



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

June 2020

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Stay at Home Order Remains Through June 1

While the Governor has lifted the statewide Stay at Home Order and replaced it with a Safer at Home Advisory, Prince George's County and others in the Baltimore/Washington corridor are not ready to begin the reopening stage just yet. County Executive Alsobrooks is looking for a slowdown in new cases, a decrease in the death rate, and a leveling of the COVID-related hospitalizations. Prince George's County also needs more PPE, testing and contact tracing before it will be ready to reopen.

All City facilities are closed to the public. All City events are canceled through June 30.

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.

COVID-19 Testing In addition to daily testing available at the Prince George's County Health Department clinic in Cheverly, drive-thru testing is now available at two VEIP (Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program) stations in the County. Locations include the **Hyattsville VEIP Station, 7401 Jefferson Avenue** and the **Clinton VEIP Station, 7213 Old Alexandria Ferry Road**.

Those who suspect that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, even if they are not yet symptomatic, can be tested at one of these new sites without a doctor's order or a scheduled appointment. These tests will be provided at no out-of-pocket cost.

Also, Governor Hogan recently issued an emergency order authorizing the State's pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests. Look for pharmacies to advertise when they have tests available and are ready to begin administering them.

City Council Ends IcePlex Project

At the City Council Meeting on May 18, the Council voted to stop construction and cancel the contract for the Bowie IcePlex on Church Road. The Council directed staff to repurpose the existing site for a multi-generational indoor court facility currently in the CIP, use the remaining bond proceeds for projects in the CIP, and pursue renovating the existing ice rink or seek a public private partnership to do so. Mayor Adams and Councilmembers Boafo, Ndebumadu and Woolfley voted to cancel the project, while Councilmembers Esteve, Gardner and Harrison voted against canceling it.

City Council Meetings to Note

- June 1** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Bowie BIC Update, Community Development Block Grant-CV (Cares Act) Funding, EDC's COVID Business Recovery Plan, Legislative Report
- June 15** City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Draft Climate Action Plan

City Council Meetings are currently closed to public attendance. Meetings continue to take place virtually during the pandemic. View them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings or on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 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.

Primary Election June 2

Primary Election Day is June 2. This election will be conducted primarily by mail. All registered and eligible voters should have received a ballot in the mail. Complete your ballot and return it in the self-addressed envelope as soon as possible. Please make sure to sign the oath on the ballot **envelope** or your ballot will not be counted. **Ballots must be postmarked by June 2.**

In-person voting will be available for those who cannot vote by mail. The City of Bowie Gymnasium is one of five locations in the County where voting will take place in person on Election Day. For information about the election or if you are eligible to vote in Prince George's County and did not receive your ballot, call the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 301-341-7300 or visit elections.mypgc.us.

Volunteers Needed for Blood Drive June 3 - 4

Grace Lutheran Church on Belair Drive is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive June 3 - 4. Volunteers are needed to support the American Red Cross staff at the event. Please consider volunteering to help check in blood donors or to serve snacks to donors after they give blood. Contact Samantha Fricke at Samantha.Fricke@redcross.org as soon as possible. To donate blood, register at www.redcrossblood.org (search sponsor code, "Gracerock") or call **1-800-REDCROSS**.

Bulk and Special Refuse Pickup

Modified rules have been in place for trash and recycling since the pandemic began. Many thanks to residents for their understanding and cooperation in complying with these temporary rules. We understand that many of you have bulk or metal items that you have not been able to dispose of over the last two months. The Public Works Department is working on a solution that will get these items picked up while protecting the safety of our front-line workers. Look for an announcement about this soon.

2020 Census

76% of Bowie households have completed the 2020 Census. Let's make it 100%! Federal law requires that every household complete the Census. The 10-year census helps to determine funding for schools, transportation, emergency response, and other services. Let's all do our part to make sure Bowie counts and receives its fair share of funding. Learn more at www.2020census.gov.

Helping Families Cope

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 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.

Bowie Youth & Family Services also offers **no-cost tutoring** for Bowie area elementary, middle and high school youth. Our experienced educators are providing this service online for the rest of the school year. Please call **1-513-817-3158** for details.

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 the following: 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 information, contact the Code Compliance Office at 240-508-7151 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/codecompliance.

For the City's latest information and daily 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, please 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 a basketball camp 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.

***Please note:** Camp could be canceled due to COVID-19 related concerns.

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 July and August half-day, full-day and specialty camps; visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena

***Please note:** Camps could be canceled due to COVID-19 related concerns.

CITY COUNCIL

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

CITY MANAGER

Alfred D. Lott
301-809-3030