

BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, February 24, 2022

Welcome to the **Bowie Brief**, our weekly newsletter about what's going on in city government.

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Bowie News

City Council Takes Action on Several Issues at February 22 Meeting

On February 22, the City Council authorized \$50,000 for a water filter system rebate program that will help defray the costs of purchasing and installing a filtration system for Bowie Water System customers that are experiencing chronic problems with discolored water. The program details will be announced soon.

Council also voted to support a revision to Detailed Site Plans for Melford Townhome Architecture and Mill Branch Crossing. Following those items, the Council received an update on the work of the Police Department from Chief John Nesky. He discussed several recent incidents, traffic safety, crime trends, and the department's ongoing community outreach activities.

The Council welcomed Officers Kaitlyn Dunklee, Miles Franks, and Karina Phillip to the force after they were sworn in by the Mayor. Officer Franks comes to Bowie from Newport News Police Department in Virginia, Officer Phillip is from Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C., and Officer Dunklee is a recent Police Academy graduate, hailing from our very own City of Bowie.



The February 22 Council Meeting can be viewed on the city website at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings or on the City's [YouTube channel](#). The Police Department Update begins at the 2:40 mark of the meeting video. The slide presentation accompanying the Chief's remarks can also be viewed at this [link](#).

Hate Leaflets Distributed in Chapel Forge Neighborhood

On Saturday, February 19, residents in Chapel Forge reported that offensive leaflets were being left in plastic bags on their driveways. The Bowie Police Department responded to the complainants and found materials containing anti-Semitic materials had been dropped in several driveways.

Bowie was not the only area to be targeted with these leaflets. Other jurisdictions in the region and around the country have reported similar leafleting occurred recently. While extremely offensive, these flyers are protected under the first amendment and distributing them is not a crime.

The Department issued the following statement in response to this incident:

“Our agency is aware of conversations taking place online regarding a call for service that took place today, Saturday, February 19, 2022, along Crosswick Turn which involved flyers containing hateful material being left in residential driveways. This afternoon, an online post was made stating that Bowie Officers were placing this material. We recognize that this is a serious accusation and welcome the opportunity to make a public comment on this incident.

At approximately 10:20 a.m., the Bowie Police Department responded to Crosswick Turn for the report of political propaganda material being left in residents' driveways. Once on scene, officers observed cards with anti-Semitic and political propaganda placed in plastic bags, weighted down with corn, throughout many driveways.

Officers collected the flyers and spoke with several residents; the area was cleared around 11:07 a.m. After receiving word that online comments were being made suggesting officer-involvement, a review of body camera footage was conducted. The responding officers were shown to be clearing the material from the area only and commenting on the importance of removing the material. We applaud their work in ensuring the hateful messages were disposed of properly.

The Bowie Police Department is actively investigating this incident to determine the origin. As a precaution, we've increased patrols in these neighborhoods. If you received a flyer, contact us at 240-544-5700. If a resident has an exterior home security camera that may have captured video relevant to this incident, please save the media and forward to our department. You can do so by emailing IMPACT@cityofbowie.org or submitting through <https://www.publicstuff.com/submit>

Unfortunately, reports of these weighted bags filled with hateful material are taking place across our country, even within neighboring counties. We want to make it clear that there is no place for hatred or these despicable acts in the Bowie community. We encourage anyone who has information on this incident to contact us at 240-544-5700.”

The Bowie City Council strongly denounces this incident. The Council is committed to fostering and supporting a community environment where these types of sentiments are unwelcome and not

tolerated. Incidents like this harm not only the intended victims, but also the entire fabric of the Bowie community.

Apply Now for the Police Citizen’s Academy

The next session of Bowie’s Citizen Police Academy will begin in May. The Academy is a 13-week training course that allows participants to learn from police officers and other members of the criminal justice system through interactive classes and facilitated discussion. Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- Internal Investigations
- Tactical Training Technique
- Judgment Enhanced Training
- Citizen/Police Interaction
- Media Relations

[Participants must complete an application](#) in order to be considered and must be at least 18 years old. Academy members will meet in-person at the Police Department for 13 Tuesday evenings, from May 3 to July 26, from 6 - 9 p.m. For more information please email cops@cityofbowie.org.

City Committee Vacancies

Learn more about City government, share your talents with the Bowie community, and meet others with similar interests by serving on a City Committee. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/Committees for information about how to apply.

Openings available on the following committees:

- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts
- Board of Elections
- Community Outreach
- Community Recreation
- Education
- Environmental Advisory
- Financial Advisory
- Green Team
- Information Technology

For more information, contact cityclerk@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3029.

Black History Month

Follow the City on social media and visit www.cityofbowie.org/blackhistorymonth throughout February for posts spotlighting the accomplishments of African Americans and information on other local Black History Month programs.

Raising Cane's Seeks Permission to Open at Bowie Gateway Center

A development request has been filed on behalf of the fast food chicken restaurant Raising Cane’s. The restaurant chain wants to build a 3,331 square foot restaurant with drive-thru service at the former Chilis Restaurant site on Heritage Blvd. The project will need a revision to the Conceptual Site

Plan for Bowie Gateway Center before it can move forward. City Council will take up the matter at its next meeting on March 7. For more information, contact Planning Director Joe Meinert at 301-809-3047 or [by email](#) .

Application Deadline Extended for Free Workforce Training for Ages 15-25;

The City of Bowie will present a free online workforce development course for City residents ages 15–25. The virtual program will be offered weekly from March 5 – April 7, 2022. The application period has been extended to Friday, February 25, 2022.

The application form, session dates, and additional program information are all available at www.cityofbowie.org/worktraining. Have questions? Contact program coordinator Kay Starr at worktraining@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3009.

Help Us 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

Report an outage by contacting Robert Holt at mrholt@cityofbowie.org and 240-544-5690 or by visiting www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest to report the problem using our service request system.

Coffee & Climate Chat

The City will be hosting a virtual climate conversation over coffee with our Sustainability Planner, Ashleigh Diaz, and former Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Steve Wehrenberg on February 28 at 10 a.m. This conversation will focus on clean energy choices in Maryland, climate change information, and more. Please submit questions to be answered live to adiaz@cityofbowie.org and register at: bowie.fyi/coffeeclim. If you are unable to make it to this conversation, the event will be available afterwards on the City’s [YouTube channel](#).

Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award

The Community Outreach Committee is accepting nominations for the Malcolm “Skip” Popp Award. This award recognizes Scouts and/or Scout Leaders who have rendered “extraordinary and distinguished” community service within Scout organizations in the City of Bowie during 2021.

To be eligible for this award, Scouts or Scout Leaders must be affiliated with a Scouting group within the limits of the City of Bowie, and/or a Scouting group for which 50% or more of their youth members are City of Bowie residents. They must also be registered with the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts, USA.

Please see the nomination form at www.cityofbowie.org/popp for details regarding eligibility criteria and information required. **The deadline is Friday, March 18, 2022.** For more information, contact

Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

Single-Family Housing Grants for Low- and Moderate-Income Residents

The Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Program is a federally funded grant program that provides City of Bowie single family homeowners with grants up to \$10,000 for energy efficiency related home upgrades and repairs to correct hazardous conditions, eliminate safety hazards, repair or replace major systems, correction of interior and exterior deficiencies, energy improvements, modifications for persons with disabilities and the removal of lead 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. Applicants must provide income and asset verification. Additional federal requirements apply.

Applications are now open at www.cityofbowie.org/rehabgrants. Contact the Office of Grant Development and Administration at bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org for more information.

Apply Now for the “Bowie First” Mortgage Assistance Program

The “Bowie First” Mortgage Assistance Program is now open. This program will provide grants to assist teachers, police officers, persons with disabilities, and city employees purchase a home in the City. The grant is in the form of closing cost assistance for the purchase. Grants are for \$2,000 and will be matched by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s Maryland Mortgage Program, providing a total of \$4,000 per applicant.

Interested in applying? Visit the City’s [First Homebuyer Assistance webpage](#) and also visit the state’s [Maryland Mortgage Program](#) page or call 1-800-638-7781 to learn more. Questions may be directed to the Office of Grant Development & Administration at bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org.

Wine and Design at the Belair Mansion

Brush off the winter blues by making a beautiful spring grapevine wreath that will brighten your home. The workshop takes place on Friday, February 25, at 7 p.m. at the Belair Mansion. Bring your favorite beverage and we will provide scrumptious snacks. Reservations required. The cost is \$25 per person and space is limited. Call Susan Proctor at 301-809-3089 to reserve a spot. Masks are required.

Job Openings

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

Closing February 25

- [Bus Driver \(Part-time\)](#) – Community Services Department

Closing March 4

- [Executive Office Manager](#) – Community Services Department

Closing March 11

- [Park Aide](#) – Community Services Department

Closing March 31

- [Solid Waste Collector/CDL Class B](#) – Public Works Department

Closing April 29

- [Project Manager](#) – Public Works Department

Open until filled

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) – Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) – Police Department
- [Equipment Operator](#) – Public Works Department
- [Transportation Supervisor/Assistant Transportation Supervisor](#) – Senior Center
- [Network Administrator](#) – Information Technology Department

Visit <http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs> for details or to apply.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 24

- [Senior Center Program: Famous African-Americans JINGO](#) | 12:30 p.m.

Friday, February 25

- [Senior Center Program: Black Musicians Who Changed Music Forever](#) | 12:30 p.m.
- [Wine and Design at Belair Mansion](#) | 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 26

- [National Anthem & Voice of Bowie Auditions](#) | 9 a.m.

Monday, February 28

- [Coffee and Climate](#) | 10 a.m.

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

Bowie News & Publications

The City of Bowie offers several newsletters and even videos summarizing general city news.

- The [Bowie Spotlight](#) is a monthly summary of news and events in Bowie
- The [Bowie Brief](#) is a weekly update, highlighting upcoming events and important topics for that week. The Brief may also include COVID updates, as needed.
- View all our videos on Bowie's YouTube channel [@cityofbowieMD](#)

These newsletters are distributed via [Alert Bowie](#). For additional information, contact the Communications Division at 301-809-3032 or [email](#).

The City also publishes the [Green Bowie Newsletter](#) and a newsletter about the [Senior Center](#) each month and produces a variety of annual reports. Visit our [Newsletters & Reports](#) page to learn more about these City publications.

Latest Videos



COVID CORNER



CDC Updates COVID Guidance for People with Certain Medical Conditions

The CDC has updated the list of certain medical conditions that put people at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 to include additional disabilities, primary immunodeficiency, and physical inactivity. The CDC determines the level of risk of severe COVID-19 based on available information, such as published reports, scientific articles, and data from rigorous CDC-led investigations. This list may not include every underlying medical condition that might increase a person's risk for getting

very sick from COVID-19. The list will be updated as CDC learns more about other medical conditions. A person with a condition that is not listed may still be more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 and should talk with their healthcare professional about how best to manage their condition and protect themselves from COVID-19. [View details](#)

FDA Delays Decision on Vaccines for Children Under Five

The FDA announced recently that its Advisory Committee was postponing a review of Pfizer's request for authorization to administer its COVID-19 Vaccine to children six months through four years of age. The delay, which is expected to last until early April, will give the committee more time to receive and review more data on the effectiveness of a third dose.

Get Boosted and Qualify for Cash Drawings

The VaxCash 2.0 Promotion will award \$2 million in cash prizes to a total of 12 Maryland residents who have received their booster shot. A weekly drawing will award \$50,000 to one lucky boosted Marylander. Then on Tuesday, May 3, the program will end with a single boosted resident winning the grand prize of \$1 million.

Maryland residents 18 and older who have received their primary COVID-19 vaccinations AND their booster shot in Maryland at any time are eligible to win. No registration or entry is needed.

COVID Testing

Testing continues to be an important component in the strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Below is a summary of current testing options:

COVID Test Sites

Use the [Maryland Department of Health Test Site Locator](#) tool to find a COVID test site near you.

At-home testing

- Request a test kit through the federal government - [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#)
- Pick up a test kit at one of the local distribution points at certain libraries and community centers. [See this week's list.](#)
- Purchase a test with the help of your health insurance company. As of January 15, 2022, private insurance companies are required to cover at-home COVID-19 tests. Insurance companies and health plans are required to cover eight free at-home tests per covered individual per month. Contact your provider for details.

Blood Drive

The Bowie Senior Center will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **March 12**, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. **Proof of COVID-19 vaccination must be shown** and a mask must be worn at this blood drive.

Vaccinations

State officials continue to urge all eligible Marylanders to get vaccinated for COVID and the flu and get their booster shots just as soon as they are eligible.

To find a clinic, visit covidvax.maryland.gov or call the state’s multilingual call center, available seven days a week, at 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

County Residents May Pick Up Free KN95 Masks at Multiple Locations

Free CDC-approved adult-sized KN95 masks are available for Prince George’s County residents at multiple locations, while supplies last. The State-supplied masks are available at County COVID-19 testing sites and vaccination clinics during regular operating hours, as well as at select Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) branches and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) community centers during weekly rapid test kit distributions.

Each County resident present at a mask distribution site will receive two masks. Residents must provide proof of residency; examples include but are not limited to, a driver’s license, utility bill, or lease agreement. The masks are free regardless of insurance or immigration status.

Free KN95 masks are also available, while supplies last, at Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 testing sites in the County. In addition, Prince George’s County Public Schools continue to hand out free KN95 masks each week to students and staff. The full schedule of distribution sites can be found at health.mypgc.us/COVIDsupplies.

COVID Data

Covid-19 Data (as of 2/23/22)				
	Maryland	Prince George's County	Bowie	
Cases	999,229 (+341)	168,491 (+38)	Cases: 15,323 (+8)	
Deaths	14,062 (+13)	2,097 (+1)		
Positivity Rate	2.87%	2.31%		
Case Rate Per 100K	10.99	6.43	20715: 3,300 (+0)	
Maryland Hospitalizations			20716: 3,347 (+4)	
Adult	Total: 507 (-6.1%)	ICU: 104 (-2.8%)	20720: 3,859 (+4)	
Pediatric	Total: 9 (+33%)	ICU: 3 (+0%)	20721: 4,817 (+0)	
<i>Figures above in parentheses represent a one-day increase since 2/22/22.</i>				
Vaccine Progress - At Least One Dose				
	Maryland	Prince George's County		
CDC 18+	95%	95.0%		
CDC 5+	90.1%	91.7%		
Source: Maryland Department of Health at coronavirus.maryland.gov				
	20715	20716	20720	20721
Fully Vax	19,103 (71.36%)	15,315 (69.35%)	17,820 (75.82%)	21,833 (73.23%)
1st Dose	20,852 (77.89%)	16,942 (76.71%)	20,027 (85.21%)	24,362 (81.72%)
Vaccine totals represent total population, not eligible population. Source: Maryland Department of Health at coronavirus.maryland.gov				

Prince George's County Vaccinations

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

Prince George's County Fully Vaccinated Residents (per CDC) as of 2/23/22	
Total #	657,134
% of Total Population	72.3%
# of Age 5+	657,112
% of Age 5+ Population	77.3%
# of Age 12+	632,448
% of Age 12+ Population	82%
# of Age 18+	581,684
% of Age 18+ Population	82.2%
# of Age 65+	116,149
% of Age 65 + Population	92%

Maryland Health Connection Deadline Extended

The deadline for Marylanders to apply for health insurance through Maryland Health Connection has been extended until Monday, February 28. Prince George's County Health Connect is available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to assist residents with health insurance needs. For more information and to get covered, visit: <https://www.pghealthconnect.org/>

State Offers COVID Mortgage Assistance

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is accepting applications to assist homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage due to COVID-19 through the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund. To learn more about the program and apply, please click [here](#).