

BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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Bowie News

Gary Allen Recognized as 2022 Bowie Green Citizen Award Recipient

The City of Bowie would like to congratulate Gary Allen, former Mayor of Bowie, for his lifetime of work in the field of sustainability and for being awarded Bowie Green Citizen of 2022. Mr. Allen received his award on April 30 at Bowie's 2022 Arbor Day celebration, which was most fitting, since he is the president of the Maryland Forestry Association.

Allen may love trees, but that's not all. He chaired the Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee for many years, where he spearheaded the Council's adoption of sustainable policies for Bowie, such as purchasing hybrid vehicles, increasing the tree canopy, encouraging the use of solar power, and getting Bowie recognized as one of the first Sustainable Maryland Certified communities in the state. Gary's footprint in Bowie may be huge, but he continues to work diligently to educate others on how to minimize theirs! Many thanks to Gary Allen for his commitment to Bowie and to a more sustainable lifestyle.



Bowie Police Host Another Successful Drug Takeback Day

This past Saturday, the Bowie Police Department held its bi-annual National Drug Take Back Day. In only 5 hours, almost 200 residents took advantage of the drop off site, to safely and responsibly dispose of medications. At the end of the day, 21 large trash bags, equaling about 600 pounds, were filled with unused or expired medications. As always, thank you for the amazing turn out, Bowie! Did you miss Drug Tack Back Day? Locate one of the permanent drop off sites for your unused or expired medications by visiting the [FDA website](#).

Spring Arts and Crafts Market is Saturday May 7

Buy gifts for mom at Bowie's Spring Arts and Craft Market on Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The market takes place in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for Performing Arts (15200 Annapolis Road), next to the Bowie Public Library. Choose from a variety of handmade jewelry, home decor, quilts, and more! Learn more about this event by visiting www.cityofbowie.org/artsandcraftsmarket.



Green Bowie Happenings in May

The [Green Bowie Happenings newsletter for May](#) has lots of great information about how you can maintain a greener lifestyle. Learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities and events with the Bowie Green Team, try out this month's plant-based recipe, and find more information on other local programs designed to make Bowie a cleaner, more sustainable place. [Sign up now](#) to get the "Green Bowie Happenings" newsletter in your inbox every month. You can also check out the full archive of past newsletters [here](#).

Budget Process

City Council is almost finished reviewing the Proposed FY23 Budget and Capital Improvements Program. The budget will take effect July 1, 2022. The remaining budget meetings take place on:

- **Monday, May 9, 8 p.m.** - Budget Worksession #5 – Department of Planning & Community Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, Appendix (including Plan of Compensation), Wrap-up.
- **Monday, May 16, 8 p.m.** - Adoption FY 2023 Budget and Capital Improvements Program.

Meetings are in-person and open to the public. The public can also view them at www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings, on FIOS Channel 10 or Comcast Channels 71 and 996, or on YouTube [@CityofBowieMD](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofBowieMD).

Update on our Career Training Program

Bowie’s new job training program launched in April. This free program provides city residents with an opportunity to learn new job skills, change careers, or make themselves more marketable through a special partnership with our online training partner, Coursera.

Over 100 Bowie residents have already signed up to take advantage of our FREE online job skills training program. Slots are limited, so be sure to apply now; the only requirement is that you must be a City of Bowie resident.

This program includes two course tracks. There are still some openings in the general worktraining track, and several slots are still open in the “Grow with Google” professional certificate track. Classes in the Google Career Certificate track are available in fields such as data analytics, IT support, project management, user experience (UX) design, and just recently, e-commerce and digital marketing were added as options. Submit your application now at www.cityofbowie.org/jobtraining.

Mental Health Awareness Event

Did you know that May is Mental Health Month? The City has scheduled a virtual forum on mental health awareness on May 18 at 7 p.m. The Community Outreach Committee will host this forum to discuss how mental health impacts children and adults, and to bring awareness to signs or symptoms that someone is struggling. Click [here to register](#).

Bike to Work Week is May 16 – 22

Pedal your way to a healthier lifestyle and more environmentally friendly form of transportation during Bike to Work Week, from May 16 – 22. Put down those car keys, pick up a helmet, and join us in this national challenge. Celebrating Bike to Work Week isn’t limited to just biking to work! Ride your bike to the grocery store, bike with family and friends, bike to exercise in your local park, and, if you’re up to the challenge, bike to work.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

During the month of May, the City of Bowie recognizes Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is an annual celebration

that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions that individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent made to the United States. The theme for this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage month is "Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration". For a list of reading recommendations, events and exhibits around the county, and biographies of famous people that we celebrate this month, please visit www.cityofbowie.org/asianpacificheritage.

Bowie Water Filter Rebate Program

Bowie Water System customers who are experiencing discolored water due to sedimentation may be 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. If you think you may be eligible for this program, it is imperative that you begin the application process as soon as possible, since funding is limited. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/waterrebate for more information.

Bowie Heritage Weekend

Celebrate Bowie's heritage starting on Friday, May 20 and continuing through Sunday, May 22. The weekend will kick off on Friday evening with Wine and Design at the Belair Mansion. This month's creation is a patriotic red, white, and blue mesh wreath for your home. [Preregistration is required](#). This event begins at 7 p.m. \$25 per person. Snacks and supplies are provided, just bring your own adult beverage!

On Saturday, stop by the Belair Mansion between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to purchase fresh herbs, vegetables, and flowering plants from the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and local vendors. The Bowie Green Team will also be in attendance offering eco-friendly gardening tips and tricks. This is a great way to get your young ones outside and planting!

On Saturday evening, join us for a family movie night under the stars at the Belair Mansion. The movie "Babe" will be shown at 8:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the story of an adorable pig who is not sure of his place in the world.

To round out our weekend on Sunday, come to our Heritage Day celebration at Belair Stable. It takes place from 12 – 4 p.m. Celebrate your Maryland roots as you enjoy the music from "Durham Station Band". There will also be a "Not - So - Little Three Pigs" puppet show, face painting, pony rides, craft making and old fashioned "fair games" in the kid's zone. While you are at there, learn about the history of Thoroughbred horseracing in Bowie, and the farming history of the Belair Stable. For more information, please contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

SHA Presents New Plans for Improving MD 197 Between Kenhill & MD 450

On Tuesday evening, the Maryland State Highway Administration held a virtual public meeting to present design ideas for the improvement of MD 197, between Kenhill Drive and MD 450.

Proposed improvements include widening MD 197 from two lanes to four lanes, realigning and enhancing the existing bike lane along northbound MD 197, introducing noise reduction measures along both sides of that segment of roadway, and relocating aerial utilities underground. This project has been talked about for several years but had been mostly dormant since 2015. Since resuming

work on the project in January 2022, the Maryland State Highway Administration has redeveloped the design concept to be less expansive and to lower vehicle speeds. The new proposal includes three traffic roundabouts at the intersection of Lerner Lane/Foxhill Park, Faith Lane/Lyle Lane and Long Ridge Lane/Tulip Grove Drive.

SHA intends to complete the current effort and present the 30% design plans at a public meeting later this year. Please visit the [SHA project website](#) to learn more about the project and to view the full list of questions and answers that were addressed at the April 26 virtual meeting.

Girl's Count – Teen Girls Group

Girls Count! is a group for high school girls to connect with each other and discuss the issues facing young girls today. This group meets weekly through May 11, at 3 - 4 p.m. In this group, girls explore and learn how to nurture their true selves. In addition, girls share ideas about everyday issues and about making important choices and decisions. Sessions focus on themes such as self-image, assertiveness, decision making, peer pressures, and more.

Register: [Girl's Count 2022](#)

Youth LifeSkills Group

Bowie Youth & Family Services offers a Life Skills group to help young adults aged 16 to 24 by providing the skills necessary to re-connect to high school or be successful in the workplace. It meets virtually, starting Tuesday, May 10, 7 to 8 p.m. This group promotes health and personal development for students who are struggling with attendance at school or who are entering college or the workforce after high school. Focus is on building skills in goal setting, effective communication, managing stress, decision making and risk, time and money management, and inter-personal relationship building. Participants receive weekly gift cards to Target for participation.

For more information call Rhonda Simon at Youth & Family Services 301-809-3033 or email

rsimon@cityofbowie.org

Register: [LifeSkills Group](#)

Water Bill Assistance Program

City of Bowie water customers who are in arrears on their water bill accounts may be eligible for grants of \$100 - \$2,000 from the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) offered by the State of Maryland. Eligibility is determined by household income and/or participation in various state aid programs. For complete details and how to apply, please visit

www.cityofbowie.org/waterassistance.

PLEASE NOTE: Bowie residents on WSSC water can obtain help with their water bills by going to www.wsscwater.com/assistance.

Honor Those Who Serve with a Flag in Bowie's Field of Honor

Between May 27 and June 5, Sussex Lane Park will be transformed into a Field of Honor, featuring a display of US flags flying in solemn formation in honor of those who serve or in memory of those who served in the past.

The park will be filled with US flags dedicated in honor of veterans, active military personnel, professions that have helped during the pandemic, and loved ones lost. Through a partnership with the Colonial Flag Foundation, those interested in participating can visit our [Field of Honor webpage](#) to purchase a flag for \$40 and dedicate it to a person or group of their choice. (Purchase deadline is May 20.) Purchased flags can be picked up at City Hall after the display concludes.

(Sussex Lane Park is the open area between Sussex Lane and Annapolis Road, located across from Bowie High School.)

Bowie Police Host Virtual Discussion on Human Trafficking on May 10

Did you know that human trafficking is now the second highest grossing criminal enterprise? Or did you know that the average age of a person that is targeted and commercially sexually exploited is between 12 and 14 years old?

Join the City of Bowie Police Department and the Prince Georges County Office of Human Rights for a fundamental education opportunity on this subject. This session will help residents identify the signs of human trafficking and learn what to do when they suspect someone is in trouble.

This meeting will take place on Zoom on May 10 at 6:30 p.m. Reserve your spot now to learn more about how to protect your family and know the signs and signals that someone is being trafficked. Zoom link: <https://bowie.fyi/humantrafficking>.

Zumba and “Happy Feet”

Join the Bowie Green Team for a fun filled night on Friday, May 13. Kick off the evening at 7:30 p.m. with a family Zumba class and dance party at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater at Allen Pond Park. At approximately 8:30 p.m., get out your blankets and chairs and enjoy the movie “Happy Feet” under the stars. The movie features a great message about the saving the environment, mixed in with some great songs, and some cute penguins. Be sure to join us for this fun filled family night. Don’t forget to pack some snacks to enjoy while you watch the movie!

Bowie Farmers’ Market Opens for the Season May 15

The Bowie Farmers’ Market opens for the 2022 season on Sunday, May 15 from 8 a.m.- 12 noon in the Bowie Center for Performing Arts parking lot (15200 Annapolis Road). Coffee, vegetables, fruit, meat, baked goods, breads, jams, and rain barrels will all be for sale. The Farmers’ Market will run every Sunday through October. For more information, contact Matt Corely, Special Events Manager at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Beautification Awards

The City of Bowie, in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, is seeking nominees for the 26th annual Beautification Awards Program. Nominate a garden or yard in your neighborhood.

Categories include:

- Distinguished whole yard landscaping/gardening
- Distinguished front, back, or side yard landscaping/gardening
- Distinguished specialty garden (i.e. patio garden, Japanese, butterfly, etc.)
- Distinguished wildlife habitat
- Distinguished business landscaping/garden
- Distinguished school (public or private) landscaping/garden

Nominations are due by June 24. To nominate a home or business in your neighborhood, visit www.cityofbowie.org/beautification.

Streetlight Outages

Help us to keep the lights on in 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. You can report an outage by contacting Robert Holt, rholt@cityofbowie.org or 240-544-5690 or by visiting www.cityofbowie.org/servicerequest to report the problem using our service request system.

Job Openings

The City of Bowie is currently seeking candidates for several positions listed below. Full time employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life and long-term care insurance; a 401(k) with employer match; and a 457 savings plan. They also have paid holidays and earn leave. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/jobs for links to job postings.

Closing May 6

- [Part-time Community Enhancement Worker](#) - Community Services
- [Code Compliance Officer/Trainee](#) - Community Services
- [Park Aide](#) - Community Services
- [Temporary Laborer](#) - Parks and Grounds/Stormwater Management
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Open until filled

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) - Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) - Police Department
- [Part-time Bus Driver](#) - Community Services
- [Part-time Theater Technician](#) - Community Services

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 4

- [Girls Count! Group for Teenage Girls Begins](#) | 3 p.m.
- [Virtual Discussion on Mental Health & Showing of “Angst!”](#) | 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 7

- [Bowie Arts & Craft Market](#) | 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 9

- [Budget Worksession #5](#) | 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10

- [Virtual Discussion: Understanding Human Trafficking](#) | 6:30 p.m.
- [LifeSkills Group for Young Adults Begins](#) | 7 p.m.

Friday, May 13

- [Kid’s Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum](#) | 10:30 a.m.
- [Zumba & “Happy Feet” Family Movie Night](#) | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 14

- [Straight Eight Car Show at Belar Mansion](#) | 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 15

- [Opening Day at Bowie Farmers’ Market](#) | 8 a.m.

Monday, May 16

- City Council Meeting | 8 p.m.

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

COVID CORNER



Prince George's County remains at a low [COVID-19 community transmission level](#) according to the CDC. Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, and some counties in central Virginia have moved back to a medium rate of transmission recently, as have some areas of New England.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security added a COVID-19 Testing Toolkit with Frequently Asked Questions. Questions and answers are regularly updated to reflect new information, federal guidance, and topics of interest.

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.](#)

For updates on COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, including a complete list of clinics in the County, visit health.mypgc.us/Coronavirus

CDC Recommendation on Masking

At this time, the CDC recommends that everyone aged 2 and older, including passengers and workers, properly wear a well-fitting mask or respirator over the nose and mouth in indoor areas of public transportation (such as airplanes, trains, etc.) and transportation hubs (such as airports, stations, etc.). The CDC also encourages operators of public transportation and transportation hubs to support mask wearing by all people, including employees.

According to the CDC, this public health recommendation is based on the currently available data, circulating variants and their impact on disease severity and vaccine effectiveness, current trends in COVID-19 community levels within the U.S., and projections of COVID-19 trends in the coming months.

FDA Warning About Counterfeit COVID Test Kits

The FDA issued a warning informing the public that there are **counterfeit versions** of the following at-home over the counter COVID-19 diagnostic tests being distributed or used in the US:

- Flowflex COVID-19 Test Kits
- iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Kits

The [FDA website](#) contains information on how to check whether a test is counterfeit.

COVID Data

Covid-19 Data (as of 5/4/22)			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	Bowie
Cases	1,036,338 (+1,330)	173,515 (+189)	Cases: 16,049 (+31)
Deaths	14,479 (+2)	2,153 (+1)	
Positivity Rate	6.98%	6.02%	
Case Rate Per 100K	17.93	16.72	20715: 3,467 (+10)
Maryland Hospitalizations			20716: 3,491 (+6)
Adult	Total: 223 (+1.8%)	ICU: 28 (-10.7%)	20720: 4,057 (+6)
Pediatric	Total: 6 (-14%)	ICU: 2 (+0%)	20721: 5,034 (+9)
<i>Figures above in parentheses represent a one-day increase since 5/3/22.</i>			
Vaccine Progress - At Least One Dose			
	Maryland	Prince George's County	
CDC 18+	95%	95.0%	
CDC 5+	92.0%	94.8%	
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 5/4/22	
Total #	681,806
% of Total Population	75%
# of Age 5+	681,772
% of Age 5+ Population	80.2%
# of Age 12+	651,827
% of Age 12+ Population	84.5%
# of Age 18+	597,984
% of Age 18+ Population	84.4%
# of Age 65+	119,231
% of Age 65 + Population	94.4%