

# Bowie News Flash

## May 2020

Each month, the City of Bowie publishes the Monthly News Flash to keep you informed about what is happening in Bowie. The May edition, like the April one before it, focuses heavily on COVID-19. We're hopeful that by the June or July issue, we will have less COVID news to report and more events and programs to promote.

Below is a recap of the COVID-19 news that we have shared over the past month in the daily updates. At the end of this document, there are a few other news items, unrelated to the pandemic.

### May 13 Update

This afternoon, Maryland Governor Hogan is expected to announce some further easing of the restrictions that have been in place for the last several weeks. However, due to the high numbers of cases in Prince George's County and Montgomery County, we are not anticipating that the restrictions will be eased immediately in those counties. The press conference is scheduled for 5 p.m. today.

Today, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Prince George's County topped 10,000. This puts our county at #26 among US counties in terms of the number of cases. Fairfax County, Montgomery County, and Washington, DC are also among the top 50 counties in the nation with the most cases.

The City of Bowie continues to coordinate with State and County Health Departments and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency on all response actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are planning for a phased reopening of the city government when the outbreak subsides in the County and we are authorized to do so.

All City facilities remain closed to the public. All City events are canceled through at least 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. Changes are shared in the daily COVID-19 updates and posted on social media and at [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org). Also be sure to visit [www.cityofbowie.org/corona](http://www.cityofbowie.org/corona) for more information.

### Governor Hogan's May 6 Order:

- Elective Surgeries are permitted, at the discretion of local hospitals and health care providers.
- The safe outdoor activities list is expanded to include golf, tennis, boating, recreational fishing, and camping.

- State parks can resume functions and playgrounds in those state parks can reopen. All state beaches can reopen for walking and exercise. **Public health guidance and physical distancing rules must still be followed with these activities.**
- Local governments may take similar actions at their discretion. (*Note: The City of Bowie has not opened playgrounds or lifted any social distancing restrictions in city parks at this time.*)

### Previous Orders

- **Maryland Face Covering Order**  
Effective **April 18, 2020**, 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.
- **Governor Hogan** issued a **Stay-at-Home** executive order for Marylanders to stop the spread of the coronavirus on **March 30, 2020**. No one should leave their home for any reason other than essential work, to get food and medicine, or other fundamental reason. Walking, biking and running outdoors is acceptable (in groups of 10 or less). No one should travel outside of the state or ride public transportation unless it is “absolutely necessary.”
- **Governor Hogan** enacted an executive order closing all non-essential businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities in Maryland effective Monday, **March 23, 2020**.
- The **Bowie City Council** declared a **Public Health Emergency** on **March 17, 2020**. The City Council approved this declaration so that it may take additional steps to address the pandemic if needed and to make sure the City receives all emergency reimbursements available.

## Stopping the Spread

### Testing in Prince George’s County

Prince George’s County testing site is located at the Health Department’s Cheverly Health Center located near Prince George’s Hospital, at 3003 Hospital Drive. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. by appointment only. Call your health provider if you think you may have COVID-19 or call the Prince George’s County COVID-19 testing hotline at 301-883-6627.

Children’s National Hospital in Washington, DC has a pediatric drive-thru testing center. Contact your child’s health care provider for guidance before going for a test.

### **CDC Expands List of COVID-19 Symptoms**

COVID-19 patients are reporting a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. The CDC now says that any of the following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Contact your medical provider to discuss your symptoms. Seek immediate medical attention if you have any of the following emergency warning signs for COVID-19:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*Please note: This list is not all inclusive. Consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you. Call 911 if you have a medical emergency: Notify the operator that you have, or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a cloth face covering before medical help arrives.*

### **CDC Guidance on Living in Close Quarters**

If you are living in a small space or with several other people, or with someone who has been exposed to the coronavirus, the CDC has issued new guidance for you.

[Living in Close Quarters Guidance](#)

### **CDC Guidance on Cleaning & Disinfecting for Reopening**

While Maryland is not at the point where it can provide a specific date for reopening, there is a lot of planning taking place at all levels for government to make sure that strategies are in place to help reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus when restrictions are eventually lifted. Yesterday the CDC issued guidance on cleaning different types of facilities (public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools) and surfaces for reopening. There is also useful information in the document on cleaning and disinfecting your home.

[Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)

### **Properly Dispose of PPE**

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!

### **Poultry Industry Outbreaks**

Leaders in the Delmarva region are taking aggressive steps to address the poultry processing outbreaks to protect the workers and protect the food supply. Widespread testing of poultry workers is underway and a federal team has been brought in to help deal with the outbreaks.

### **Nursing Homes**

Currently, there are clusters of cases at 153 nursing homes and 78 group homes around the state. The outbreaks in nursing homes have accounted for 19% of the total cases in the state and 50% of deaths.

To combat this, On April 29, the Governor issued an executive order requiring universal testing of ALL residents and staff at all Maryland nursing homes. Facilities will be prioritized based on an imminent outbreak or a current rising threat risk. Under the order, it will be mandatory for facilities to fully comply with strike teams deployed by the state to help stem the outbreaks. It further requires that each resident be evaluated by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or registered nurse on a daily basis. Bridge Teams can be sent in to help with clinical staffing in some of these facilities, if needed.

Nursing homes will also be required to provide regular informational updates to their residents, resident representatives, and staff regarding COVID19 infections. View the order at <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nursing-Homes-Amended-4.29.20.pdf>.

## **Financial Assistance**

### **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Site**

The Maryland Department of Labor has launched a new, one-stop unemployment insurance application allowing Marylanders to file claims for all unemployment programs entirely online. This includes the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program which was created under the federal CARES Act. PUA expands benefits to individuals who are not usually eligible for regular unemployment insurance such as sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed workers.

Those individuals who cannot work due to COVID-19 are eligible for a maximum of 39 weeks of benefits which includes \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC). Benefits will be paid back to the earliest date of eligibility. Use the link below to get more information and sign up to receive an email update when filing opens for PUA benefit.

[Frequently Asked Questions about the new Maryland Unemployment system.](#)  
[Apply here](#)

### **Prince George's County Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

Prince George's County introduced the Emergency Rental Assistance Program which will provide temporary rental and utility assistance, up to \$1800 per month for three months, for households meeting the income eligibility requirements. The application

process is now open. For more information or to apply for this emergency program, visit [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3471/COVID-19-Emergency-Rental-Assistance](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3471/COVID-19-Emergency-Rental-Assistance).

### **Need health insurance? Covid-19 Special Enrollment Open Now!**

Do you need health insurance? Maryland Health Connections' COVID-19 Special Enrollment Session is open until June 15 for uninsured residents to apply for health insurance, including Medicaid. Get covered by visiting <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>

### **Maryland Coronavirus Information for Businesses**

See a list of the various COVID-19 related state and federal programs to help businesses manage during this emergency at <https://govstatus.egov.com/md-coronavirus-business>.

### **Payroll Protection Program Funds Still Available for Small Businesses**

On April 27, a second round of funding became available for small businesses and nonprofits to help provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed. These loans fall under the Small Business Administration, which says it can forgive the portion of Paycheck Protection loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest. Loan payments may be deferred for one year, and the loans are retroactive to February 15, 2020, so that employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020. Small businesses can contact an approved lender to apply. View a list of these lenders at: <https://www.sba.gov/document/support--paycheck-protection-program-participating-lenders>.

### **Prince George's County Arts Emergency Relief Fund**

The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council has announced the creation of the Prince George's County Arts Community Emergency Relief Fund to support the creative community during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.pgahc.org/emergencyrelieffund>.

### **Prince George's County's COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund**

The Prince George's County's COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund was established to help hourly employees who have been laid off because of the pandemic. Individuals who are deemed eligible may be able to receive a \$200 cash card. According to the County website, preference will be given to those earning \$19/hour or less prior to being laid off. To learn more or to apply for this program, visit [www.employpg.org/covid19](http://www.employpg.org/covid19).

## **Mental Health**

### **Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers Services and Support**

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. They 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. They also can offer referrals and support by phone to all residents who are experiencing stress and who need assistance.

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.

Visit the [Helping Families Cope](#) page on our website for resources to help families cope with the pandemic. Also on the [video section of the Youth Services Facebook page](#) you will find short videos they have produced recently offering help on dealing with stress, helping children to cope, tips on looking for a job, and other COVID-related topics.

### **Mental Health Webinars**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. In recognition of this, Prince George's County is hosting a series of mental health mini-webinars throughout the month of May. These sessions are open to the public and will cover a variety of topics. They will be held every Thursday in May. Here's a few of the ones coming up in the coming week.

- May 14, 11 a.m. – Managing Stress & Staying Connected During COVID-19
- May 21, 10 a.m. – Emotional Self-care for First Responders
- May 21, 12 p.m. – Youth Wellness & Coping
- May 28, 11 a.m. – Grief & Vicarious (Indirect) Trauma
- May 28, 12 p.m. – Early Childhood & Social Emotional Health

View each of the mini-webinars on Zoom by going to <https://bit.ly/MentalHealthWebinars>.

### **Schools**

- **Maryland public schools are CLOSED for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year.**
- Prince George's County Schools will continue the distance learning program until the **last day of school on June 16**. Instruction includes online teaching, lessons broadcast on PGCPS-TV, and enrichment learning packets.
- The last day for high school seniors will remain **Friday, May 15**.

### **Free Online Tutoring**

Bowie Youth & Family Services is now offering a free tutoring service for Bowie-area elementary, middle, and high school students. Experienced educators are providing this service online for the remainder of the school year. Call 1-513-817-3158 for details.

### **Meals for School Children**

- The PGCPS Grab and Go meals program now offers free breakfast, lunch and supper to school aged children. The meals can be picked up at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and other schools around the County. Visit [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org) for list of schools distributing meals.
- Students can get meals for two days on Mondays and three days on Wednesdays.

Parents may pick up meals for students who are unable to come to the site by showing a student ID or report card.

- Meals are available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents and guardians are not required to accompany students nor are students required to show ID.

### Keep Children Safe Online

Because schools are closed, children will likely be spending more time online, potentially making them more vulnerable to predators and cyber scams. The US Department of Justice has issued recommendations which can be found at [https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2020\\_0505\\_Protecting\\_Children](https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2020_0505_Protecting_Children).

## City Services & Facilities Update

### Bowie Farmers' Market Opens May 17 with Social Distancing Precautions in Place

A modified version of the Bowie Farmers' Market will open on Sunday, May 17 with special measures in place to impose social distancing and to protect vendors and customers from the spread of the coronavirus. The market will be held each Sunday through October from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at Bowie High School. This year's market will be entirely drive-through. Look for the detailed plan and a list of participating vendors soon at [www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket](http://www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket).

### City Government Operations

The City of Bowie began modifying operations in late March. We thought it might be helpful today to recap the changes to City government operations that have been put in place during this pandemic.

Police officers, park rangers, trash and recycling crews, water and wastewater plant operators, and other mission critical employees continue to report to work in person. Many other city employees are working from home and continuing to answer your emails and telephone calls.

The Emergency Operations Center is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to manage the City's response to this crisis.

STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES		
<b>City Hall</b> <b>301-262-6200</b>	Closed to the public	Please call a specific office or 301-262-6200 if you have an urgent need to conduct business. Water bills and speed camera bills can be paid online.
<b>Police Department</b>	Open. No public access.	<i>See note below</i>

<b>Senior Center</b> <b>301-809-2300</b>	Closed	Delivery of homebound meals continues. Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteers will help seniors with groceries and prescription pickup. ( <i>See Senior section below for more information.</i> )
<b>City Gymnasium</b>	Closed	
<b>Historic Properties</b>	Closed	
<b>Ice Arena</b>	Closed	
<b>Kenhill Center</b>	Closed	No in-person counseling services are being provided by Bowie Youth & Family Services. <i>See Youth Services section below for assistance &amp; for information about tele-counseling.</i>
<b>City Parks &amp; Trails*</b>	Open for walking, running, biking, etc.	<b>The following areas in parks are closed:</b> playgrounds, ballfields, picnic areas & fitness equipment
<b>Dog Park</b>	Open	
<b>Playhouse</b>	Closed	
<i>*Please observe social distancing standards while using parks and trails.</i>		

### **CITY SERVICES UPDATE**

#### **Trash & Recycling Services**

The following rules are in place until further notice to protect crews:

- Trash must be in cans or bags
- No loose or bulky items will be collected
- No special pickups of metal or tires
- Recycling must be placed in recycling bins or carts.
- Loose cardboard boxes will not be collected if they are on the ground. You must break down the boxes and put them in carts or bins in order to dispose of them.

- Yard waste collection continues on Wednesdays.

**Please note:** If you are using this time to clear out sheds, closets, garages, etc. you will only be able to dispose of items that fit in bags or trashcans. Other items will need to be stored neatly and out of sight until regular solid waste operations resume.

### **Bowie Police Department**

The door leading to the Police Department lobby is locked and the lobby is closed to the public. Visitors are still welcome to enter the small vestibule area just inside the front door. Communications Center staff will be happy to assist you there utilizing the intercom system. Or, call 240-544-5700 for assistance. Speed camera bills may be paid online or by calling the Finance Department.

Those wishing to make a police report in a non-emergency case can now do so by calling 240-544-5700. In most cases, the Police will not be responding in person to take non-emergency reports, unless there is a pressing need to do so.

### **City Council Meetings Closed to the Public (in-person)**

City Council meetings are being held virtually during this emergency. While the public cannot attend Council meetings or Budget Worksessions in person, they may submit testimony for public hearings or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Council meeting by texting a message to 240-335-3282 or emailing written or video testimony/comments to [cityclerk@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbowie.org). Testimony and comments must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. For assistance, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.

View the meetings live at [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings) or on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channel 71 and 996.

### **Animal Control**

Limited services are being provided. Pet licenses **are not being issued** while facilities are closed.

### **Building Permits**

Building permits are being accepted electronically. Email [buildingpermits@cityofbowie.org](mailto:buildingpermits@cityofbowie.org) and attach an electronic version of the Prince George's County permit and any plans approved by the County. Applicants must include a phone number so that they can be contacted for credit card payments of the application fee. After the permit application has been reviewed and approved, the permit will be emailed to the applicant. Work should not begin until the approved City permit has been issued.

### **City Rental Inspections Canceled**

Rental inspections conducted by the Code Compliance Office are canceled until further notice.

<p><b>Code Compliance</b> Please do your part to keep Bowie looking good. Code Compliance staffing is very limited at present, but we encourage you to report trash and other health and sanitation issues, such as high grass that may become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents, so that they may be addressed.</p>		
<p><b>Senior Services</b> While the building is closed, staff is available by email and telephone to support Bowie seniors. Call 301-809-2300 for assistance. Homebound meal delivery continues.</p> <p>The <b>Neighbors Helping Neighbors</b> program matches volunteers with seniors and disabled individuals that need help grocery shopping or picking up prescriptions during the pandemic. If you are a City of Bowie senior or disabled person in need of assistance, please complete the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Senior Request Form found at <a href="http://www.cityofbowie.org/nhn">www.cityofbowie.org/nhn</a>. Contact Lori Cunningham at <a href="mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org">lcunningham@cityofbowie.org</a> or 240-544-5601 for more information.</p> <p>Seniors who have been unable to secure a mask can contact the Senior Center for assistance.</p>		
<p><b>Bowie Water &amp; Sewer Service</b> Employees continue to operate the Water Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Water bills can be paid online, mailed or dropped off in the slot at City Hall. Late fees are not being charged and water shutoffs are suspended during this emergency.</p> <p>Spring hydrant flushing is canceled.</p>		
<p><b>Bowie Youth &amp; Family Services</b> No in-person counseling services are being provided. Tele-counseling is available. Call 1-513-817-3158 for assistance or to schedule an appointment.</p>		
<p><b>EVENTS &amp; MEETINGS</b></p>		
<p><b>City Council Meetings</b></p>	<p>Closed to the public until further notice</p>	<p>Residents can view meetings on the web or on the government channel. See note above about testimony and comments.</p>
<p><b>City Committee Meetings</b></p>	<p>Canceled until further notice</p>	<p>If there is an urgent need for a city committee to meet it can be done virtually. The meeting will be advertised on the meetings calendar on the website and the public will be</p>

		provided access to the meeting through a virtual meetings tool.
<b>City Events</b>	Canceled through at least 5/31.	Bowiefest has also been canceled.

## Postponements/cancellations

### Election – Maryland Primary Election is June 2

The Maryland Primary Election originally scheduled for April 28th, will be held on June 2nd, and will be conducted primarily by mail. All registered and eligible voters have been mailed a ballot for this election. Visit [Prince George’s County Board of Elections](#) online or view the [Maryland Voter Guide](#) for more information on the 2020 Primary Election.

The primary will be conducted by mail-in ballot, with limited in-person voting available for those who are unable to vote by mail. If you need to register to vote or update your current address, or change your party affiliation the deadline is Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

### Tax Day

The filing deadline for federal and state tax returns has been extended from April 15 to July 15, 2020.

### Evictions and Foreclosures Still Suspended

Per an administrative order issued by the Maryland Court of Appeals, all evictions and foreclosures in Prince George’s County have been suspended until further notice, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The CARES Act also provides protections for holders of some types of mortgages. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development has issued [guidance for homeowners on these forbearance provisions](#).

### 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.

### Summer Camps

Park and Planning has canceled all of its day camps and other in-person programs for youth and adults for the entire summer. No decision has been made yet about camps sponsored by the City of Bowie.

## How to Help

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Blood supplies in the region are very low. The American Red Cross invites anyone who is able, to register to donate blood at their next blood drive in Bowie. It takes place on June 3 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and June 4 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at Grace Lutheran Church on Belair Drive. Please sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and search by sponsor

code, "Gracerock" or call 1-800-REDCROSS to make your life saving donation today. Extra precautions will be in place to protect workers and donors from potential exposure to the coronavirus. If you have questions about your eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276.

Volunteers are needed to support this event. If you can help check in blood donors or assist with the canteen, please email Samantha Fricke at [Samantha.Fricke@redcross.org](mailto:Samantha.Fricke@redcross.org) by Friday, May 15.

Make masks

### **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](http://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](http://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](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601. Seniors who have not been able to secure a mask can contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 for assistance.

### **Help with Masks for Bowie Seniors Program**

The City of Bowie is proud to partner with local organizations and individuals who are helping to make or provide masks to us for distribution to seniors. If you or your organization would like to volunteer to help with this effort, please contact Lori Cunningham at 240-544-5601 or email [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org). Thanks to all who are already helping with this effort.

## **More Resources/Information**

### **Prince George's County Launches Text to 9-1-1**

Shortness of breath and trouble breathing are among the symptoms of COVID-19. Because these symptoms may make it difficult for someone to make a telephone call for help, the County is now able to accept 9-1-1 texts for those who are unable to speak over the phone. The County has been working on plans to roll out this program and considers this a "soft launch" to respond to an immediate community need.

### **COVID Connect**

The state has set up a [website](http://www.health.maryland.gov/covidconnect) and registry for those that have recovered from COVID-19. It is a place for these individuals to share information, promote action, and find support or provide support to others who may be currently battling the disease.

[www.health.maryland.gov/covidconnect](http://www.health.maryland.gov/covidconnect)

### **Maryland Promotes Buying Locally from Farms and Seafood Markets**

Maryland Department of Agriculture is working to connect Marylanders with farmers and seafood producers providing fresh, local food products. The Department's marketing arm, Maryland's Best has released an [interactive map feature](#) based on information gathered directly from local agricultural and seafood producers. You will find information on product availability, how to order, and options for pick-up and/or delivery. On the [Department's COVID-19 News page](#) you will also find other updates and guidance related to Maryland agriculture.

### **Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund**

The Pantry is open, with some changes in operations. Visit the Pantry website for information, [www.bowiefoodpantry.org](http://www.bowiefoodpantry.org).

### **Warning – Beware of Scams and Fraud Schemes**

A variety of new scams have emerged since the pandemic began. Do not provide personal information in response to any email regarding COVID-19 benefits. Also, be wary of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19.

### **Frequently Asked Questions from Residents**

During the Stay at Home order we have continued to have a staff member available to answer your calls to City Hall because we believe it is important for Bowie residents to be able to talk to someone and get their questions answered. Many of you are inquiring about how city services are being handled during the pandemic. Here are some of the more popular questions that we have been asked:

- **Trash and recycling - Why didn't my cardboard boxes get picked up with recycling?**  
To protect Solid Waste collectors from potential exposure to the coronavirus, only recycling that is in a recycling cart or bin is being picked up. We encourage you to break down your boxes into pieces that will fit in the containers. Loose boxes will not be picked up during this pandemic.
- **Pet licenses - My pet license has expired. How do I renew it now?**  
You will be able to renew your pet license at some point in the future when social distancing orders are lifted. For now, it is okay to have an expired pet license.
- **How do I pay my Xfinity bill when the office at Kenhill is closed?**  
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, Monday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- **How can I pay my City of Bowie water bill?**  
Water bill payments are accepted online, by mail, or by putting the payment in the slot near the front door at City Hall. For questions or assistance with water bills,

please call the Finance Department at 301-809-3016 and leave a message. A teleworking employee will return your call.

## Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – COVID-19](#)
- [CDC guidance](#)
  
- [Maryland COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- [Maryland Health Department COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
  
- **Prince George’s County COVID-19 Resources**
- [Prince George’s County COVID-19 dashboard](#)
  
- [City of Bowie COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Register to receive alerts from the City of Bowie alerts, including COVID-19 updates](#)

Maryland Department of Health Hotline: 410-767-6871

Prince George’s County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline: 301-883- 6627

## Other Bowie News

### Upcoming City Council Meetings:

- May 18 - Budget Adoption, Discussion on future Bowie Ice Plex, Community Development Block Grant Program
- June 1 - Bowie Business Innovation Center (BIC) Update
- June 15 – Draft Climate Action Plan

At present, the public may not attend meetings in person. Individuals can provide comments to be read during Citizen Participation or Public Hearings. Contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez for more information or see item above on public meetings.

### Budget Review Process Concludes

The City Council began review of the City’s Proposed FY21 Budget and Capital Improvement Program on **April 13, 2020** with the Budget Introduction, Public Hearing and Budget Worksession #1. Five worksessions and another public hearing were held over the course of the last month. Each of these meetings may be viewed from the city website at [www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings).

The Budget process will conclude with the City Council’s adoption of the Budget and Capital Improvements Program on **May 18, 2020**. The FY21 Budget takes effect July 1, 2020.

### **Make Sure Bowie Counts**

So far, approximately 73% 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](http://www.2020census.gov).

### **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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance).

### **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](mailto:dcullins@cityofbowie.org) or visit our service request system to report the problem, [www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest](http://www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest)

### **Bowie Youth & Family Services Sponsors Online Youth Job Fair**

Are you a teen or young adult who is looking for employment in this challenging job market? We can help. Bowie Youth & Family Services will offer the **2020 Youth Job Fair** in an online format. We have created this to provide assistance to local **teens** and **young adults** who are looking for both seasonal and year-round positions.

A broad range of employers are participating, including the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Six Flags America, County Fire and Police Departments, restaurants and other local businesses. To participate in this virtual job fair, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair).

### **Jobs**

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

- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)
- Police Officer – Entry Level (open)

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/jobs](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs) for more information or to apply.

**Help Us Spread the Word**

You are likely receiving this update because you have signed up for Alert Bowie or you've followed the link on our website or social media. We recognize that not everyone in Bowie has access to these tools. Please help us to spread the word by forwarding our updates to your Bowie friends and neighbors or sharing the information with seniors who could benefit from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. (We also want to make sure that everyone receives the notification about changes in trash and recycling collection.)

Sign up for Alert Bowie at [www.cityofbowie.org/alerts](http://www.cityofbowie.org/alerts) to receive a variety of information from the City of Bowie, including weather alerts, job opportunities, newsletters, and crime alerts. Those that don't want to complete an Alert Bowie registration can still get Bowie COVID-19 alerts by texting COBCOVID19 to 888777.