



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

May 2020

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Let's Continue to Limit the Spread of 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.

All City facilities are closed to the public. All City events are canceled through May 31. Bowiefest, which usually takes place on the first Saturday in June, is also canceled for this year. City services continue with 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 are currently in place:

- **Trash must be placed in trash cans or closed bags. No loose trash will be picked up.**
- **Special pickup is suspended. Yardwaste continues to be collected on Wednesdays.**
- **Recycling must be in recycling bins or carts. No loose items will be picked up.**

Bowie Farmers' Market Opens in mid-May, with strict social distancing guidelines established by the State for Maryland Farmers' Markets.

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 City Parks are open. However, playgrounds, picnic areas, courts, ballfields, and fitness equipment are closed and off limits.

Bowie Police Department 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.

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

COVID-19 Testing The state of Maryland recently secured 500,000 test kits from South Korea. This large shipment of tests will dramatically increase the state's ability to test for COVID-19. More test kits will still be needed, but this is a big step forward. Individuals should contact their primary care physician to discuss any symptoms and determine if a test is necessary. Visit the symptoms page on the CDC website, www.cdc.gov.

Maryland Face Covering Order Face coverings or masks must be worn by: customers and employees at all retail establishments; customers and employees at all food delivery and pickup locations; all when riding any form of public transportation in Maryland.

Make Sure Bowie Counts!

So far, 66% of Bowie households have completed the 2020 Census. Let's reach for 100%! Take time now, while you are home, and cross this off your "to do" list. Federal law requires that every household complete the Census. The 10-year census helps to determine funding levels for schools, transportation, emergency response, and other programs. Getting a complete count is important to making sure that we get our fair share of funding. Estimates show that each resident counted equates to \$1,825 per year in funding. Let's all do our part to make sure Bowie counts! Learn more at www.2020census.gov.

City Council Meetings to Note

- **May 4** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. FY 2021 Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing
- **May 11** Council Meeting, 8 p.m. 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** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program

City Council Meetings are currently closed to public attendance. Meetings and Budget Worksessions continue to take place virtually during the pandemic. View them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings or on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channel 71 and 996. Those wishing to submit comments for public hearings or the citizen participation portion of Regular Meetings may do so by sending the testimony to City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org or by texting 240-335-3282. Comments must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Meeting agendas are posted at www.cityofbowie.org/agenda.

Helping Families Cope with the Pandemic

Counselors at **Bowie Youth & Family Services** are available to help families and individuals during this stressful time. Bowie Youth & Family Services serves individuals, families and groups in the Bowie community. We continue to offer counseling for all families in the City who have children in the home who are high school age or younger through our new, confidential online platform. We are also available to offer referrals and support by phone to all residents who are experiencing stress and who need assistance. Our staff members are licensed clinicians who each hold a graduate degree in a mental health specialty and who have years of training and experience in treating individuals and families. Please call **1-513-817-3158** for assistance, or to arrange for a tele-appointment. For more resources to help families cope with the pandemic, visit www.cityofbowie.org/corona, and select "Guidance for Parents".

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has expanded the volunteer-based Neighbors Helping Neighbors program to offer free grocery and medication delivery for seniors (65+) and disabled residents of the City of Bowie. Those most vulnerable can stay home and allow volunteers to shop for groceries and deliver goods to their home. Seniors are only responsible for reimbursing the volunteer for the cost of the groceries. There is no delivery fee.

If you are a City of Bowie senior or disabled person in need of assistance, please complete the NHN Senior or Disabled Application at www.cityofbowie.org/nhn. If you would like to volunteer to help seniors or disabled residents, please complete the NHN Volunteer Application at www.cityofbowie.org/nhn. If you have any questions or know of a senior that may benefit from this program, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

Keep Bowie Beautiful!

Yard maintenance is one way you can help keep Bowie beautiful while staying safe at home. Remember to cut grass and weeds before they exceed 8 inches in height. Trim bushes and shrubs so they do not extend beyond the edge of the sidewalk or street. Trim trees so there is a 9 foot clearance over the sidewalk and 14 foot clearance over the street. Be sure bagged yard waste is in paper bags and placed at the curb after 5 p.m. on Tuesday for Wednesday collection. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 240-508-7151 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance.

Please dispose of all Personal Protective Equipment - gloves, face masks, etc. - in a trash receptacle. Do not drop on the ground, sidewalk, grass or parking lot. Let's keep everyone safe!

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

ADULTS 55+

Bowie Senior Center
301-809-2300

The Senior Center is closed to the public. Staff is available Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., to answer questions and assist with referrals; call 301-809-2300.

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM You may be eligible to receive seven frozen meal packs delivered to your home weekly. For information, contact the Prince George's County Department of Aging at 301-265-8475.

BOWIE FOOD PANTRY

Provides food to needy residents of Bowie. New clients must show ID with proof of Prince George's County address. For more information, call 301-262-6765 or visit www.bowiefoodpantry.org

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Volunteers provide assistance with grocery shopping and prescription pick up so seniors may stay home. For information, see item at left or visit www.cityofbowie.org/nhn or call 240-544-5601.

For **exercise and wellness** tips, visit the Senior Center website, www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter.

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. Contact Mike Lonergan at mlonergan@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-2383 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym.

ICE ARENA

3330 Northview Drive
301-809-3090

The Ice Arena is closed to the public.

SUMMER CAMPS The Ice Arena is accepting registration for half-day, full-day and specialty camps. Please visit, www.cityofbowie.org/icearena

Xfinity Office

Because City facilities are closed, so too is the Xfinity office at Kenhill Center. Customers may call 800-266-2278 or 800-934-6489 for assistance. If you must drop off equipment or conduct other business in person, visit the Largo office at 10432 Campus Way South, Mon. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Tim Adams
Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Bofo
Michael P. Esteve
Henri Gardner
Ingrid Harrison
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CITY MANAGER

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