budget Worksession #4 City Manager's Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental
- **May 4** Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing
- **May 11** Budget Worksession #5 - Planning and Community Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, and Appendix (including the Plan of Compensation)
- **May 18** Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program

MUSEUMS and ICE ARENA

All closed to the public.

ADULTS 55+

Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive
301-809-2300

The Senior Center is closed to the public.

SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION continues for essential medical appointments and to ensure that seniors have essential supplies and groceries.

SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

Homebound meals will continue to be delivered to those registered for the program. For information, contact the Prince George's County Department of Aging Senior Nutrition Program at 301-265-8475.

CAN YOU HELP?

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a program designed to help Seniors (65+) or individuals with a disability who live in the City of Bowie and are in need of assistance. At the current time seniors and those with compromised immune systems are being encouraged to remain at home. To assist them in obtaining necessary food and medications, we are looking for volunteers willing to shop for groceries or pick up a prescription at a drug store.

If you can help, please complete a Neighbors Helping Neighbors application and return it as soon as possible. If you are a Senior in need of help, a form is available for you to complete as well. For applications, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/cityforms.
Information: 301-809-2300

CITY GYM

Bowie Senior Center
4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

The Gym is closed to the public.

SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP The City Gym will host summer basketball camps June 22-26 and July 13-17, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., for boys and girls ages 8 - 14. Cost is \$210 for residents and \$225 for nonresidents. For information, contact Mike Loneragan at mloneragan@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-2383 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym.

Please Note:

All meetings, programs, services and operations are subject to change or cancellation, based on the status of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please confirm before you act.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Tim Adams
Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Bofo
Michael P. Esteve
Henri Gardner
Ingrid Harrison
Roxy Ndebumadu
Dufour Woolfley

CITY MANAGER

Alfred D. Lott
301-809-3030

For the City's latest information and updates on the corona virus, COVID-19, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/corona.