



BOWIE SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

Phone: 301-262-6200

www.cityofbowie.org

July 2021

[facebook.com/bowiemd](https://www.facebook.com/bowiemd)

twitter.com/cityofbowie

[instagram.com/cityofbowie](https://www.instagram.com/cityofbowie)

City of Bowie Reopening

In February 2020, the City of Bowie began monitoring the outbreak of a novel coronavirus and in mid-March of last year, the Emergency Operations Center was activated to manage the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the ensuing 15 months, that response took many forms including closing our buildings to the public, modifying operations to protect both the public and employees, supporting local healthcare providers and nursing homes, coordinating food and gift card distribution events, checking in with seniors, and matching those in need with various COVID assistance programs. The City also hosted flu clinics, helped seniors and other housebound individuals secure masks and groceries, funded a Business Recovery Program, launched a vaccine navigator program, and kept residents informed about the ever-changing state of the pandemic. Since April, the City of Bowie has also operated its own vaccination clinic in partnership with Safeway. Now, with good news on COVID case rates and substantial progress on vaccinations, the City is ready to get back to normal!

On June 30, the vaccine clinic at the Senior Center will close, the Emergency Operations Center will return to normal monitoring status, and the daily COVID-19 updates to the public will stop being published. Some precautions will remain in place, developments with the virus will continue to be monitored, and information will be shared when necessary.

Re-opening has been a gradual process for the last several months and the final stage begins July 1 when the City of Bowie re-opens all of its buildings to the public.

City of Bowie Operations as of July 1, 2021:

- **City Hall** is completely open for business and for scheduling conference rooms. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; rooms can be scheduled between 5 and 9:30 p.m.*
- **City Council Meetings** are now in-person and open to the public.
- **Picnic areas** at Allen Pond and Whitemarsh Park are available for booking.
- **Ballfields** are open for team practices and games (most require permits).
- All activities at the **Bowie Gym** have resumed. These include basketball, pickleball, volleyball, and walking. Hours are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and weekends, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Senior Center** is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for limited activities. Face masks and proof of vaccination required.
- **Historic Properties** buildings are open to the public Friday through Sunday from noon – 4 p.m. In-person programs are being offered and event rentals can now be scheduled.
- **Kenhill Center** is open to the public, to tenants and their guests, and to those needing meeting space. Meetings can be scheduled between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. Bowie Youth & Family Services continues to offer and recommends virtual counseling. In-person counseling can be requested. The Bowie Television Studio is scheduling sessions. The status of the Comcast payment office is still to be determined.
- **Ice Arena** reopens July 10. Offerings include open skating sessions, lessons, and summer camps.

Visitors to all City facilities will be required to submit to temperature checks and will be asked about symptoms before entry. Masks will not be required, but consistent with federal, state and county guidance, unvaccinated persons are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks. For more information, call **301-262-6200**.

**While meeting space is now available, because of on-going concerns related to the pandemic, we recommend that meetings take place virtually whenever possible.*

New Park Opens in Old Town Bowie

The long awaited 10th Street Bowie Heritage Park is opening! Join City officials for a brief ribbon cutting ceremony on **July 1 at 6 p.m.** to celebrate this new trail. Parking is available at the Bowie Railroad Museum. (No parking on 10th Street.)

City Council Meetings to Note

- **July 6** Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan contract award
- **July 12** Council Meeting, 8 p.m. Bowie Loan Programs Briefing

City Council meetings are now in-person and open to the public. You may also view them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996 or Youtube @CityofBowieMD. Those wishing to submit written testimony electronically may do so by emailing it to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org (It will not be read during the meeting, but will be included as part of the record.). Testimony must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. For more information, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at **301-809-3029**.

Sunday Sunset Concerts

The City's Annual Sunday Sunset Concert series begins **Sunday, July 11**, with Rise Band & Show (R&B, Motown). Shows are from **7 - 8 p.m.** Concerts will be held each Sunday through August. Concerts will be cancelled in inclement weather. Information: **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Homeowners Association Leaders

The City of Bowie will host a meeting for leaders of homeowners associations located within the incorporated city limits. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the needs of the associations and how to best collaborate with City departments. The meeting will be held this summer and is open to the president or vice president of the association. For more information and to ensure the correct contact information is on file, please contact Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Sustainability Webinar Series

Audubon Habitat Program, July 15 at 6:30 pm. Love the planet? Create habitat! Kathy Shollenberger and Barry Stahl will introduce a new Prince George's County initiative, the Audubon Wildlife Habitat Program. This program offers County residents the opportunity for a no-cost, on-site, in-person visit with trained Habitat Advisors who can help them transform their properties, no matter the size, into bird-friendly habitat. Register: <http://bowie.fyi/audubon>

Welcome To Your Watershed! July 24 at 12 p.m. An afternoon thunderstorm drops rain onto your roof, dripping down the siding and rolling down the driveway, where it runs into the road and eventually to those giant drains you see. This is stormwater. Do you know where it goes? Learn all about the waterways that surround us and why we should keep them clean! City Watershed Manager Tiffany Wright wants to welcome you to your watershed. Register: <http://bowie.fyi/watersheds>

Free Native Trees Available to Bowie Residents

A big "Thank You" to each resident who has participated in the *Plant One Tree On Us* program. If you have not received a native tree planted for you by a City contractor, now is your chance. Starting July 1, you can request a tree from the City's website (www.cityofbowie.org/PlantOneTree) for the fall planting season. Trees will be planted between mid-October and the end of the year. For more information, contact Tiffany Wright at **301-809-3043** or twright@cityofbowie.org.

StoryWalk Trail

Have you visited the Bowie's StoryWalk® trail yet? It is located at the Blacksox Tot Lot off of Mt. Oak Road at Aloha Lane. It provides a great opportunity to read a book while taking a walk outdoors as laminated pages from a children's book are posted along an outdoor path. The current book, *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner, takes readers on a walk with a mother and son as they explore wildlife above and below the waters. Books will change every six weeks.

MUSEUMS

301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org

KIDS KABOOSE 7/16, 10:30 a.m. Bowie Railroad Museum Ages 5 - 10, with adult. Free

WINE AND DESIGN DECORATIVE GLASS BLOCK 7/23, 7 - 9 p.m. Belair Mansion \$25/person. Space limited. Reservations required.

MUSEUM SUMMER FUN

July 19, 21 & 22, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ages 6-8, with adult.
July 26 & 28, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ages 3-5, with adult.
Belair Mansion Space limited. Reservations required. Free

FAIRY TALE FUN 7/28, 10 a.m. Belair Stable Stories and craft. Ages 2 - 8, with adult. Free

COVID-19 guidelines observed.

ADULTS 55+

Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive
301-809-2300
www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter

Open
Hours: Monday - Friday,
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Available:
Activity Calendar
Information & Referral Services
Transportation by Appointment

CITY GYM

4100 Northview Drive
301-809-2388

Activities have resumed at the Bowie Gymnasium.

Temperature checks and health screening required.

Closed July 4 - 5.

ICE ARENA

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

Ice Arena reopens **July 10**, celebrating its 50th year!

Register now for summer lessons and camps. More information is available at www.cityofbowie.org/icearena.

Independence Day Holiday

City offices are closed Monday, **July 5, 2021**. There will be no refuse or recycling service on this date. Service will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Timothy J. Adams
Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Boafu
Michael P. Esteve
Henri Gardner
Ingrid S. Harrison
Roxy Ndebumadu
Dufour Woolfley

CITY MANAGER

Alfred D. Lott
301-809-3030