



BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Welcome to the **Bowie Brief**, our new weekly newsletter about what's going on in city government. We will also include COVID updates in this document, as needed.

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Bowie News

Emergency Alert Testing

Today at 2:20 p.m., FEMA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will test the nation's public alert and warning systems. The purpose of the test is two-fold:

1. to assess the effectiveness of the [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) to receive and convey a national message via radio and television and
2. to test the ability of the [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEA\)](#) infrastructure to deliver a test message to mobile phones.

The EAS test message will be similar to the monthly tests you may hear on television and radio. The WEA test message will only be received on mobile telephones that have been configured to receive them. The message will say: **"THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."**

According to a press release issued by FEMA,

"Only phones that have been opted in specifically to receive system test messages will display the test message, which will be in either English or Spanish, depending on the device's language settings. Most mobile phones will not display the test message. In contrast, consumers will automatically receive real emergency alerts on compatible phones (even if they do not receive the test message). Instructions for how to opt-in to receive the test message on mobile devices can be found [here](#)."

Information collected from this test will be used to improve EAS and WEA capabilities and testing procedures in the future. Learn more about WEA and EAS at [Integrated Public Alert & Warning System | FEMA.gov](#).

Sunday Sunset Concerts

Sunday Sunset Concerts are held each Sunday, 7 - 8 p.m., through Labor Day weekend. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather. View the full concert schedule on our Summer Concerts [webpage](#). Information: **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Summer Skating Camps

The Bowie Ice Arena will hold summer ice skating camps the weeks of August 16 and August 23 for children ages 3 – 13. These week-long camps include on-ice lessons and games as well as off-ice activities. Skaters perform in a "show" at the end of the week for the parents. Slots are limited so be sure to register in person, by mail or over the phone.

Questions about any of these offerings? Contact Carrie Robertson at crobertson@cityofbowie.org or by calling 301-809-3090. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/icearena for more information.

Plant One Tree on Us Program

The Bowie Plant One Tree on Us program still has two spots left to have a free tree planted on your property. Visit our Plant One Tree [webpage](#) for more information. Contact twright@cityofbowie.org to claim your tree.

Senior Center News

The Center is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for individuals 55+ with proof of vaccination and wearing a mask. Daily senior services include various activities, programs, clubs, classes, events, transportation by appointment, information and referral services, fitness gym, library, billiard room, congregate lunch program, and much more. Stop by or contact the Center for information 301-809-2300.

Bowie Rental Assistance Program

Are you experiencing difficulties staying in your home due to COVID-19?

The Bowie Office of Grant Development and Administration is now offering relief to renters within the incorporated boundaries of the City of Bowie experiencing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Renters must be on-rent as of March 31, 2020 and document hardship as a direct result of COVID-19.

The ERAP covers the amount required by the landlord to resolve the outstanding balance less any funds available to be contributed by the applicant or one month's rent, whichever is less. Arrearages incurred prior to April 1, 2020 will not be paid with the City of Bowie Rental Assistance funds.

To be eligible for the program, tenants:

- Must have a valid lease agreement.
- Income must be at or below 80% of the area median income guideline.
- The household must have experienced loss of income due to COVID-19.

Learn more about the program on our [city website](#) to by emailing cobcares@cityofbowie.org.

Emergency Food Distribution at Kenhill Center on Saturdays in August

The City of Bowie will distribute non-perishable groceries to City residents in need every Saturday in August, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive). Residents must show proof of City residency (a piece of mail or state-issued identification). Events will be drive-thru; volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves and will load food into vehicles. Residents are asked to remain in their vehicles.

Distribution will take place on the following dates:

- August 14
- August 21
- August 28

Learn more at www.cityofbowie.org/cobcares or contact Program Coordinator Kay Starr at **301-809-3009** or mcobcares@cityofbowie.org.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 15

- [Bowie Farmer's Market](#) | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m
- [Sunday Sunset Concert](#) (Bill Hairston Project - R&B, Jazz, and pop) | 7 - 8 p.m.

Friday, August 20

- [Wine and Design at Belair Mansion](#) | 7 - 9 p.m.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar for details.

Stop the Violence Event on August 26

The City of Bowie is partnering with the Prince George's County States Attorney's Office to host a Stop the Violence event at Allen Pond Park on Thursday, August 26 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. This event is designed to raise awareness around the issue of gun violence and promote unity and healing by bringing together the community and local public safety officials. There will be speakers, music, informational tables, giveaways, food, and family fun.

Sunday Sunset Concert

Sunday Sunset Concerts are held each Sunday, 7 - 8 p.m., through Labor Day weekend. Concerts are canceled in case of inclement weather. View the full concert schedule on our Summer Concerts webpage at www.cityofbowie.org/concerts. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Farmers' Market

The Market is open 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Bowie High School parking lot (15200 Annapolis Road), each Sunday through October 31. A variety of vendors offer fresh, locally grown produce, fruit, plants, breads, pastries, jams and jellies, eggs, beef, pork and poultry. For information, contact Matt Corley at **301-809-3078** or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Federal, State & County News

Stand Up & Deliver Meals and Groceries

Friday, August 13 at 12:30 p.m. (Groceries)

- Turner Memorial AME Church – 7201 16th Place, Chillum/Hyattsville

Saturday, August 14 at 10 a.m. (Groceries)

- Ebenezer Church of God – 7550 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills
- Kingdom Fellowship at High Point High School – 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville

Business Assistance Programs

Project Restore Helps Businesses Grow

[Project Restore \(maryland.gov\)](http://ProjectRestore.maryland.gov) will provide \$25 million to fill vacant retail and commercial buildings and support business investment, job creation, and economic growth in Maryland's communities. Businesses opening or expanding into vacant retail and commercial properties may be eligible for Project Restore grants to help new and growing businesses with rent payments and operating costs in their first year. The "Notice of Funding Availability" is now online and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will post a sample application in the coming weeks. The application portal is projected to open the week of September 7th.

Small Business Administration Programs

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan remains open. The loans offer 30-year term, deferral period before repayment begins, and favorable interest rates. This may offer companies a safety net to help weather the storm. Program applications are due to close in December 2021 or when funds run out. Currently the SBA is still accepting applications. Businesses must be able to show financial impact from the pandemic.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/eidl/covid-19-eidl>

The SBA now has a new direct Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) forgiveness platform. Businesses with PPP loans of less than \$150,000 may be able to file an abbreviated form with the SBA for loan forgiveness if their lender is participating in this program. [PPP lenders participating in direct forgiveness \(sba.gov\)](https://directforgiveness.sba.gov) can visit <https://directforgiveness.sba.gov> portal. Borrowers that need assistance or have questions can also call 877-552-2692, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.

Shuttered Venue grant applications are still being accepted by the SBA. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>

Other Resources:

- **Information on all COVID-19 federal programs and services**
www.usa.gov/coronavirus or www.gobierno.usa.gov/coronavirus (en español).
- **The Maryland Commerce Funding and Incentives Maryland Covid -19 Relief programs:**
<https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/maryland-small-business-covid-19-emergency-relief-fund-programs>
- **Prince George's Economic Development Corporation updates:**
www.pgcedc.com
- **FSC First Updates:**
www.fscfirst.com
- **Watch Live Events from CO— by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (uschamber.com)**, including a recent program addressing tax credits available to local businesses: [Small Business Update: Family Vaccine Tax Credit \(uschamber.com\)](#)

Update on Federal Student Loan Program Payments

Last week, federal officials [extended the pause](#) on federal student loan payments one last time, until January 31, 2022, for a total of almost two years' reprieve for borrowers.

Maryland has a student loan ombudsman. The Ombudsman serves as a liaison between student loan borrowers and student loan servicers. <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/finance/consumers/frslombud.shtml>

Eviction Moratorium

Last week, the CDC announced a [limited eviction moratorium](#) for renters living in communities experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. This eviction moratorium protects renters for up to two months, through October 3.

Shop Tax Free in Maryland Aug 8 – 14

Maryland's Back to School Shopping Tax Free Week is underway. Qualifying clothing and footwear priced \$100 or less will be exempt from Maryland's six percent sales tax. The first \$40 of back/bookbag sales also qualify. A

list of exempt and taxable items is available on the Comptroller’s website at www.marylandtaxes.gov, or by calling the Taxpayer Service Section at 410-260-7980 in Central Maryland or toll-free 1-800-MD TAXES from elsewhere. Click [here](#) for Maryland Shop Tax Free FAQ's.

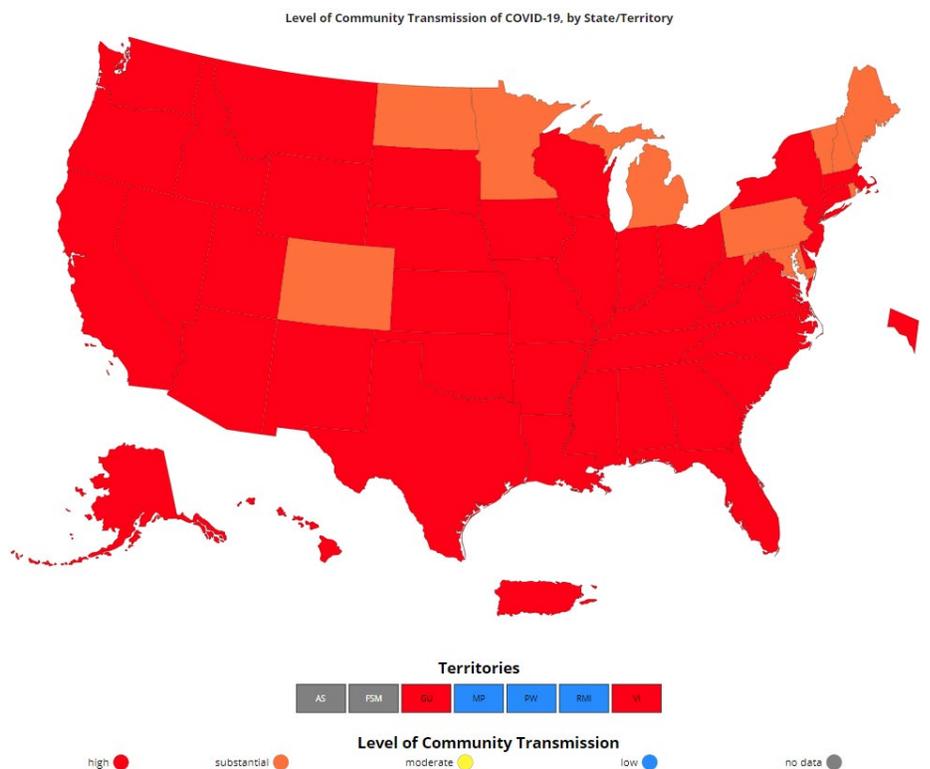
COVID Corner



Delta Variant

The CDC has updated [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention Strategies](#) based on emerging evidence of the Delta variant. The CDC recommends that all people, regardless of vaccination status, wear [masks](#) in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

A new [CDC study](#) supports previous findings that the Delta variant is highly contagious, and is contributing to an increase in cases, including those with severe outcomes and those due to vaccine [breakthrough infections](#). While vaccinated people can still develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get severely sick or die than people who are unvaccinated.



Most U.S. states and jurisdictions are experiencing substantial or high [levels of community transmission](#) fueled by the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant. COVID-19 [cases](#), [hospitalizations](#), and [deaths](#) continue to increase, especially in communities with lower [vaccination coverage](#).

Prince George’s County and Bowie Vaccinations

The CDC vaccination data by county is based on the percentage of the eligible population.

Prince George's County Fully Vaccinated Residents (as of 8/11, 2:27 p.m.)	
Total #	496,388
% of Total Population	54.6%
# of Age 12+	496,349
% of Age 12+ Population	64.3%
# of Age 18+	468,360
% of Age 18+ Population	66.2%
# of Age 65+	104,570
% of Age 65 + Population	82.8%

Vaccination Resources

Visit covidvax.maryland.gov, or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829) for information on vaccinations. The state-operated mass vaccination site at Six Flags has closed permanently.

Prince George's County is operating one vaccine clinic and three mobile units. Individuals 12 and older who live or work in Prince George's County are eligible to be vaccinated at these sites. Visit the [county vaccination webpage](#) for details.

CDC Vaccination Card

If you were vaccinated at a Prince George's County Health Department site and did not receive a CDC vaccination card and you would like one, please email COVID19_VaxCard@co.pg.md.us with your name, address, date of birth, contact information, and the date and location of your vaccination. The Health Department will process the request and produce a vaccination card. It may take the Health Department several days to process the request, but once your vaccination card is ready, staff will follow up via email.

Get Vaccinated at an Orioles Game

The Maryland Department of Health has extended the partnership with the Baltimore Orioles to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations at every Orioles home game through the remainder of the regular season, on September 30.

\$1 Million VaxU Scholarship Promotion

Maryland's VaxU Scholarship Promotion is underway. It is a \$1 million incentive program to encourage 12- to 17-year-olds to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The VaxU Scholarship Program will randomly select two \$50,000 scholarship winners per week for 8 weeks. On September 6, four winners will be selected. To qualify for the scholarship, students must both live and be vaccinated in Maryland. Learn more on the [MHEC VaxU Scholarship Promotion website](#).