

Bowie News Flash

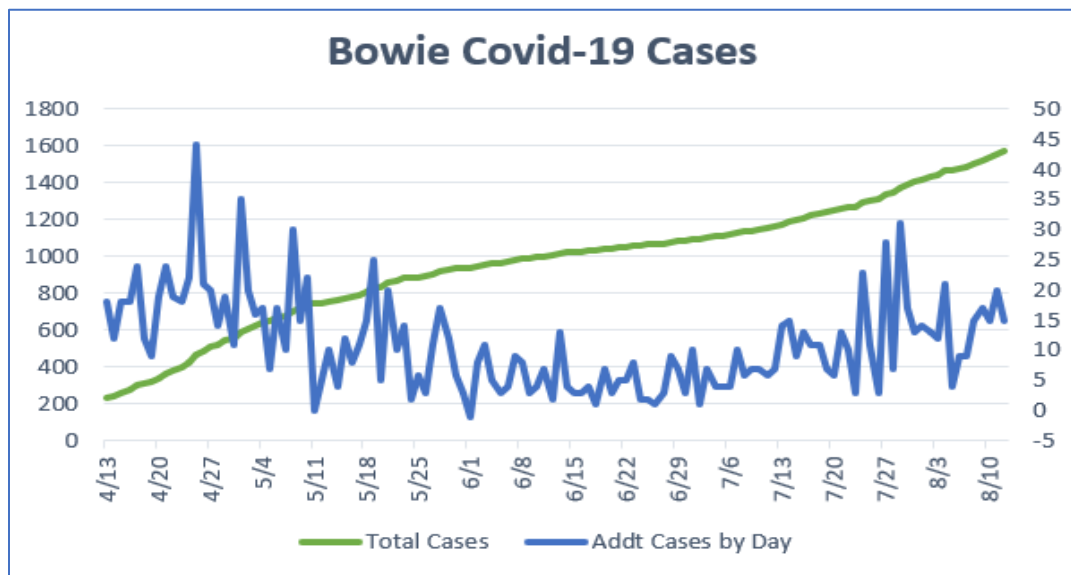
August 2020

COVID-19 News

All information provided here is subject to change based on the current status of the pandemic and orders, directives, etc. issued by state and local agencies. To obtain the most up to date information, contact the relevant agency or visit their website.

Bowie Cases Over Time

The state and county health department dashboards provide all sorts of useful information related to the pandemic on a daily and weekly basis. However, the only data available to us at the zip code level is cases, which is why we have continued to report this metric over time, even though positivity rates and hospitalization rates can be better indicators of how widespread the disease is in a community at a given time.



From the case numbers, we know that Bowie has fared better than other parts of Prince George’s County in terms of the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in the four zip codes that include Bowie households. These numbers also tell us that the virus has been active here since late winter and does not show signs of going away.

This is why we continue to encourage Bowie residents to follow state and county directives to social distance and wear masks whenever they’re around people outside their household or their “COVID bubble” and why we’ve launched a new “Mask Up Bowie!” campaign. You can see our latest video message about masks at <https://youtu.be/tgPRU8iyRkg>.

One particularly concerning occurrence this summer has been the reports of large house parties in the city. These parties are not only bothersome to neighbors, but they are putting attendees in real jeopardy of contracting or spreading the disease. Please be smart about socializing. Small outdoor gatherings, where people are taking precautions and socially distancing, are so much safer than large gatherings in close quarters.

COVID-19 will likely not be completely controlled until there are widespread vaccinations, so continuing to wash hands often, wear masks, social distance, stay home when sick, and quarantine when exposed to someone to the disease or after returning from a state with a positivity rate above 10% are our best defenses against the disease for now. Thank you for your continued diligence in these areas.

The Ever-evolving Battle Against COVID

As a community and as a nation, we have become versed in a new vocabulary of public health tracking. First, we were watching the number of cases. Then we shifted focus to hospitalizations. Once state and county health officials put a testing infrastructure in place, we began tracking positivity rates, in addition to cases and hospitalizations. As time went by, we were able to see trends and how our actions influenced those trends. Looking back, there were definite spikes after Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, as some loosened their precautions to travel or gather with friends and family.

At present, the number of daily new cases seems to have plateaued; we are not seeing spikes into the multiple thousands like some of our southern neighbors. Hospitalizations are at their lowest levels since April, and while we see sometimes see daily upticks, overall trends are lower.

Health officials have been working to bring the positivity rate under 5%, (meaning less than 5% of all tested patients have a positive test result) because it is believed that at that rate there is no longer widespread community transmission and what cases there are, can be managed through contact tracing and quarantining.

The current data in Maryland and Prince George's County is promising, but as we have seen around the country and in our state after the summer holiday weekends, it can be undone in the blink of an eye. Prince George's County Health Officer Earnest Carter describes us as being at a critical juncture, where we can continue our forward progress or quickly slide backward into crisis. So, despite the encouraging signs, it is vitally important not to relax our efforts. Our ongoing careful diligence remains critical in combatting this persistent and insidious disease.

Travel Advisory Reminder

Marylanders are reminded to postpone or cancel travel to states with positivity rates of 10% or higher. Anyone traveling from these states should immediately get tested when they return to Maryland **and** should self-quarantine while awaiting results.

This public health advisory took effect on July 29 and applies to personal, family, or business travel of any kind. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are exempt from this recommendation. [Read the travel advisory.](#)

Face Coverings Required

On July 31, the Governor's mask order was expanded to require masks in the public spaces of all businesses and outdoor public areas where you can't maintain physical distancing.

Prince George's County Remains in Phase 2 of Reopening

The County moved to Phase 2 in June, allowing the gradual reopening of many businesses with social distancing precautions and capacity limits. Due to setbacks in several metrics during the month of July, both the State of Maryland and the County have chosen not to move forward beyond Phase 2 yet.

Facilities and businesses that remain closed include:

- Indoor pools
- Senior centers
- Theaters
- Concert venues
- Bars, nightclubs, and other adult entertainment venues

More details about Prince George's County Phase 2 Reopening can be found at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3504/County-Phased-Reopening>.

City of Bowie Operating Status (subject to change)

- City Hall windows are open for water bills, picnic reservations, animal control, permits, and code enforcement
- Police Department lobby open
- Gymnasium open to resident members
- Ice Arena open with some restrictions
- Ballfields open only for small non-contact practices (permit required)
- Tennis and basketball courts open
- Parks and playgrounds open
- Picnic areas available to reserve up to 50-person gathering limit
- Farmer's Market open with restrictions
- All City in-person events and camps are **canceled through October 31, 2020**.
- City Council and committee meetings are conducted virtually.
- Historic properties, Kenhill Center, Bowie Playhouse, and Senior Center remain closed.
- Masks are required indoors at all City facilities.

More COVID-19 information and updates may be found on the City's coronavirus page at www.cityofbowie.org/corona. Even though the Senior Center remains closed to the public, staff members are available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., to answer questions and assist with referrals. Call 301-809-2300.

Bowie Farmers' Market

A modified version of the Bowie Farmers' Market is open on Sunday mornings with special measures in place to enforce social distancing and to protect vendors and customers from the spread of COVID-19. The Market is held Sundays through October, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., in

the parking lot at Bowie High School. **This year's Market is entirely drive-thru.** For information and a list of participating vendors, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/farmersmarket.

City Gym Open for Members

The City Gym is open to resident members. Basketball shootarounds and skill building sessions are permitted, but no games are allowed at this time. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Also, Gym members can escape the heat and walk inside the Gym. Eleven times around equals one mile. Masks are required. Waivers must be signed before using the facility. Members are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a time slot. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/gym or call 301-809-2388.

Bowie Ice Arena is Open with Some Limitations

The Bowie Ice Arena has reopened and welcomes back skaters. There are some limitations in place to comply with state and county directives and to protect patrons and employees.

Permitted activities include:

- Stick & Puck
- Pickup Figure Skating
- Public Sessions
- Ice Rentals

Other limitations in place:

- Prepaid reservations are required
- No rental skates or skating aides are available for use during public skating sessions
- Masks must be worn, on and off the ice
- Social distancing must be observed
- Skaters must submit to temperature checks and present signed waiver forms
- No games or scrimmages

More information can be found in the [Return to Skate at the Bowie Ice Arena document](#) on the city website.

Xfinity Office

The Xfinity office at Kenhill Center remains closed. 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.

Prince George's County Compliance Efforts

More than 80 inspectors from various County agencies are working to ensure compliance with State and County orders regarding social distancing, large gatherings, and the wearing of masks. Enforcement efforts will begin with education and warnings, but if the business, organization, or property owner continues to ignore the executive order, the County will impose fines and other penalties. Call 3-1-1 to report a violation or email covidcompliance@co.pg.md.us.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The CDC list of COVID-19 symptoms has expanded over time as health professionals have gained more experience with the disease. People with COVID-19 report a wide variety of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Individuals without symptoms may also test positive for the virus. These asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic people can spread the virus unknowingly.

CDC Updates

The CDC has updated the [list of conditions that increase a person's risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#). New to the list of conditions that extensive studies have shown can result in severe illness are those with cancer and those with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. The previous version of this list said the risk was severe at a BMI of 40 or more. Also the CDC has issued [New guidance for employers on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

Obtaining a COVID-19 Test

The need for testing has exploded across the nation. This increased demand for testing has caused delays in obtaining results, as the major lab companies have been flooded with processing COVID-19 tests, in addition to keeping up with their regular workloads.

Unfortunately, Maryland has not been spared these growing response times, as is evidenced by news articles and social media posts complaining of days, or even weeks, of waiting for test results. These wait times are not only stressful for residents who are often isolating until they receive their results, but they also hinder the ability of the contact tracers to do their jobs effectively.

Marylanders have two options when choosing where to get a test: private companies and government sponsored sites. Private companies are conducting tests and sending them out to their own contracted labs. Some of these companies have quick turn-around times; others are struggling to keep up. Unfortunately, there is no way to know for sure how quickly your results will be returned when you are selecting one of these private testing sites.

Testing sites operated by the state of Maryland or a local government can often return results within 5 days, sometimes sooner. These are the sites being operated at locations like Six Flags, the convention centers in Baltimore and Ocean City, Vehicle Emissions (VEIP) facilities and other “pop up” sites around the state. The downside is that in some cases, testing is not offered every day, and sometimes the hours are limited.

You can find a list of all COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland on the state’s coronavirus website at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>. You can also call the Prince George’s County Health Department testing line for information about County testing locations at 301-883-6627.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Tracing how the coronavirus is spreading in an area is an important tool in combatting a potential surge in positive cases. The contact tracing process involves identifying infected people, determining who they have been in close contact with while infectious, and asking people who are potentially infected to stay home until it is clear they are not sick.

Please cooperate with contact tracing efforts by answering calls from **MD COVID or 240-466-4888**. All personal information is completely confidential. For more information, please visit <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/contact-tracing>.

Recovered COVID-19 Patients Urged to Donate Plasma

The American Red Cross, in coordination with the US Food and Drug Administration, is asking individuals who are fully recovered from COVID-19 to sign up and donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. Those who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that may be able to attack the virus in others who are fighting the disease. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening disease.

[Details on the Plasma Donation Program](#)

[FDA Information on Plasma Program](#)

State and Local COVID-19 Data Information

Visit the [Prince George’s County COVID-19 dashboard](#) to view data for all zip codes in the County and the [Maryland dashboard](#) for statewide data.

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center

The [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center website](#) shows how new cases are trending in each state.

Maryland Health Exchange Reopens to Allow New Applicants

Maryland has extended the coronavirus emergency special enrollment period for health insurance. The Maryland Health Connection plans will cover testing, visits relating to testing, and treatment of COVID-19, as well as other medical conditions. Consumers will not be billed for a copay, coinsurance, or deductible for services to test, diagnose, and treat COVID-19.

Marylanders do not need to be sick to enroll in coverage. This special enrollment is for private health plans only. (Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.)

To enroll, visit MarylandHealthConnection.gov or download the free “Enroll MHC” mobile app. For free consumer assistance, call 855-642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. Help is available in more than 200 languages through the call center, as well as relay service for the deaf and hard of hearing. Trained navigators and brokers statewide offer free help enrolling by phone.

Maryland Insurance Administration Moves to Restrict Health Insurance Cancellations

Maryland Insurance Administration is using emergency powers to prevent health insurance companies from canceling or refusing to renew individual health benefit plan policies for nonpayment of premiums. Individual health benefit plan policies that were scheduled to terminate due to unpaid premiums on or after July 31, will remain in effect through September 30. This action will help keep Marylanders who are unable to pay health insurance premiums covered for at least a little while longer.

Evictions Remain on Hold in Maryland and Shutoffs Banned Through August

In March, Governor Hogan issued an emergency order that prohibits Maryland courts from ordering the eviction of any tenant who can demonstrate that their inability to pay rent was the result of COVID-19, such as lost or reduced employment, needing to care for a school-aged child, or because they are diagnosed with, or under investigation for, COVID-19. The order remains in place during the state of emergency. The District Court of Maryland has delayed any hearings on failure to pay rent cases until August 31.

The Governor has also extended the emergency order prohibiting utility providers from shutting off or charging late fees for residential services, including electricity, water, phone, and internet, through September 1.

[View the order](#)

COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund

Employ Prince George’s (EPG) provides financial assistance to hourly workers who were making less than \$19 an hour before losing their job due to the pandemic. Assistance is in the form of a \$200 EPG Visa Cash Card. The Bowie City Council recently voted to make a \$20,000 donation to this fund. The next gift card giveaway in Bowie will be in late September, but you must apply now to be eligible. Learn more about this program and how to apply at www.employpg.org/covid19.

Maryland Unemployment Program

Maryland has announced that 223 businesses have been approved to participate in the State’s Department of Labor Work Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program. This program preserves jobs by providing employers with a flexible alternative to layoffs. Employers who participate in the Work Sharing Program can retain employees by temporarily and equally reducing the hours of work by 20% to 50%, so they can resume business operations safely and effectively without the challenge of recruiting, hiring, and training employees. Employees keep their current job, and often health and retirement benefits, while receiving partial unemployment insurance benefits to supplement their wages.

The State also announced that it will extend unemployment benefits for claimants who have exhausted both their 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits and 13 weeks of the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) assistance. [View announcement.](#)

Prince George's County Shopping Website

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Experience Prince George's, and the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce are working together to help local businesses and residents connect. Local businesses and professional services can list their goods and services in the County Cyber Mall. Then, everyone can use the shopping portal to find and support Prince George's County businesses. It is estimated that for every \$100 spent, approximately 70% or \$70 is returned to the local economy. Visit the [Buy Prince George's website.](#)

Food Assistance Programs

The **Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund** is open, with some changes in operations. Visit the Pantry website for information and hours at www.bowiefoodpantry.org or call 301-262-6765. Food is also being distributed regularly at pop up events throughout the County. Call 3-1-1 for information on upcoming events. Other local organizations are also operating [food giveaways](#) to those in need.

Senior Meals Nutrition Program

Homebound meals 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.

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.

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. They continue to offer counseling for all families in the City with children of high school age or younger through a confidential online platform. They are also

available to 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. For more resources to help families cope with the pandemic, visit www.cityofbowie.org/corona, and select "Guidance for Parents".

Please Keep Bowie Clean and Safe

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!

Other City News

Bowie Trash and Recycling

Trash and recycling collection returned to normal in July. Most bulk items can be put out with your regular trash. The only exceptions are tires, large metal appliances, and other items that are mostly metal. These items require a special pickup appointment (call 301-809-2344 or visit www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest to schedule your pickup). Yard waste is picked up on Wednesdays and must be in cans, paper lawn bags, or in the case of branches or small limbs, bundled and left at the curb. More details about the city's various curbside collections can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/curbsidecollections.

The Prince George's County Brown Station Road Landfill has reopened and is accepting large items and hazardous waste. The electronics recycling center is also open and accepting computers, televisions, and other electronic equipment. Call 3-1-1 for more information.

City Council Meetings to Note

- **September 8** Council Meeting, 8 p.m.
 - Hall Station Annexation
 - Bowie and Vicinity Master Plan
 - Staff Overview of City Development Review Guidelines and Policies and City Council Annexation Policy
 - Bowie Youth Council
- **September 21** Council Meeting, 8 p.m.
 - City Development Policies

City Council meetings are held virtually during this COVID-19 emergency. View them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996 or on <https://www.youtube.com/cityofbowiemd>.

Those wishing to submit comments for public hearings or the Citizen Participation portion of Regular Meetings may do so by emailing written testimony to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org.

Testimony must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Meeting agendas are posted at www.cityofbowie.org/agenda. For help, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.

Staying Prepared for Emergencies During the Pandemic

COVID-19 has already captured our attention for much of 2020, but Mother Nature may also demand some attention before the year is over or before the pandemic is controlled. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has revised its predictions for the 2020 hurricane season, now warning of an “extremely active” season with as many as 25 named storms. Seven to eleven of this year’s named storms could become hurricanes, and three to six could be major hurricanes Category 3 or higher.

Tropical Storm Isaias did significant damage to the Eastern Shore, spawning three tornados and killing one person. If the storm had shifted a few miles to the west, that damage could have been seen in Bowie. We usually have a few days warning before a hurricane, but given the complications of a pandemic, it is more important than ever to be prepared for severe weather including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and weather phenomena like derechos.

Here are some extra steps and precautions to consider as you plan for emergencies during COVID-19:

- **Store additional supplies of food and water.** Try not to hoard items, rather buy one or two additional items each time you grocery shop to build and maintain your supplies. The goal is not to have to panic shop prior to a storm. *Tip: freeze some emergency bread and milk so it lasts longer.*
- **Update your first aid kits with hand sanitizer, disinfectant and disposable face masks for emergencies.** Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home and if a storm is expected, refill. Write down all your prescriptions and store the list in a safe place.
- **Have an evacuation plan in place.** Traditional shelters may not be available, so it is critical to have back-up sheltering plans, whether it is staying with a family member or friend or funds for a hotel stay. Check with your insurance now to see if they cover hotel stays in an emergency. Be sure to have a candid conversation with your family or friends about how everyone will stay safe during your stay; including what PPE will be worn and if you will isolate from each other.
- **Be ready to shelter in place for an extended period of time,** possibly without power or water. Charge your devices beforehand and have a back-up power source, such as a simple crank radio that can charge a phone.

Sign up for Alert Bowie to receive the most up to-date information before, during and after the storm. Go to www.cityofbowie.org/alerts to register.

This Week is Maryland’s Tax-Free Shopping Week

Now through August 15, qualifying apparel and footwear priced \$100 or less, per item, are exempt from the Maryland state sales tax. The first \$40 of a backpack or book bag purchase is also tax-free. For more details, visit <http://www.marylandtaxes.gov> or call 1-800-MD-TAXES (1-800-638-2937).

Warning About Mailed Seeds

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a [warning](#) recently about people across the country receiving suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with other federal agencies and state departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has reported that several Virginia residents have received unsolicited packages containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are unknown at this time and may be invasive plant species. The packages were sent by mail and may have Chinese writing on them. Officials in other states, including Louisiana, Utah, Minnesota, and Washington, as well as Canada, have reported similar situations.

Anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds should contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Management program at 410-841-5920 at ppwm.mda@maryland.gov. Recipients are asked to hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from the State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts them with further instructions. Recipients should not plant seeds from unknown origins.

The 2020 Census: Act Now

More than 90 million households across the US have already responded to the 2020 Census, but critical voices are still missing. Has your voice been heard? If not, there's still time to respond and to help make sure our community does not miss out.

Will health care and education be important to you in three years? In nine years? Our community risks getting less funding every year for the next 10 years, if we can't get a complete count.

So far, 80% of Bowie households have completed the 2020 Census. That figure puts us ahead of the state average of 67.6%, but it still means that 20% or one in five Bowie households has not been counted. Please do your part to make sure that all of Bowie gets counted and that our area receives its fair share of funding over the next decade.

During this time of COVID-19, the safest way to complete the Census is online or by phone or mail. Census enumerators will be knocking on doors in August and September to try to ensure more compliance. You can save them a trip by taking care of your census response now. Visit www.2020census.gov to respond now or call 844-330-2020 to complete the census by telephone.

Bowie Faces of Kindness Nominations

Whether it's the neighbor making masks for seniors, the people delivering groceries to vulnerable residents, or the volunteers cooking and delivering meals to essential workers or neighbors who can't leave their homes, we see the faces of kindness in our residents every day. The *Bowie Faces of Kindness Award* will recognize these everyday heroes who give us hope in these challenging times.

The City will honor recipients with a special Bowie Faces of Kindness Award to recognize our neighbors - our local heroes - who've engaged and supported the community during the pandemic. Honorees will receive a citation and be featured on the City's social media platforms and in other public communications.

Honorees should live in the incorporated city limits of Bowie or have provided an act of kindness to our residents. Nominations should include the name, address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) and a brief description (100 words or less) of their acts of kindness as it relates to helping others during the COVID-19 crisis. Please complete the online form or mail your nomination to Bowie City Hall, Attention: Faces of Kindness, 15091 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

To date, three Bowie residents have been recognized for their efforts: Andrea Williamson, Helen Rose Williams, and Pranitha Fielder. Read all about them and what they are doing for their community at <https://www.cityofbowie.org/2510/Nominees>.

Volunteers Needed – Bowie Teen Mentoring Program

When you volunteer to mentor a Bowie High School student, you will spend one hour a week building a positive relationship that has the potential to change the course of a teen's high school experience, their life, and your community! For information, contact Program Coordinator Tia Younger at 513-817-3158 or mentor@cityofbowie.org. Thank you!

Streetlight Outages

Help us to keep the lights on Bowie. Please report streetlight 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 the Public Works Department at 301-809-2336 or visit our service request system to report the problem at www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest.

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is hiring for the following positions:

- Temporary Seasonal Laborer – Parks & Grounds Division (closes 8/28)
- Entry Level Police Officer (open)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)

For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

Sign Up for Alert Bowie

Sign up for **Alert Bowie** at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts to receive information from the City of Bowie, including trash and recycling updates, weather alerts, employment, newsletters, crime alerts and COVID-19 updates.

PGCPS Information

Prince George's County Schools Fall Plan

Schools CEO Monica Golson announced that PGCPs buildings will not reopen to students in the fall. Instead, the school year will begin with distance learning. For at least the first and second quarters, instruction will be done remotely through a combination of recorded lessons and live online sessions. PGCPs will provide devices and internet connectivity for those that need it, and the system is developing a means to provide instructional and technical support to families. Additionally, schools will serve as student meal sites. View the full announcement at www.pgcps.org.

PGCPs Offers Special School Transfer Window for Next Few Weeks (8/5 – 8/25)

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPs) will offer a special student transfer window now through Tuesday, August 25.

Parents and legal guardians of currently enrolled PGCPs students may only submit transfer requests for the following circumstances:

- New to PGCPs (enrolled after Monday, March 16)
- Incoming kindergarten students who were not enrolled in PGCPs last school year
- Terminal grade (i.e., family moved out of boundary, but student wants to complete final grade-level year, such as fifth, sixth, eighth or twelfth grade at current school.) Contact the Transfer Office at 301-567-8751 for special instructions.

Families of currently enrolled students can submit transfer requests electronically through the [SchoolMax Family Portal](#). Families of new students can get login credentials and assistance through their boundary school.

The Office of Student Records, Transfers and Archival Services will not accept transfer requests to schools that exceed state-rated capacity. Click [here](#) to view a list of schools eligible to receive transfer students. For details, visit the Student Transfer Request webpage by [clicking here](#).