



BOWIE BRIEF

Your Weekly Update
Thursday, December 22, 2022

BOWIE NEWS

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Bowie News

House Decorating Contest Winners

Name	Address	Award
Thomas Howell	4008 Nicholas Place	The Piromahmed Family Award
Jean Manall	4100 Wakefield Lane	The Mateik-Pitts Family Award
The Kime family	3002 Nutwood Lane	Best of Bowie Award
Kali, Andrew, & Tyler Setera	12730 Kembridge Drive	Best of Bowie Award
The Westbrook Family	6307 Gradys Walk	Best of Bowie Award
The Gullickson Family	13316 Ovalstone Lane	Best of Bowie Award
Arlene Komala	2230 Hindle Lane	Best of Bowie Award
The Setera Family	13121 Oval Lane	Best of Bowie Award
Phillip Staples	12433 Kemmerton Lane	Best of Bowie Award
Jess Harbison	5703 Bideford Court	Best of Bowie Award
Matthew & Heather Birney	3820 Irongate Lane	Best of Bowie Award
The Galentine Family	11901 Gradys Court	Best of Bowie Award
Hope & Jeffrey Durate	1512 Pittsfield Lane	Best of Bowie Award
Gustavo Saavedra-Bravo	3910 York Lane	Spirit Award
The Hammett Family	3805 Irongate Lane	Spirit Award
Jeff & Shelia Kerns	3527 Majestic Lane	Spirit Award
Eric & Kym Fender	3100 Tinder Place	Spirit Award
Lauren Giglio & Wesley Schmidt	12308 Salem Lane	Spirit Award
Stan & Angela Helowicz	8000 River Gate Lane	Spirit Award
Ariel McDade	14420 Old Stage Road	Spirit Award
Keith Sykes	2303 Hillman Place	Spirit Award
Michael Norris	1909 Althea Lane	Spirit Award
Alvin & Becky Butler	6403 Gradys Walk	Spirit Award

Holiday Schedule

Monday, December 21 - Friday, December 23, 2022

- Trash and recycling on normal schedule (weather permitting)
- City offices open
- City Gym, Ice Arena, Museums, & Senior Center open

Saturday, December 24, 2022

- Museums, City Gym, & Ice Arena open

Sunday, December 25, 2022

- All offices and facilities closed

Monday, December 26, 2022 - City Holiday

- No trash or recycling collection
- City offices, Museums, & Senior Center closed

- City Gym and Ice Arena open

Tuesday, December 27, 2022 - Friday, December 30, 2022

- Trash and recycling collection WILL take place
- City offices open
- City Gym, Ice Arena, Museums, & Senior Center open

Saturday, December 31, 2022

- City Gym, Ice Arena, Museums, & Senior Center open

Sunday, January 1, 2023

- Museums closed
- City Gym & Ice Arena open

Monday, January 2, 2023 - City Holiday

- No trash collection
- Recycling WILL be picked up
- City offices, Museums & Senior Center closed
- City Gymnasium & Ice Arena open

Note: Snow or ice may alter this schedule.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Public Works will be picking up Christmas trees on the following Wednesdays in January along with yard waste:

- Wednesday, January 4
- Wednesday, January 11
- Wednesday, January 18
- Wednesday, January 25

Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree, and place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m. Do not place trees in plastic bags.

Winter Preparedness

Winter is here! Although it's the most wonderful time of the year, this season comes with its own risks and hazards that we should all be prepared for.

- **Vehicles:** Prepare your home and car by having emergency supply kits. These kits should include jumper cables, a flashlight (with extra batteries), warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable foods.
- **Warming Centers:** In the event of a power outage or heat loss, Prince George's County or the City of Bowie may open a warming center here. Visit www.cityofbowie.org and www.princegeorgescountymd.gov for details.
- **Generators:** If you own a generator, ensure that you are aware of how to use it properly and safely by having it outside of your house and having up to date carbon monoxide alarms within the home.

- **Stay Safe Outdoors:** Know the [signs of hypothermia and frostbite](#) and how to treat them in case of an emergency. If you must go outside, do not overexert yourself and wear multiple layers of warm clothing.
- **Keep Informed:** Follow your local news stations, the National Weather Service, and be sure to sign up for [Alert Bowie](#) to be aware of any winter storm warnings, watches or weather advisories in our area and get the latest news on what’s happening in Bowie.

For additional information regarding winter weather safety and preparedness, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather. In the event of a winter weather storm, Bowie specific news and information will be posted to the city website, on our social media accounts, on Bowie Government TV, and will be sent out via Alert Bowie and shared with local news channels.

Stay Safe this Season

As we have seen in past years, COVID-19 transmission rates are once again increasing in our region during the winter months. On December 21, the community transmission (the rate at which the virus is spreading) for Prince George’s County was reported to be at “HIGH. Frederick, Montgomery, and Charles Counties in Maryland as well as the City of Alexandria, and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties in Virginia are report a “HIGH” transmission rate.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also reports that Coronavirus-related hospital admissions are climbing in the US, with older adults representing a growing share of U.S. deaths and less than half of nursing home residents up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. According to the latest *CDC Data Tracker*, hospitalizations for people with COVID-19 rose by more than 30% in two weeks, much of it driven by older people and those with existing health problems.

What can you do to help keep the numbers down? CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, advised recently that with the spread of [COVID-19, RSV and seasonal flu](#), and taking into account lagging vaccination rates, masking up is one of the best ways Americans can protect themselves, “One need not wait on CDC action in order to put a mask on.” You can protect your family and yourself this season by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, washing your hands and staying home when sick. To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, go to coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine or contact your primary care physician.

The federal government also recently announced that due to the uptick in cases related to holiday gatherings, every household in the US is eligible to have another four free COVID tests mailed to their home. Visit COVIDTests.gov to order yours.

Vaccines for Children

On December 9, the CDC expanded the use of updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months to 5 years following the latest FDA approval. Children ages 6 months to 5 years who previously completed a Moderna primary series are now eligible to receive its bivalent booster 2 months after

their final primary series dose. Children ages 6 months - 4 years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose.

Information on Bird Flu

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has confirmed cases of bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza) in samples taken from black vultures initially found sick and dead in Western Maryland and at poultry farms there. Since the initial detection, more than 100 black vultures have died from the disease.

H5N1 is a virus which can infect poultry such as chickens, turkeys, and wild birds - especially ducks, geese, and vultures. As scavengers, vultures may feed on dead wildlife, including other wild birds. If they ingest the virus, they can get sick and die. It is believed the vultures contracted the virus from eating infected migratory bird species. Because black vultures are known to fly long distances, they may be spreading the disease to other parts of the state and transmitting the virus to other birds.

It is important to note that the H5N1 virus has not shown an ability to infect and be transmitted between humans. Avian influenza does not affect poultry meat or egg products, which remain safe to eat and handle. Properly cooking poultry and eggs to 165° F kills any bacteria and viruses that might be present, including High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses.

Residents should follow these steps to help manage wildlife and assist local animal agencies track strains of avian influenza in local wild birds:

- **Reduce food sources.** Most wildlife diseases are transferred from animal to animal. Because of their close contact, animals crowding at feeding sites can readily exchange diseases. Please do not attract geese and ducks to gather by offering them food in our parks or at home.
- **Secure your garbage.** Store garbage in hard plastic trash bins with lids.
- **If you see sick or dead wild birds,** do not handle or move them. Report any sick wild birds to Bowie Animal Control at animalcontrol@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3002. Office hours are on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For more information on avian influenza, visit mda.maryland.gov/avianflu.