

BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Friday, March 11, 2022

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

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Bowie News

Daylight Savings Time

Be sure to “spring” your clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time! Set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 12. While you’re setting your clocks, take the time to test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they're working properly.

Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month, a celebration of women’s contributions to American history, culture and society. Follow the City on social media and visit www.cityofbowie.org/womenshistorymonth throughout March for posts spotlighting the accomplishments of women and information about local Women’s History Month programs.

One of those programs takes place on March 12, from 2 – 3 p.m. It is a historic lecture entitled “[The Wild Women of Maryland: Grit and Gumption in the Free State](#)”. Author Lauren Silberman shares her extensive knowledge about these female figures in Maryland's history have stood the test of time and proved that they were the women they wanted to be.

How Do You Describe Bowie?

The City of Bowie has embarked on a visioning and branding project that will help to better define our city – for those who live or work here and for those who might be interested in moving or visiting here, and also for those who have chosen, or are considering making Bowie their business location.

The goal is to better articulate what makes Bowie unique and special. In other words – why do people (or why should people) choose Bowie to live, work, shop, play, and visit.

We know that Bowie means different things to different people. Understanding the different perspectives and experiences within our city will be important to understanding our community’s character, where its strengths lie, and where improvements may be needed in the future. You can help this effort by completing the survey at <https://trajectory.typeform.com/Bowie>.

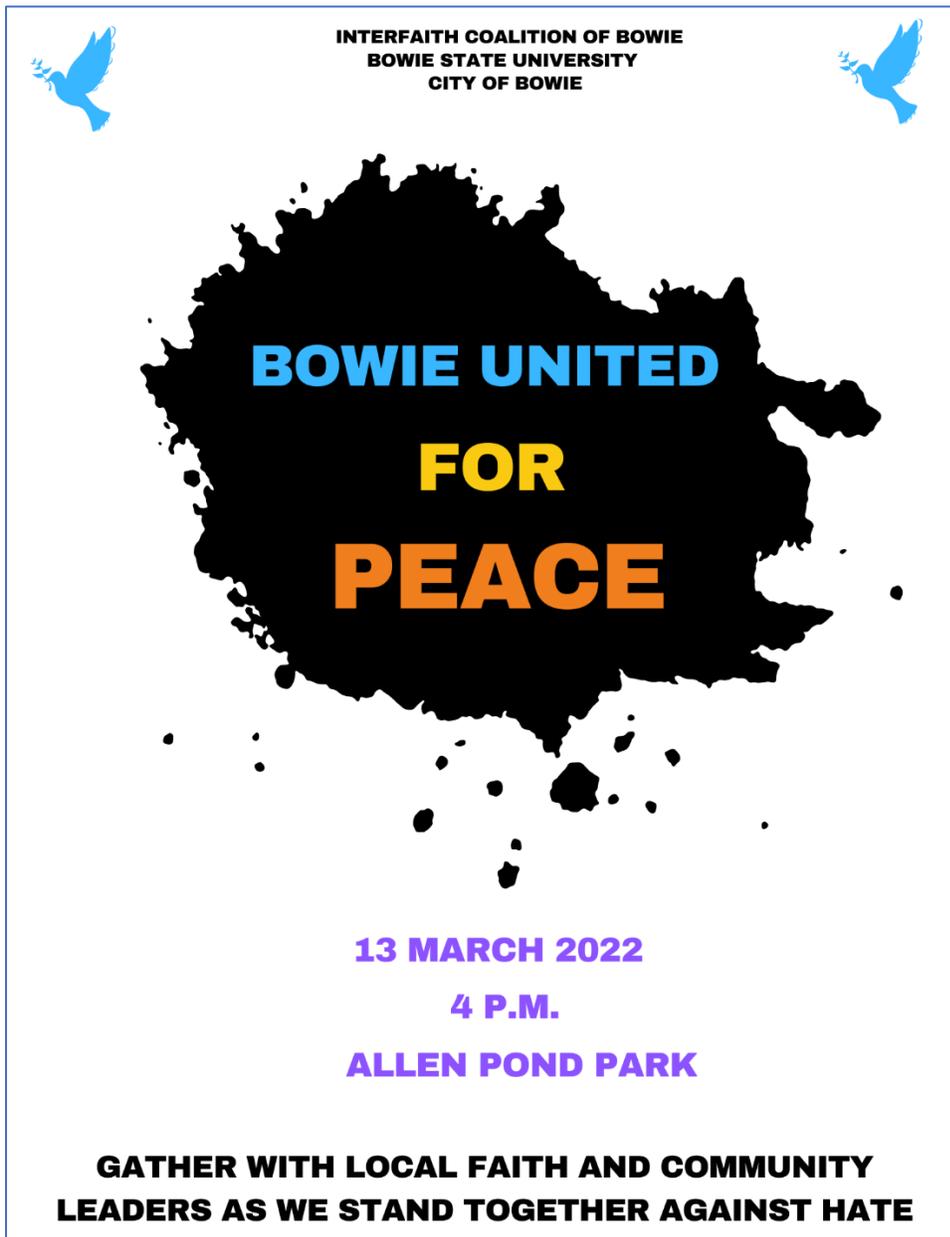
Rally for Peace

In February, there were two incidents in Bowie neighborhoods when offensive leaflets were dropped in driveways. The Bowie Police Department responded and found materials containing anti-Semitic comments.

In addition to the leafletting incidents, earlier this year, Bowie State University, other historically black colleges and universities, and other schools around the country have received bomb threats.

To combat these examples of hate speech and actions, and to promote peace everywhere, the Bowie Interfaith Coalition, Bowie State University, and community leaders have organized a “Bowie United for Peace” rally. As a visible show of support for peace and against hate in all its forms, the City

Council has decided to co-sponsor the rally. The event will take place at Allen Pond Park on March 13 at 4 p.m.



Job Fair for Teens & Young Adults Ages 16 – 24 on March 26

After a two-year hiatus, Bowie’s Young Adult Job Fair returns in person at the City Gymnasium on March 26, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The goal of this job fair is to connect local employers with young adults seeking summer, part-time or full-time employment. Young adults should come prepared to make a good first impression. This includes bringing a resume, pen, paper, and being ready to interview at the event. Although not

required, pre-registration is encouraged. All pre-registered young adults will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 Target gift card.

Employers who will be recruiting at the Job Fair include the City of Bowie, Prince George's County Department of Corrections, Maryland National-Capital Park Police, and Luminis Health. More organizations are being added each week.

Each year, the Job Fair attracts over 300 young adults ready to be interviewed and hired. Employers are encouraged to register their businesses for the event and provide live presentations, accept applications, conduct interviews, and hire employees at the fair. Employer registration ends March 21. Tables are free, but space is limited. More information for employers and employees can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair or call Rhonda Simon at 301-809-3033 or email jobfair@cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Water Filter Rebate

Bowie Water System customers who are experiencing discolored water due to sedimentation are now eligible for a City rebate of up to \$1,800 to help defray the costs of purchasing and installing a whole house water filtration system or water filter(s) at their property.

City Council has authorized \$50,000 for this new program. Rebates will be awarded on a first come, first served basis to eligible applicants who are prequalified for the rebate. The rebates will continue to be distributed until the \$50,000 in program funds are exhausted or until the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2022, whichever comes first.

Funding is limited. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/waterrebate for more information. If you think you may be eligible for this rebate program, it is imperative that you begin the application process as soon as possible.

Vendors & Participants needed for Special Events

Do you have a small business? Are you looking for ways to get your local organization more involved in the community? The Bowie Memorial Day Parade and Bowiefest offer two great opportunities to have some fun and get some exposure for your organization or business.

The Memorial Day Parade recognizes members of the Armed Services, past and present, and honors the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. It takes place on May 28 at 11 a.m. Participant applications are due by April 29 and can be found on the [Memorial Day Parade page](#) on the City website.

Bowiefest brings the best of Bowie's civic organizations, entertainers, and businesses together in one place at Allen Pond Park. This year, Bowiefest takes place on June 4, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Applications for food and drink, arts and craft vendors, and game vendors are now being accepted. The application deadline for Bowiefest is April 8. Please visit the [Bowiefest page](#) on our website to learn more and to apply.

Rabies Clinic

Does your furry friend need their rabies shot updated? Are they microchipped? Bowie Animal Control has organized a low-cost rabies and microchipping clinic where you can get both accomplished easily. The clinic takes place on April 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot behind City Hall (15901 Fred Robinson Way). Shots and microchipping cost \$10 each. Prince George's County pet licenses can also be purchased at the event. Non-altered pet licenses are \$25/per year, altered pets are \$10/year. This event is cash only, for all services.

Online Work Skills Training Program

Are you looking to advance in your career or want to switch careers to something different and perhaps more in demand in today's job market? The City of Bowie's new online worker training program may be just the thing you need to start you on a path to promotion or a new line of work.

The City has partnered with a company called Coursera to provide online training classes to Bowie residents. The Coursera online upskilling platform offers more than 5,000 courses on a variety of topics ranging from website development to project management. The courses are developed by a variety of universities around the world, including respected local institutions like Johns Hopkins, the University of Maryland, and Howard University. Google, Facebook, Amazon, Salesforce and other tech companies have also partnered with Coursera to develop courses relevant to their industries.

Education and training come in many forms, but not all workers have the means or the access to the training they need. Through this partnership with Coursera, the City hopes to make it easy for you to obtain the specific training you need to get a job, change careers, or qualify for that promotion you've always aspired to. The program launches March 21. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobtraining to learn more about this tremendous learning opportunity.

Latest Videos





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 for details regarding eligibility criteria and information required.

The deadline is Friday, March 18, 2022. Nomination forms may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/popp. For more information, contact Sharon Hunt at shunt1@verizon.net or 301-802-0714, or Lori Cunningham at lcunningham@cityofbowie.org.

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 about all of the mortgage programs offered. Questions may be directed to the Office of Grant Development & Administration at bowiehsg@cityofbowie.org.

New Session of Citizens’ Police Academy Begins in May

Take a look behind the scenes of your local police department! The Bowie Police Department is now accepting applications for the next session of its Citizens' Police Academy. This free, multi-week training course allows community members to learn about the Bowie Police Department from officers and other members of the criminal justice system through interactive classes and discussions.

Session IX begins Tuesday, May 3. Participants must complete an application and be at least 18 years. Seats are filled on a first come, first served basis. For more information, email COPS@cityofbowie.org. To apply, visit: www.cityofbowie.org/citizensacademy.

Weed Warriors

Join members of the Bowie Green Team on March 19 at 9 a.m. for a morning of removing English Ivy from the forest of Whitemarsh Park. Students can earn service-learning hours and Scouts can work towards their badges but must be at least 14 years old to participate. Tools and a short training session are provided on-site for volunteers.

English Ivy is an invasive vine that grows all over trees. These vines can grow up to 90 feet and inhibit the growth of wildflowers, new trees, and shrubs. Vines spread up trunks and cling to branches and twigs, which blocks sunlight and impedes photosynthesis. This entire process causes infested trees to eventually die. Workdays are limited to 30 participants so please register in advance, by emailing adiaz@cityofbowie.org.

Job Openings

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

Closing March 11

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

Closing March 14

- [Human Resources Generalist](#) – Human Resources

Closing March 18

- [Executive Office Associate](#) – Streets & Utilities Divisions

Closing March 25

- [Temporary Laborer](#) – Parks & Grounds & Stormwater

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 Specialist I/Transportation Specialist II](#) – Planning Department
- [Transportation Supervisor/Assistant Transportation Supervisor](#) – Senior Center
- [Network Administrator](#) – Information Technology Department
- [Part-time Museum Aide](#) – Community Services

- [Part Time Bus Driver](#) - Community Services

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 12

- [Museums Lecture: The Wild Women of Maryland](#) | 2 p.m., Belair Mansion

Sunday, March 13

- [Rally for Peace at Allen Pond Park](#) | 4 p.m., Allen Pond Park

Monday, March 15

- [Ice Arena Camp Registration Begins](#) | Ice Arena

Wednesday, March 16

- [Annual Action Plan Public Hearing #1](#) | 6 p.m., Virtual via Zoom

Thursday, March 17

- Series 4 Group Skating Lesson Registration Opens | Ice Arena

Friday, March 18

- [Wine and Design](#) | 7 p.m., Belair Mansion
- [Popp Award Nomination Deadline](#) | 5 p.m.
- [Art Scholarship and Education Scholarship Deadline](#) | 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 19

- [Weed Warrior Workday](#) | 9 a.m., Whitemarsh Park

Monday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 23

- [Spring Has Sprung- Let's Get Planting](#) | 10 a.m., Bowie Senior Center
- [A Pawsome Social](#) | 4 p.m., Dog Park

Saturday, March 26

- [Young Adult Job Fair](#) | 9 a.m., City of Bowie Gymnasium

Tuesday, March 30

- [Fairy Tale Fun](#) | 10 a.m., Belair Mansion

Saturday, April 2

- [Annual Stream Clean Up](#) | 9 a.m., Sites TBD
- [Weed Warrior Workday](#) | 9 a.m., Whitemarsh Park
- Rabies Clinic | 10 a.m., City Hall

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

COVID CORNER



Progress on COVID-19

Two years after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down everyday life, we are happy to report that the news on COVID is mostly good these days. The positivity rate is under 2%, there are less than 300 Marylanders hospitalized with COVID, and Bowie cases are averaging less than 10 per day.

In light of these encouraging metrics, masks are no longer required indoors in Prince George's County and the County has lifted the COVID state of emergency effective March 9, 2022.

There are two exceptions to the lifting of the masking orders:

1. Prince George's County Schools will continue to require masks until the COVID vaccination rate in the County reaches 80%.
2. The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended the mask directive on public transportation and in transportation hubs until April 18, when it expects to issue a revised policy about when, and if, masks will be required on public transport.

Vaccinations are still the most effective tool we have in preventing another surge in cases. COVID shots are widely available at pharmacies, community clinics, and urgent care facilities. To find a clinic, visit covidvax.maryland.gov or call the state's multilingual call center at 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

Getting boosted in Maryland also provides you with a chance to win cash. Maryland's VaxCash 2.0 Promotion is underway. Between now and the end of April there will be a weekly drawing for \$50,000 and then May 3, the program will end with a single boosted resident winning a 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

- Use the [Maryland Department of Health Test Site Locator](#) tool to find a COVID test site near you.
- The US government is distributing a second round of COVID tests. Request yours now - [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.
- The City expects to host another test kit giveaway event in April. Look for details in an upcoming Bowie Brief.

COVID Data

Covid-19 Data (as of 3/10/22)			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	Bowie
Cases	1,005,716 (+383)	169,245 (+46)	Cases: 15,416 (+5)
Deaths	14,229 (+11)	2,123 (+4)	
Positivity Rate	1.58%	1.55%	
Case Rate Per 100K	5.21	3.96	20715: 3,321 (+1)
Maryland Hospitalizations			20716: 3,362 (+1)
Adult	Total: 265 (-6.6%)	ICU: 61 (+1.6%)	20720: 3,887 (+1)
Pediatric	Total: 10 (+11.1%)	ICU: 2 (+0.0%)	20721: 4,846 (+2)
<i>Figures above in parentheses represent a one-day increase since 3/9/22.</i>			
Vaccine Progress - At Least One Dose			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	
CDC 18+	95%	95.0%	
CDC 5+	90.6%	92.4%	
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 #	662,955
% of Total Population	72.9%
# of Age 5+	662,933
% of Age 5+ Population	78%
# of Age 12+	636,293
% of Age 12+ Population	82.5%
# of Age 18+	584,837
% of Age 18+ Population	82.6%
# of Age 65+	116,425
% of Age 65 + Population	92.2%