

Bowie News Flash

October 2020

Fall Hydrant Flushing Begins September 28

The City of Bowie Public Works Department will begin the annual fire hydrant flushing and testing program in areas served by City water. Hydrant flushing will begin on Monday, **September 28, 2020** and will take place Monday through Friday from approximately **9 a.m. until 3 p.m.** in accordance with the following schedule:

Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant flushing will take place in areas served by Bowie Water,
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., according to the schedule below:

DATES	NEIGHBORHOODS
SEPT 28 & 29	Buckingham, Derbyshire, & Forest Dr
SEPT 30 & OCT 1	Somerset & Bowie Forest
OCT 1 & 2	Tulip Grove
OCT 5 & 6	Foxhill & Long Ridge
OCT 7, 8 & 9	Kenilworth
OCT 12	Heather Hills
OCT 13, 14 & 15	Meadowbrook
OCT 16	Gradys Walk & Glenridge
OCT 19	Chapel Forge
OCT 20	Victoria Heights & Race Track Rd Townhouses
OCT 21	Idlewild
OCT 22	Yorktown & Overbrook
OCT 23	Whitehall
OCT 26	Rockledge

Flushing may cause some discoloration of the water for up to 24 hours.
Clothes washing should be avoided during this time.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/flushing for more information

Some discoloration of your water may occur and clothes washing is discouraged. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and re-wash them using a rust remover. Rust remover will be available, at no cost, from City Hall and the Public Works Department. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment build up in the water lines and is not harmful. The discoloration should clear in approximately 24 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could

affect your water as well. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at **301-809-2344** or visit www.cityofbowie.org/flushing.

Old Bowie Town Hall Meeting - September 29 at 7 p.m.

Residents of Old Bowie/Huntington, do you have questions or comments about local issues such as crime, traffic, and economic development? Please join the virtual Town Hall meeting to get your questions answered and share your thoughts about your community's needs. The meeting will take place on Zoom. <http://bowie.fyi/oldbowietownhall>

This meeting has been organized by District 1 Councilmember Michael Esteve. The Mayor and other members of the Council have been invited to participate as well.

2020 Census - Make Sure Bowie Counts

The last day to complete the Census is **September 30, 2020**. Households may respond online at www.2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020.

2020 General Election Information and Dates



Mail-in Voting

The Prince George's County Board of Elections encourages everyone to vote by mail during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any registered voter may vote by mail-in ballot. You don't need a reason to vote in this manner. It's another way to vote if you don't want to or can't vote in person on Election Day or during the Early Voting period. All mail-in ballot requests must be received by the Board of Elections by October 20, 2020. Completed ballots can be returned by mail or be dropped off at the Board of Elections or at drop box locations in the County. (Within the next few weeks, a drop box will be placed outside the City Gymnasium.)

In-Person Voting

The City of Bowie Gymnasium is one of 11 early voting locations in Prince George's County. Voters can vote in-person there from October 26 to November 2 and on Election Day.

Election Day Voting Centers in Bowie:

Due to the challenge of staffing polling places, there will be just 41 voting centers in the County for voting in person on Election Day. Voters may go to any of these sites to vote on Election Day. The locations in Bowie are listed below:

- Bowie Gymnasium – 4100 Northview Drive
- Bowie High School – 15200 Annapolis Road
- South Bowie Community Center – 1717 Pittsfield Lane
- Bowie State University – 14000 Jericho Park Road

More Information:

- **Prince George's County Board of Elections:**
<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/559/Board-ofElections> or 301-341-7300
- **Maryland Board of Elections:**
<https://www.elections.maryland.gov> or 410-269-2840

Drive-thru Food Drive - October 4

Please support the Bowie Interfaith Pantry. Drive by the Kenhill Center on Saturday, October 4 to donate canned goods and other nonperishable items and help the Pantry stock its shelves. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon.

City Council Meetings to Note

- **October 5** Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Police Department Update, City Development Policies
- **October 19** Council Meeting, 8 p.m. City Development Policies, Detailed Site Plan #07031-04, Melford, Pod 6 (Encompass Health)

City Council meetings are still being held virtually during this emergency. View them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996 or on Youtube @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 assistance or more information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029.

New Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation Center Proposed for Melford

Encompass Health has submitted a **Detailed Site Plan (#DSP-07031-04)** application that proposes the construction a one-story, 60-bed physical therapy/rehabilitation center in the Melford development. The following meetings/hearings will be conducted in relation to this proposal:

- **Stakeholders Meeting (virtual) was held September 24.**
- **Bowie Advisory Planning Board Public Hearing (virtual) - October 13 at 7 p.m.** To listen to the meeting, visit <http://bowie.fyi/bapbmeeting1013>. (All attendees will have to register and

create a Zoom account.) Email comments/testimony to jmeinert@cityofbowie.org by 6 p.m. on 10/13/20. Planning staff will read comments into the record during the public hearing period indicated on the agenda. Attendees may use the “Question” function in Zoom to ask questions during the public hearing.

- **City Council Public Hearing (virtual) - October 19 at 8 p.m.** See the Council meetings item above for details on how to view this meeting. Submit written testimony for the hearing by 7 p.m. For more information, contact the City Clerk at ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

County Seeks Input on Bowie Master Plan Update

The County Planning Department is working on an update to the Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan. The Master Plan will carefully examine existing conditions and issues, and revisit the vision for the area. This document will also help to guide development in the area for the next several years.

The project team is interested in engaging the community as much as possible in the process through a series of virtual chats on eight different planning elements. Visit

<https://www.mncppc.org/4957/Community-Chat-Series> for the Zoom links to each chat.

See the schedule below:

Date	Time	Topic
September 24	6 to 7 p.m.	Land Use
September 30	7 to 8 p.m.	Housing and Neighborhoods
October 1	6 to 7 p.m.	Healthy Communities
October 6	7 to 8 p.m.	Economic Prosperity
October 8	6 to 7 p.m.	Natural Environment
October 12	7 to 8 p.m.	Community Heritage, Culture & Design
October 14	6 to 7 p.m.	Transportation and Mobility

For questions and comments, please email the project team at BVMP@ppd.mncppc.org.

M-NCPPC encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all of its programs and services.

For special assistance, call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-4584.

Drive-thru Drug Take Back Day – October 24

Join the Bowie Police Department for a Drive-thru Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Bowie Police Department (15901 Excalibur Road). Safely and responsibly dispose of expired or unused medications. No needles/sharps or aerosol medications. Face masks required. For more information, contact the Police Department at 240-544-5700.

Virtual Fall Activities

The City is gearing up for some virtual fall activities. We hope you’ll join in the fun and express your creativity.

- ***Pumpkin Carving and Scarecrow Making Contest***
Prizes will be awarded and winning entries will be posted on the City website.

- **Halloween Costume Photo Contest**

For kids and adults. Please submit your photos by October 24.

Contest details will soon be posted to the website at www.cityofbowie.org/fallfun. Contact Special Events Manager Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078 if you have questions.

October is Energy Efficiency Month

During Energy Efficiency Month we'll be providing weekly tips and tricks to promote your energy efficiency and reduce your carbon footprint on our social media platforms.

Plant One Tree on Us!

A tree giveaway aimed at increasing residential tree canopy, is now open city-wide. Online reservations for an approved tree will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis; funding is available for 100 trees (one per parcel). For more information, contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie.

Bowie Senior Center

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**.

- **Packet Giveaway** - October 13 & 14, 10 - 11 a.m. Drive by and pick up an activity packet and sweet treat to celebrate autumn.
- **SAGE Continuing Education Classes** - Virtual fall session starts October 12. Register now.
- **Printmaking Artist** - Virtually meet SAGE instructor and printmaking artist, David Brosch, and view his work in this video: <https://youtu.be/kjvoN2XREog>

City Gym

The Gym is open to resident members with up to two guests. Members are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a time slot. Games are not permitted. Walking, shoot-around and other passive skill-building activities are permitted.

If you are a City of Bowie resident and would like to apply for a membership or renew your membership, please call to make an appointment. Face masks are required at all times.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 12 - 7:30 p.m.
4100 Northview Drive, 301-809-2388

Bowie Ice Arena

The Ice Arena is open for some activities. Masks are required. Visit their webpage for more information and the October calendar.

3330 Northview Drive, 301-809-3090
www.cityofbowie.org/icearena

Bowie Youth & Family Services is Here to Support You

Bowie Youth & Family Services is currently offering free counseling and support groups for Bowie area youth and parents. 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 children, teens and

their families. Please call **513-817-3158** for more information or visit www.cityofbowie.org/youthservices.

Get Lost in a Great Book with a “Celebrity” Reader

Bowie has teamed up with some local readers to provide a series of Read Aloud videos for our youngest residents. We hope you will enjoy seeing some familiar faces and have fun exploring some new books or getting reacquainted with some old favorites. Additional readings are being added each week. We will also be adding craft “how-to” videos to go with some of the books.

www.cityofbowie.org/readaloudbooks

Apply for a Single-Family Housing Grant

The Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program is a federally funded grant program that provides financial assistance to single-family homeowners with limited financial means. The purpose of the grant is to provide energy efficiency related upgrades and repairs to correct hazardous conditions, repair or replace major systems, correct interior and exterior deficiencies, energy improvements, modifications for persons with disabilities and eliminate lead-based paint hazards.

To be eligible to participate, the applicant must be of low to moderate income and be the legal owner and full-time resident of a property located within the incorporated boundaries of the City of Bowie. The maximum grant fund per household is \$10,000. Prior grant recipients within the previous ten years are ineligible to apply. This new program will provide energy audits and energy efficiency rehabilitation activities to all low to moderate income households, with a focus on seniors, veterans, disabled homeowners, emergency responders and teachers. Applicants must provide income and asset verification. Additional federal requirements apply.

For information and an application, contact the City’s Office of Grant Development and Administration at **301-809-3051** or bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org or visit www.cityofbowie.org/rehabgrants.

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.

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 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 you can 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.

Each week, the City highlights a Faces of Kindness honoree. Our most recent honoree is featured below.



Ms. Gordon selflessly leads a local Brownie Girl Scout Troop in Bowie. She did not know any of the girls prior to becoming a troop leader, but she is keeping the group running. If Ms. Gordon didn't volunteer, the troop would have ended because there was no other leadership available.

She provides fun, educational experiences for the girls while empowering them to be their best selves and to think of others. During the pandemic she continued her duties and practiced safe measures to drop off materials to the girls and hold Zoom meetings to ensure they could all bridge to the next troop level. Ms. Gordon provided a sense of normalcy during an otherwise difficult time for small children.

Other honorees:

- Hannah Christiansen – 4th grade founder of “Hannah’s Masks”
- John Scoulios – Longleaf community food drive coordinator
- Pranitha Fielder – Founder of “Caring for One Another” neighborhood support program
- Andrea Williamson – Ivy Community Charities volunteer and supporter of front-line workers
- Helen Rose Williams – Retired nurse who has sewn and donated almost 1000 face masks

Thanks to all our local heroes! Read more about them at www.cityofbowie.org/2508/Bowie-Faces-of-Kindness-Award.

Education and Community Outreach Grants

- **Education Grant** - The City of Bowie Education Committee awards grants that support education for Bowie children. This year \$15,000 is available to be awarded to successful applicants through a competitive selection process. Grants in amounts ranging from \$100-\$1,000 are awarded to teachers, parent groups, and other interested individuals from eligible community schools who have new and creative ideas for projects and programs that will enrich the students’ learning experiences.

- **Community Outreach Grant** - Community Outreach Committee grants are for individuals and organizations that have plans to implement a program that will help meet the needs of City of Bowie residents in areas of social services, senior citizens, mental health and social justice. This year \$15,000 is available to be awarded to successful applicants through a competitive selection process. The maximum amount that will be awarded for any grant is \$5,000. Although applicants need not be City of Bowie residents, the grant program for which they are seeking funds must directly benefit City residents.

The application deadline for both grant programs is **October 9, 2020**. For more information, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 301-832-7451.

Xfinity Office

The Xfinity Office at the 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.

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 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:

- Technology Specialist (closes 9/29/2020)
- Solid Waste Driver/Collector (closes 10/2/2020)
- Solid Waste Driver (closes 10/2/2020)
- Water Plant Trainee/Operator (closes 10/2/2020)
- Entry Level Police Officer (open)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)

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

Bowie Works to Close Out Canceled Bowie IcePlex Project

Since the City Council voted May 18, 2020 to cancel the new Bowie IcePlex project, city staff members have been working to close out the project and wrap up all outstanding expenses related to the project. Recently, the last of several payments to Costello Construction was made to conclude the work that had been completed during the initial construction stages of the project. This payment, in the amount of \$2,735,263, was agreed upon after negotiations between the firm and the city.

Some other outstanding invoices associated with different aspects of the project still remain to be paid. They include future payments to the project management company and the architectural firm. There will also be some costs associated with stabilizing the cleared site and addressing other minor items required by the Prince George's County Soil Conservation District.

Indoor Court Facility

At its meeting on September 21, City Council voted to defer any action on a new indoor court facility for Bowie for now. The matter will next be discussed in February 2021.

A Message from the IRS

The IRS wants beneficiaries of some federal programs to know that they may be eligible to receive payments for eligible children. Specifically, eligible retirees and recipients of Social Security retirement, survivor, or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and VA Compensation and Pension (C&P), who do not file a tax return, should have automatically received their Economic Impact payment earlier this year where they normally receive their benefits. However, some benefit recipients missed the spring deadline to file for their children and didn't receive \$500 for each of their qualifying children. The new deadline to qualify for this payment is September 30. These benefit recipients can find more information in the Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Department of Veteran Affairs benefit recipients section of the FAQs on the IRS website. You must register with the IRS Non-Filers' tool by September 30, 2020 to qualify.

www.irs.gov/nonfilereip.

Halloween

Many of you have been inquiring about what Halloween will look like this year. The City is awaiting guidance from the State and County before making any recommendations for Bowie residents. Please check our website for updates.

COVID-19 News

COVID-19 Testing

For a current list of the COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland, visit the state's website at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>. You may also call the Prince George's County Health Department testing line for information about 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>.

Flu Shots Are More Important Than Ever This Year

The CDC is encouraging residents to get an annual influenza (flu) vaccination to reduce the chance of getting the flu and spreading it to others. According to the CDC, COVID-19 will likely continue into the fall and winter and may overlap with the flu season. With the possibility of both viruses occurring in communities at the same time, it is vital that everyone who is able, should get a flu shot this year. Vaccinations are available at local pharmacies. [Learn more](#)

Resources for Those Affected by the Pandemic

Senior Meals Nutrition 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.

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; for details visit www.pgcps.org.

Food Giveaways

Food giveaways are taking place regularly in different parts of Prince George's County. If you are in immediate need of groceries, please call **311** to find out when the next event is scheduled. You can also visit the Bowie Pantry (located behind the Kenhill Center) on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings from 9 - 11 a.m. More information about the Pantry can be found above and at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Assisted Housing Relief Program

The state has launched the [Assisted Housing Relief Program](#), an eviction prevention program intended to help bring rental delinquencies current and provide relief for tenants through direct payments to their eligible property management company. Tenants in eligible properties will be credited rent rebates paid directly to the property management company, which will eliminate their rental debt and the threat of eviction. The program serves rental units in multifamily projects financed by DHCD's Community Development Administration using state funds or federal resources. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

Community Legal Services of Prince George's County Offers Resources for Renters

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Legal Services of Prince George's County is offering resources to help residents with questions about evictions during COVID-19. Resources include guidance related to what protections are currently in place and how residents may be impacted. Visit the Community Legal Services of Prince George's County [website](#) for more information.

Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) Bans Utility Shutoffs Until November 15

In order to help households still struggling due to the effects of the pandemic, the Maryland Public Service Commission has issued a ruling banning all utility shutoffs in the State of Maryland until after November 15. Learn more at the [Maryland PSC website](#).

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. **Cloth face masks** are available (with delivery) for seniors in need; contact the Senior Center.

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. Also, there is limited transportation available for important medical appointments.

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.

Help for Small Businesses in Prince George's County

Emerge Prince George's is a partnership between the Prince George's County Economic Development (EDC) Corporation, and the Prince George's County Financial Services Corporation (FSC First) and the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC). It provides counseling sessions, webinars, and support to small businesses that are struggling because of the pandemic. To learn more, visit www.emergestrongerpgc.com

Covid-19 Special Enrollment
Until December 15th
Get Insurance! Stay Healthy!




Enrolling Is Easy:

- Get Free Assistance
- Get Financial Assistance (if applicable)
- Get Enrolled & Stay Healthy
- Everyone is Eligible to Apply

Call Healthcare Marketplace 301-925-8550

All COVID-19 information provided is subject to change. Visit the State of Maryland website, Prince George's County's site or www.cityofbowie.org to obtain the most up to date information.

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.

*Sign up for **Alert Bowie** at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts to receive a variety of information from the City of Bowie, including weather alerts, job opportunities, newsletters, and crime alerts.*