

Bowie News Flash

April 2021

NEWS

Annual Action Plan Public Hearing - April 1

The Annual Action Plan Public Hearing will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, **April 1**. Residents should register at the link below to attend the public meetings:

[Register for April 1, 2021 public hearing](#), 7 p.m.

As an Entitlement Community under HUD's federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the City of Bowie solicits public participation in the development of the **Annual Action Plan** every fiscal year. The **Annual Action Plan** provides the City's planned programs and resource allocations for implementing the goals and objectives outlined in the Five-Year Strategic Plan included in the Consolidated Plan for Community Development (Con Plan). The Con Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of: Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. For more information, contact Jesse Buggs at 301-809-3094 or jbuggs@cityofbowie.org.

Hydrant Flushing Begins April 5

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, April 5, 2021 and will take place Monday through Friday from approximately 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Some discoloration of your water may occur and clothes washing is discouraged when flushing is taking place. If your clothes become discolored, keep them wet and re-wash them using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices. The water is safe for drinking and bathing even though it may be discolored. The discoloration is a result of rust and sediment buildup 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**. The schedule is below or can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/flushing.

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
APRIL 5 & 6	Buckingham, Derbyshire, & Forest Dr
APRIL 7 & 8	Somerset & Bowie Forest
APRIL 9 & 12	Tulip Grove
APRIL 13 & 14	Foxhill & Long Ridge
APRIL 15, 16 & 19	Kenilworth
APRIL 20	Heather Hills
APRIL 21, 22 & 23	Meadowbrook
APRIL 26	Gradys Walk & Glenridge
APRIL 27	Chapel Forge
APRIL 28	Victoria Heights & Race Track Rd Townhouses
APRIL 29	Idlewild
APRIL 30	Yorktown & Overbrook
MAY 3	Whitehall
MAY 4	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

City Council Meetings to Note

- **April 5** Regular City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Comcast presentation, County Economic Development Briefing, Zoning Text Amendment Legislation (CB21-2021)
- **April 12** - Special City Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Introduction of Budget Ordinance & CIP Resolution, Budget Worksession #1

City Council meetings are being held virtually during this pandemic. 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.

South Lake Virtual Stakeholders Meeting – April 6

Developers of the large South Lake project on US 301, south of Central Avenue, have submitted two Detailed Site Plans to the City for review.

1. **South Lake Multi-Family (Detailed Site Plan #DSP-21002)** This project proposes the construction of 325 multi-family dwelling units in five 4-story buildings; 589 on-site parking spaces, some within garage buildings; and, a 1-story, 8,363 sq. ft. clubhouse with in-ground swimming pool on 15.86 acres.
2. **South Lake Retail/Commercial/Office (Detailed Site Plan #DSP-19021)** This project proposes the construction of 902,064 sq. ft. retail/commercial/office development, including: three hotels, with a total of 394 rooms; a 207,770 sq. ft. sports complex; a 66,500 sq. ft. grocery store; gas station/ convenience store; a 5-story office building; and, several retail/restaurant pad sites on 59.83 acres.

Residents and other interested parties can learn more about these projects at a virtual Stakeholders Meeting on **April 6 at 7 p.m.** For information about this meeting, please contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3047. **Stakeholders Meeting Zoom**

link: <http://bowie.fyi/stakeholdersmtg4-6>

Budget Review Begins in April

City Council begins reviewing the Proposed FY22 Budget and Capital Improvements Program in April. This budget takes effect July 1, 2021. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and meetings are virtual.

- **April 12 - Budget Introduction, Public Hearing, & Budget Worksession #1** – General Fund Revenues, Capital Improvement Program, and Capital Projects Fund
- **April 19 - Budget Worksession #2** - Public Works Department and Water and Sewer Fund
- **April 26 - Budget Worksession #3** - Community Services Department
- **April 28 Budget Worksession #4** City Manager’s Office, Police, Finance and Nondepartmental
- **May 3 - Budget, CIP, and Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing**
- **May 10 - Budget Worksession #5** - Planning and Community Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, and Appendix (including the Plan of Compensation)
- **May 17 - Adoption of Budget and Capital Improvements Program**

Green Citizens Award

Every year, the City of Bowie Green Team Executive Committee and Environmental Advisory Committee honor one dedicated resident with the Green Citizen Award. It is usually awarded at the Bowie Green Expo and recognizes someone’s outstanding work for the environment, education, outreach, etc. This year, we recognize one OUTSTANDING organization and a few other remarkable groups below. Many thanks to all the honorees!

- **Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry** - This includes pantry workers, volunteers of the garden that supplies the pantry with fresh fruits and vegetables, donors, and everyone else

involved in this amazing process. The pantry feeds so many and works tirelessly in the community to ensure equal access to food for all.

- **Work from Homers** - Those of you stuck in the house for a year have done the environment a lot of good. You really have saved gas and if you are a parent, you really have rocked it this year keeping everything together at home.
- **Composters and Food Waste Program Participants** - Did you know that each week, families participating in the City Food Waste Program send about 6 pounds of food waste to the composting facility?
- **Teachers** - You all have outdone yourselves. Hats off to all of you!
- **Frontline Workers** - We are so proud to be surrounded by frontline workers and heroes proving that all heroes, in fact, do not wear capes. They are our own family members, friends, and neighbors.

Bowie Police Department Family Fun Ride – April 18

Join the Bowie Police Department and the Beechtree Pedalers, Inc. for a Family Fun Ride on Sunday, April 18, 9 a.m. at 16901 Melford Boulevard. **This event is free and limited to the first 25 participants.** Cyclists of all ages are welcome! The route is just over one mile long. Register at www.cityofbowie.org/police. Social distancing and masks required. For more information, call 240-544-5792.

Capital Area Solar Co-Op Information Session – April 22

For the first time ever, the City of Bowie will join forces with Rockville, Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, Washington, DC, Arlington County, and Montgomery County to promote residential solar installations in the DMV. This is no April's Fool's joke - this collaborative co-op opportunity will be available from April 1 through August 31, 2021 for residents throughout the National Capital Region. Have you been thinking about going solar, but don't know where to start? Not sure about financing or incentives? The information session taking place on April 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., via Zoom, is the perfect opportunity to get all of your questions answered! For more information, contact Ashleigh Diaz at adiaz@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3044. Register to participate at <http://bowie.fyi/dmvsolar>.

Drug Take-Back Day – April 24

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

Healthy Yard for Bees, Birds, Pets and People

Join us on **April 29 at 6:30 p.m.** for a new sustainability webinar on how to have a healthy yard for all critters and people who share the space. Bonnie Raindrop of the Smart on Pesticides Coalition and Dr. Doebel from George Washington University will be the panelists walking us through why it's important to have a healthy yard, how best to achieve this, and the impact on pollinators in our area. Look for the sign up link on the City calendar or social media accounts in the near future. For questions, please contact adiaz@cityofbowie.org.

New Lawn Mower Rebate Program

Buying a new mower? Let us help! City residents who purchase a new mulching, electric, or manual reel mower are eligible to receive a \$50 rebate from the City of Bowie. To obtain your cash rebate, bring proof of municipal residency* and the receipt for a mulching, electric, or manual reel mower to the Finance Department at City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road. If the receipt does not specify that the mower is one of these three types, please also bring a manual or other documentation for the mower. Finance Department hours are Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rebates are limited to one per household. If you have questions, please call **301-809-3020**.

**Only those who live within the municipal limits of the City of Bowie are eligible to receive this rebate. Having a Bowie mailing address does not necessarily mean that you live within the City of Bowie limits. City residents pay property taxes to the City of Bowie and their services (refuse, recycling, leaf collection, etc.) are provided by the city.*

Youth Council

The Bowie Youth Council will give local students the chance to learn about local government and have a voice in city affairs. The Council will consist of 11 City of Bowie students from grades 6 to 12, who will have the opportunity to influence policy, provide positive leadership and service, and engage the community. The City Council is seeking representation from each of the four Bowie districts. Two volunteer adult advisors are also being recruited to help guide the students. If you might be interested in serving, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/youthcouncil to learn more. **Application deadline is April 30.**

Get Involved in Your Community – Join a City Committee

In addition to the new Youth Council being formed, there are 16 committees made up of community volunteers, providing advice and support to the City Council and city government on a variety of subjects, from environmental issues, to development, to public safety, and much more. Serving on a city committee is also a great way to learn more about city government, share your talents with the Bowie community, and meet others with similar interests.

Committees are meeting virtually during the pandemic and the meetings are open to the public. The list of upcoming meetings can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/calendar. Current vacancies include seats on the following committees: Arts, Administrative Review Board, Education, Environmental Advisory, Ethics, Green Team, Information Technology, and Recreation. Read about the work of all city committees and how to apply at www.cityofbowie.org/committees.

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. Neighbors Helping Neighbors also has Vaccine Navigators who will assist seniors with vaccination pre-registration or scheduling COVID vaccination appointments. Also, there is limited transportation available for vaccination 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.

Donate to the Bowie Food Pantry

Donate to the Bowie Police Department Food Drive in support of the Bowie Food Pantry. The last day to drop off food donations is April 30. Please drop off items at the Bowie Police Department, 15901 Excalibur Road (lower level). For more information, contact the Police Department at 240-544-5700.

Door to Door Sales

Everyone who goes house to house selling merchandise or services, offering free estimates, or leaving informational flyers at your door (except non-profit organizations) must have an individual City of Bowie Solicitors Permit with picture. If a solicitor cannot provide a city permit, we ask that you refrain from doing business with them. To report a company soliciting without a permit, please submit a company brochure or business card and the street where they were soliciting to codecompliance@cityofbowie.org or call **301-809-3008**.

Annual Stream Team Clean-up Update

This year's clean-up was again canceled due to COVID-19, but you can still help protect our streams. By getting outdoors and sprucing up your yard, street, or neighborhood this spring, you can reduce the amount of trash and pollution that goes into Bowie's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Trash that is collected can be placed at the curb with your household trash. Send a photo of you and your family, and you may be featured in the Green Bowie e-newsletter in May 2021. For questions or photo submission, contact Tiffany Wright, Watershed Manager at **301-809-3043** or twright@cityofbowie.org.

Dogs Running Loose

A loose dog in the neighborhood may be harmful to others or may become injured. Dogs running loose in the City of Bowie are a violation of the City Code Chapter 4, Section 4-6, paragraph (a). If this is a problem in your neighborhood, you may notify the dog's owner, if known, or contact Bowie Animal Control at **301-809-3002** and request that an Animal Control Officer respond (note the dog's description, address if available, and last known direction of travel). Animal Control will take appropriate enforcement action.

New Rental License Requirements.

The City Council passed an amendment to the City Code on January 4, 2021 removing the exemptions from the rental license requirements. All rental situations now require the property to have a valid City of Bowie rental license and inspection. This includes rentals where the owner or a family member lives at the property, basement or partial rentals and short-term rentals like Airbnb®, VRBO® or Home Away®. The annual license costs \$110 and a satisfactory inspection

is a condition of the license and renewal. For information, call **301-809-3008** or visit www.cityofbowie.org/rentalhousing.

Planning a Home Improvement?

Are you planning a home improvement? Many common home improvements require Prince George's County and City of Bowie building permits to ensure proper construction and community standards. Even when replacing an existing structure, both permits may be required. Projects requiring permits include additions, decks, driveway extension or replacement with different material, fences, porches (new or enclosing), signs, sheds, 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. Don't take a chance; check before you build. You'll need to allow time for permit review from the County and the City prior to beginning work. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Office at 301-809-3008 or visit <https://www.cityofbowie.org/116/Building-Permits>.

Learn More About the Bowie Master Plan Update

If you are interested in knowing what is being planned for our community's future, look for the complete "Playbook of Strategies" document, which will be posted soon on the M-NCPPC project website: <http://www.mncppc.org/3390/Bowie-Mitchellville-Master-Plan>. The Playbook of Strategies recommends a broad range of proposed strategies for three key sites: Old Town Bowie, Free State Shopping Center/Bowie Marketplace on MD 450, and parcels along US 301 in Bowie Local Town Center, in addition to the corridors of US 301, MD 450, and MD 197.

Be sure to let us know what you think by calling **301- 809-3045** or emailing jmeinert@cityofbowie.org. The City's public review of the Preliminary Master Plan will take place this summer.

Arts Committee Virtual Galleries

The City of Bowie Arts Committee celebrates local artists by sharing the artwork they curated. To view the Diversity, Unity, and Inclusion Gallery, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/unitygallery.

City Museums

The City of Bowie Museums reopened March 26. The museums are open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 - 1:30 p.m. and 2 - 4 p.m. All visitors will be expected to follow CDC and social distancing guidelines including:

- Submitting to a temperature check and health questionnaire upon entry to each museum.
- Signing a COVID-19 waiver form. (Parents/legal guardians must sign for individuals under the age of 18 and must supervise the youth at all times).
- Wearing a mask at all times in all areas, both inside and outside.
- Abiding by all social distancing guidelines and remaining at least six feet apart.

For information about City of Bowie museums, call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

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**.

- **April Activity Packet Drive-thru** – April 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Drive by and pick up a packet.
- **Herb Gardening** – Videos on how to plant, propagate, prune, and harvest herbs. Contact the Center for details.
- **Spring Chorale Cabaret** - April 23, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Music, humor, magic and more. Register at <https://bowie.fyi/srcabaret>
- **See the Center's April Newsletter** at www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter.

Bowie City Gym

The Gym is open, with restrictions, to resident members with up to two guests. Members are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a time slot. The only activities permitted at the Gym are walking, volleyball and pickleball; **basketball is prohibited**. Capacity limits, face masks, and social distancing required.

The Bowie Gymnasium is located at 4100 Northview Drive. For more information, visit <http://www.cityofbowie.org/gym> or call 301-809-2388.

Bowie Ice Arena

Open with restrictions for public skating, pick up figure skating, stick and puck. Due to capacity limits, please call ahead to make reservations.

The Bowie Ice Arena is located at 3330 Northview Drive in Allen Pond Park. For more information, visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena or call 301-809-3090.

Security Camera Rebate Program

The City of Bowie has a Security Camera Rebate Program. The program offers a \$50 rebate for the purchase and installation of any one outdoor video camera. The camera must be installed on a residential property within the municipal limits of the City of Bowie. The camera must have been purchased and installed on the residential property on or after November 17, 2020. The camera must be installed on the exterior of the home or residential property fence/shed/garage (as long as the camera is installed outdoors and within the residential property). For more information on the Police Department's Security Camera Rebate Program, visit www.cityofbowie.org/camerarebates.

Young Adults 16 – 24 Virtual Job Fair May 6

The City of Bowie is hosting a virtual employment fair for young adults, ages 16-24, on Thursday May 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Zoom. The goal of the fair is to connect local employers with young adults who are looking for both seasonal and year-round positions. Space is limited and registration is required. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair or email Rhonda Simon at rsimon@cityofbowie.org for more information.

Bowie Youth & Family Services Offers Counseling

Counselors at Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) are available to help families and individuals during this stressful time! BYFS serves individuals, families and groups in the Bowie community. They offer counseling and stress management groups 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 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. Call **1-513-817-3158** for assistance, or to arrange for an appointment. For more information, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/youthservices.

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 Robert Holt, rholt@cityofbowie.org 240-544-5690 or by visiting www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest to report the problem using our service request system.

Mark Your Calendar for our Next Shredding Event

The next city-sponsored community shredding event is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Works Department, located at 16500 Annapolis Road.

Have You Seen These Recent Video Broadcasts?

The following videos were produced by the City of Bowie

- [Police Department Public Safety Awards Highlights](#)
- [Police Department Public Safety Awards Ceremony](#)
- [Trap, Neuter, Release – How the City Deals with Wild Cats](#)
- [StoryWalk®](#) – a new way to walk and read
- [Code Compliance Tips about Outside Storage](#)
- [Walking Trails in Bowie](#)
- [Spring Crafts for Kids and Spring Read Aloud Book](#)

Job Vacancy

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

- Network Administrator I – Information Technology Department (closes 4/13)
- Public Health Officer – voluntary position (open)
- Entry Level Police Officer (open)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Department (open)

View job announcements and apply at www.cityofbowie.org/jobs.

COVID-19 NEWS

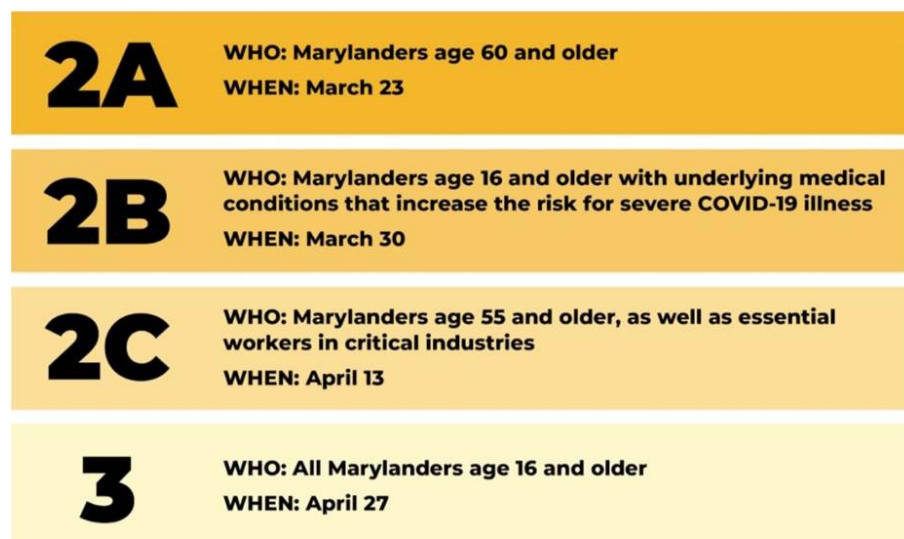
To keep up with the latest news about COVID-19 and the restrictions in place, please sign up for Alert Bowie at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts. You will receive updates each weekday containing current metrics about the spread of the virus, the latest restrictions imposed, updates to CDC guidance, resources for those impacted by the pandemic, and more. These updates are also posted on the City website (www.cityofbowie.org) by 5 p.m. daily.

Vaccine Eligibility

Maryland has expanded vaccine eligibility. Effective immediately, if you are age 60+ or if you are age 16+ and have a certain [underlying health condition](#) that makes you more susceptible to COVID, you are now eligible to be vaccinated. You can pre-register at one of the state's mass vax sites by visiting www.covidvax.maryland.gov or calling **1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829)**.

In addition, the following groups of people with disabilities ages 16 and older are eligible: those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits; people in the Maryland Medicaid Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program; Maryland Medicaid Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) recipients; and Marylanders receiving Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) benefits. Finally, those with disabilities who receive long-term services and supports through the Medicaid waiver and state plan are also eligible.

The next state, Phase 2C is scheduled to begin April 13. That phase includes Marylanders ages 55 and older as well as workers in critical industries, including construction workers, food services, utilities, transportation, financial services, information technology, and other infrastructure. Phase 3, the final stage, is slated to begin April 27 and covers the general population ages 16 and up.



Issued March 18, 2021. Timeline may accelerate depending upon vaccine supply.

Vaccine Appointment Scheduling

www.cityofbowie.org

Bowie News Flash

Below are four major options for scheduling vaccine appointments:

1. **Mass Vaccination Sites** - such as Six Flags, M & T Bank, Regency Stadium in Waldorf, Hagerstown, and the other sites opening in April. Preregister at www.covidvax.maryland.gov or by calling the state's COVID-19 vaccination support center at **1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829)**. Six Flags is administering approximately 4,000 shots per day. Up to 2,100 appointments of the Six Flags appointments are being set aside each week for Prince George's County residents on the County preregistration list.
2. **Prince George's Health Department Clinics** – Pre-register at <https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/> or call **3-1-1**.

The Health Department currently operates five vaccination clinics:

- [Cedar Heights Community Center in Seat Pleasant](#)
- [Cheverly Health Center in Cheverly](#)
- [Kentland Community Center in Landover](#)
- [Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center in Laurel](#)
- [Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Center in Fort Washington Sports and Learning Complex in Landover](#)

3. Pharmacies

- [Giant](#)
- [Safeway](#)
- [CVS](#)
- [Rite Aid](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [Walmart](#)

4. Healthcare Systems

- [Luminis](#) (includes Anne Arundel Medical Center & Doctors Hospital)
- [University of Maryland Medical System](#) (includes Prince George's Hospital)
- [MedStar Health](#)
- [Holy Cross](#)
- [Adventist Health Care](#)

The Maryland vaccination website has links to available appointments at the above locations or you can visit each organization's website to see what is currently available. Some of the healthcare systems also have their own pre-registration processes.

You may also wish to join the **Vaccine Hunters Group** on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vaccinehunters>). Group members share information in real time about when appointments open up at various pharmacies, hospitals, or other vaccination sites. They also provide tips such which days or what time of day a particular pharmacy chain updates their information.

More Vaccine Information:

State of Maryland: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

Prince George's County:

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3730/COVID-19-Vaccination>

City of Bowie: www.cityofbowie.org/vaccines

Receive updates from the State of Maryland about vaccine appointments at Six Flags and other mass vaccination sites by **texting “MDready” to 898-211.**

Consumer Advisory about Vaccines

The Maryland Insurance Administration reminds all Marylanders that they should not have to pay for a COVID-19 vaccine. Doses of the vaccine have been purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars and are being provided at no cost. Vaccination providers **are** eligible to be reimbursed from an insurer or from the federal government when they administer the vaccine, **but they may not charge individuals.**

In addition to the above, the CDC has said all organizations and providers participating in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program:

- may not deny anyone vaccination based on the vaccine recipient’s coverage status or network status
- may not charge an office visit or other fee if COVID-19 vaccination is the sole medical service provided
- may not require additional medical services to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- may not seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the vaccine recipient

If anyone attempts to charge you for a vaccination, please notify the Maryland Insurance Administration immediately at 800-492-6116 or file a complaint online at:

<https://enterprise.insurance.maryland.gov/consumer/ConsumerPortalWelcomePage.aspx>.

CDC: When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [guidance for people who have been fully vaccinated](#). People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

COVID-19 Testing

For a list of all COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland, visit

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing> or call the Maryland Department of Health Hotline: 410-767-6871.

You may also call the Prince George’s County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline at 301-883-6627 or visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus.

State Health Insurance Special Enrollment Period Extended to August 15

The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange announced that the state health insurance marketplace, Maryland Health Connection, will extend its current Coronavirus Special Enrollment Period. Uninsured Marylanders have the opportunity to enroll in health coverage until August 15. Those who are eligible for Medicaid can enroll any time of year. Health coverage through Maryland Health Connection covers costs for coronavirus tests at doctor's offices, urgent care centers, or emergency rooms. To learn more about coverage options, visit www.marylandhealthconnection.gov.

Food Programs

There are a variety of programs underway in Bowie and in the surrounding community to help make sure that no one goes hungry during these uncertain times. We have gathered the information together on our website so that it is easy to find and easy to navigate. If you are in need of food or know someone who is experiencing food insecurity, we encourage you to visit www.cityofbowie.org/food.

Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund

Visit the Pantry website for information about the services offered at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Bowie's volunteer-based Neighbors Helping Neighbors program may be able to provide transportation to vaccine appointments to seniors (65+) and disabled residents of the City of Bowie. The program also matches volunteer vaccine navigators with seniors or disabled persons who need help with scheduling vaccine 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 are interested in being a vaccine navigator or if you have questions or know of a senior that may benefit from this program, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5601.

State Programs Accepting Applications for Electric, Gas, and Utility Bill Assistance

Maryland Energy Assistance Program provides financial assistance with home heating bills, natural gas arrearage assistance, crisis assistance, and furnace repair or replacement. Payments are made to the fuel supplier and utility company on the customer's behalf. Learn more on the [Office of Home Energy Programs website](#).

Bowie Business Recovery Program

The Bowie COVID-19 Business Recovery Assistance Program offers online technical assistance to help Bowie businesses accelerate their post-pandemic economic recovery. The program is a collaboration between the Bowie Business Innovation Center business accelerator and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce and is funded by the City of Bowie.

In April, the Bowie Business Recovery Program delivers eleven separate technical assistance programs for Bowie entrepreneurs, designed to address specific business needs that have been

identified by Bowie businesses. Programs will include business recovery roundtables on federal funding opportunities and how to pivot your business. There will also be webinars on business planning and financial literacy. The popular One-on-One Open Door individual conversations will also be available this month to provide businesses with the opportunity to ask questions about business marketing in general and digital marketing in particular. For information and registration, visit www.bowiebusinessrecovery.com.

Alert Bowie

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to sign up for **Alert Bowie** at www.cityofbowie.org/alerts to receive a variety of information from the City of Bowie, including COVID updates, weather alerts, job opportunities, and crime alerts.