



BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

In This Week's Update

Bowie News

Old Town Bowie Celebrates Festival is Saturday, September 18

City Council Meeting – September 20

Thanks for Your Service and Donations

Bowie Police Make Arrest in Theft from Auto Case

Coffee with a Cop at Starbucks on September 21

Bowie Police Department Offering \$500 Incentive for Officer Candidate Referral

Movies Around the City – “Remember the Titans” at Allen Pond Park on September 24

Free Shredding and Styrofoam Recycling Event – October 9

Emergency Preparedness Month - Week 3 Tips: Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness

Rental Assistance Fair

More Food Distribution Events around the County

Job Openings

Master Plan Update

Farmers' Market

Calendar of Upcoming Events

COVID Corner

Indoor Mask Mandate Remains in Effect in Prince George's County

Maryland Flags at Half-Staff Today in Memory of Lives Lost to COVID

Vaccination Resources

Prince George's County and Bowie Vaccinations

Bowie News

Old Town Bowie Celebrates Festival is Saturday, September 18

Old Bowie was once known for its spring and fall festivals. Now after a long hiatus, the City of Bowie and the Old Bowie Arts & Heritage Committee have teamed-up to re-establish the festival in Old Bowie. The goal is to regenerate interest in Old Bowie by providing activities that encourage visitors and shoppers to this historic community. The end goal is for Old Bowie to become the Arts & Heritage Center of Bowie.

The festival will include live music on two stages, juried craft and art vendors, magicians, stilt walker, juried art show, children’s activities, specialty foods, and much more. Free parking is available at the public MARC parking lot off Rt. 197 at Lemons Bridge Road and a free shuttle will run between the lot and the festival. Limited parking will also be available on neighborhood streets.

Musicians will include such notable groups as *Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes*, *Outdabox*, and *Off the Grid*. Solo musicians include bag piper Kevin Watkins, guitarists, and vocalists Leron Young, and Bowie’s own police chief John Nesky! The Welcome Center and the Railroad museum will be open to explore Old Bowie’s history and at the fire station, children can climb on an old fire truck.

The festival will stretch from 9th Street to Maple Avenue on the north side of the bridge and from Chestnut Avenue to 12th Street on the south side of the bridge. Visit the festival website for more information at oldbowiecelebrates.us.

TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR OLD BOWIE CELEBRATES FESTIVAL (SEPTEMBER 18, 7 A.M. – 7 P.M.)

ROAD CLOSURES*:

- **Chestnut Ave.** - Railroad Museum to 12th St.
- **12th St.** - Chestnut Ave. to Heritage Trail
- **11th St.** - Chestnut Ave. to street end (Heritage Trail)
- **10th St.** at playground (The circle at the end of 10th St. will be closed)
- **9th St.** - Chestnut Ave. to Maple Ave.
- **Chapel Ave.** - 8th to 9th St.
- **Chapel Ave.** - 9th St. to Railroad Ave.
- **Railroad Ave.** between Railroad Inn parking lot & Keller’s Antiques

DETOUR:

- Traffic will be rerouted onto Myrtle Ave. to avoid festival areas on 11th & 12th Sts. & Chestnut Ave. (between 11th & 12th)

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC:

- **7th St.** between Maple & Chestnut (toward Maple Ave.)
- **8th St.** between Maple & Chestnut (toward Chestnut Ave.)

*** RESIDENTS LIVING ON CLOSED STREETS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO/FROM THEIR HOMES, AS NEEDED.**

City Council Meeting – September 20

The next Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council takes place on Monday, September 20 at 8 p.m. The public is invited to attend the meeting in person at Bowie City Hall or view it live on the Bowie government channel (FIOS 10/Xfinity 71 or 996), on YouTube, or at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings.

Agenda items:

- Preliminary Master Plan for Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity
- Bowie Ice Arena
- R-54-21 Branding
- O-4-21 Procurement

Comments from the public may be offered during the Citizen Participation portion of the meeting or during public hearings.

Thanks for Your Service and Donations

The City of Bowie thanks residents for partnering with us during the September 11 Day of Service and Day of Remembrance. Volunteer Weed Warriors worked at White Marsh Park, made improvements at the Gabriel Network Bowie House, donated toiletries for needy families, and wrote letters and colored pictures for our first responders and veterans. We appreciate your time and hard work. Thank you for making a difference in our community.

Bowie Police Make Arrest in Theft from Auto Case

Thefts from automobiles are an ongoing problem in Bowie. On September 13, the Bowie Police Department made an arrest involving a subject who was seen entering vehicles and stealing items along Ettrick Court. A resident called to report the activity, and Police Officers were dispatched in time to apprehend the suspect. While this arrest signals progress in the theft from autos issue occurring within the City of Bowie, the Police Department wants you to know that there is much work still to be done on this issue. Unfortunately, this suspect is one of several who are targeting Bowie because they know that some Bowie residents leave valuable property in their vehicles or leave their vehicles unlocked.

To help combat the problem, the Department is rolling out a new initiative called IMPACT: Information Matters, Police and Community Together. Through targeted patrols, the camera rebate program, education, and the promotion of good crime prevention habits, the Police and the Bowie community can work together to prevent these types of property crime.

Thieves are always looking for the easiest way to steal your valuables. Never leave your cars unlocked, and never leave car keys inside your vehicles. Patrols are actively checking areas prone to this type of property theft. Do your part and lock your car doors every evening, ensure windows and doors to your home are shut and secure, and turn on your security camera notifications (if you have them). Create a good crime prevention habit today and make sure to make securing your vehicles and your home part of your daily 9 p.m. routine.

ALWAYS report suspicious activity to the Police Department. Call 9-1-1 for a crime in progress or call the Bowie Police Communications Center at 240-544-5700. Residents can also share information, images, and videos about suspicious activity or relay concerns about other police matters by emailing IMPACT@cityofbowie.org.

Coffee with a Cop at Starbucks on September 21

Coffee with a Cop brings police officers and the community members they serve together - over coffee - to discuss issues and learn more about each other. Join our cops on Tuesday, September 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Starbucks at Free State Shopping Center on Annapolis Road for coffee, light refreshments, and great conversation! Contact: 240-544-5792 or COPS@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Police Department Offering \$500 Incentive for Officer Candidate Referral

Would you like to have a say in who becomes a Bowie Police Officer? The Police Department has a new program that rewards community members who refer successful candidates for hire. You can receive \$500 if the officer candidate you refer is hired by the department. Payment will be made upon the new hire's first day of field training. Additionally, new hires are eligible to receive a starting bonus of \$3,000 - \$9,000. For more information, please contact the Office of the Chief of Police at 240-544-5777.

Movies Around the City – “Remember the Titans” at Allen Pond Park on September 24

Our Movies in the City series continues in September with “Remember the Titans” at Allen Pond Park. The movie will begin at dusk (approximately 7:30 p.m.). All are welcome. Bring a chair or blanket and flashlight. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. Questions or suggestions for future movie showings can be sent to Special Events Manager Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Free Shredding and Styrofoam Recycling Event – October 9

The City's next community shredding and Styrofoam recycling event is scheduled for Saturday, October 9 at the Public Works Department on Annapolis Road. Residents are invited to bring up to five kitchen-size trash bags or five boxes of documents to be shredded. Three shred trucks are provided at this event. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., but may end earlier if the trucks are filled.

Emergency Preparedness Month - Week 3 Tips: Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness

Natural disasters don't wait for a convenient time. Preparing for them shouldn't wait either. Start today by signing up for [alerts](#), safe-guarding important documents, and taking other low cost and no cost preparedness actions to lessen the impact of disasters and emergencies for you and your family.

- Download or order your free preparedness products to help your family plan and prepare for the next emergency. www.ready.gov/publications
- Drills aren't just for your toolbox. Practice emergency drills with your family regularly.
- Emergencies can happen anytime, and less than half of American families have a communication plan. Plan ahead: www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan
- Make preparing fun for kids! Go on a scavenger hunt around your house for items you already have to add to your disaster supply kit. Follow this list: www.ready.gov/kit and see how many items you can check off!
- Know what disasters and hazards could affect your area, how to get emergency alerts, and where you would go if you and your family need to evacuate. Visit: www.ready.gov/be-informed.

Rental Assistance Fair

Are you behind on rent due to COVID? Bowie's Rental Assistance Program has ended, but there are lots of other resources out there to help you. The Prince George's County Rental Assistance Housing Fair is at Suitland High on 9/18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Call 301-952-4729 for more information.

More Food Distribution Events around the County

Through the County's Stand Up & Deliver program, groceries will be distributed to those in need, at the following locations:

Friday, September 17 at 12:30 p.m.

- Faith Temple No. 2 Free Will Baptist Church – 211 Maryland Park Drive, Capitol Heights

Saturday, September 18 at 10 a.m.

- Ebenezer Church of God – 7550 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills
- New Home Baptist Church – 8320 Landover Road, Landover

Sunday, September 19 at 10 a.m.

- Community of Hope AME Church – 3701 Branch Avenue, Temple Hills

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Building Maintenance Worker – Community Services Dept. (closes 9/24/21)
- Transportation Specialist – Planning Dept. (closes 9/24/21)
- Entry Level Police Officer (open)
- Communications Specialist II – Police Dept. (open)
- Project Manager – Public Works Department (closes 9/16/21 – TODAY, 5 p.m.)
- Community Forester – Parks & Grounds Division (closes 9/24/21)
- Temporary Laborer (Part-time) – Public Works & Community Services Depts. (closes 9/24/21)
- Bus Driver (Part-time) – Senior Center (closes 10/1/21)
- Receptionist (Part-time) – Senior Center (closes 10/1/21)

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for details or to apply.

Master Plan Update

The Preliminary Master Plan for Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity has been published by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission and can be viewed on their [website](#). The Master Plan provides a vision for the City of Bowie and portions of the Mitchellville and Collington areas and describes how the plan area will grow and evolve over the next 25 years. It identifies strategies to achieve economic success for our area by recommending an increased mix of land uses at the Bowie Local Town Center, expanding economic development opportunities at the Free State Shopping Center/Bowie Marketplace area along MD 450 (Annapolis Road) and at the Collington Local Employment Area. It has addresses revitalizing Old Town Bowie and strategically investing along US 301/MD 3 (Robert Crain Highway), MD 450 (Annapolis Road), and MD 197 (Collington/Laurel Bowie Road).

Additionally, the plan contains recommendations for Land Use and Comprehensive Zoning, Economic Prosperity, Transportation and Mobility, Natural Environment, Housing and Neighborhoods, Community Heritage, Culture, and Design, Healthy Communities, and Public Facilities specific to Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity. City Council will hold a public hearing on the plan and review staff recommendations at its next

meeting on **Monday, September 20 at 8 p.m.** For more information, contact the Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

Farmers' Market

The Bowie Farmers' 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 18

- [Old Town Bowie Celebrates Festival](#) | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 19

- [Farmers' Market](#) | 8 a.m. – noon

Monday, September 20

- [City Council Meeting](#) | 8 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21

- [Coffee with a Cop](#) | 9 a.m. – noon

Friday, September 24

- [Movies Around the City](#) – “Remember the Titans” | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 25

- [Weed Warrior Workday](#) | 9 a.m. – noon
- [Free Drive-through Flu Clinic for Ages 3+](#) | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 2

- [Bowie International Festival](#) | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 8

- [Community Shredding & Styrofoam Recycling](#) | 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit www.cityofbowie.org/calendar for details about other upcoming events sponsored by the City of Bowie.



Indoor Mask Mandate Remains in Effect in Prince George's County

Last week, Prince George's County Council voted to extend the county's emergency orders regarding COVID-19 until October 25. This means that masks must be worn indoors at all retail, restaurant, and business establishments. The exceptions included in the order are listed below:

Exceptions:

- a bona fide disability or medical condition makes wearing a face covering unsafe
- when wearing a face covering would impede communications with those who have a hearing impairment or other disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication
- when wearing a face covering would subject a person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by federal, state, or local occupational safety regulators or workplace safety guidelines
- when wearing a face covering would make it impossible to receive medical or personal services requiring access to the face, mouth, or head, including without limitation, dental or medical care
- while seated at a table at an establishment and consuming food or beverages
- while in the water at a swimming pool
- while at indoor gatherings at private residences
- when alone in an enclosed office that no one else is permitted to enter
- when giving a speech for broadcast or an audience, provided no one is within six feet of the speaker
- when lawfully asked to remove mask for facial recognition purposes.

Maryland Flags at Half-Staff Today in Memory of Lives Lost to COVID

Governor Larry Hogan has ordered the Maryland State Flag lowered to half-staff until sunset on Thursday, September 16, 2021 in recognition of a COVID-19 Day of Remembrance. This action is in memory of 10,000 Marylanders who have lost their lives from COVID-19.

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 several 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.

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 9/16/21)	
Total #	535,240
% of Total Population	58.9%
# of Age 12+	535,201
% of Age 12+ Population	69.4%
# of Age 18+	498,088
% of Age 18+ Population	70.4%
# of Age 65+	106,875
% of Age 65 + Population	84.6%