

# **BOWIE BRIEF**

Your Weekly Update  
Friday, January 6, 2023

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# **Bowie News**

## **Update on City Council Vacancies**

In December 2022, two City of Bowie Councilmembers resigned after they were elected to other offices. In accordance with the City Charter, when vacancies occur less than 15 months prior to the next City election, which is in November 2023, replacements must be appointed by the Council.

In late November 2022, the vacancies were announced and interested residents were invited to apply for the open seats on the City Council by December 30, 2022. There was strong interest in the vacancies, with 37 At-Large candidates and 18 District 3 candidates completing the application process.

Each of the candidates will be interviewed in a closed City Council session. At the conclusion of the interview process, replacements will be selected and sworn in to serve on the Council. The interview dates are being worked out now and candidates should expect to be notified soon about their interview date.

The list of candidates for each seat is listed below:

### **At-Large**

- Hisham Amin – Heather Hills
- Matthew Barclay – Long Ridge
- Rhonda Billingslea – Devonshire
- David Boone – Kenilworth
- Jumanne Bradford – Northview
- Dennis Brady – Pointer Ridge
- Carl Brown – Tall Oaks Crossing
- Frank Bryant – Saddlebrook West
- Charles Campbell - Somerset
- Heath Carelock – Long Ridge
- Joan Conway – Yorktown
- John Day – Whitehall
- Jenmaire Dewberry – Idlewild
- Elveeda Dixon – Rolling Hills
- Valerie DuBreuil – Whitehall
- Michael Estève – Northridge \*
- Gary Gaskins, Jr. – Buckingham
- Gary Goldberg – Meadowbrook
- Jarryd Hawkins – Pointer Ridge
- Nathan Johnson – Covington Manor and Towns
- Jacqueline Le Moigne-Stewart – Foxhill
- Bethany Lichtenwalner – Rockledge

- Alesha Magby – Grady’s Walk
- Joseph Mead – Old Town Bowie (Huntington)
- Angela Meggs – Saddlebrook Estates
- Piero Mellits – Buckingham
- Dave Morgan – Highbridge Park
- Craig Muckle – Grovehurst
- Patrice Murray – Collington Station
- Enechukwu Nwankwo – Tall Oaks Crossing
- Yousif Omer – Glen Allen
- Monica Roebuck – Belair Town
- Nedrea Scott – Saddlebrook West
- Preston Thomas III – Tall Oaks Crossing
- Daniel Watford – Mitchellville East
- Taisha Williams-Johnson – Glen Allen
- Rhonda Wood – Saddlebrook West

**District 3**

- Babatunde Alegbeleye – Northview
- Tanya Bennett – Pin Oak Village
- Brittany Bunn – Governor’s Green
- Allison Dunn Wilson – Longleaf
- Rhonda Edwards – Westview
- Arthur Elkins, Jr. – Woodmore Highlands
- Lottie Graham – Enfield Chase
- Ronnie Hammond – Covington
- Keisha Hassell – Essington
- Iyamide House – Princeton Square
- Jeremiah Hughes – Northview
- Sonia Huntley – Princeton Square
- Erynn Jenkins Powers - Oakpond
- Wanda Rogers – Woodmore Highlands
- Regina Spruill – Old Stage
- Clinton Truesdale, Sr. – Longleaf
- Megan Weeks – Northview
- Haile Yancy – Woodmore Estates

(\*) Because District 1 Councilmember Michael Esteve has applied for the At-Large seat, he will not participate in interviews or selection of the At-Large member. The choice will be made by the remaining four members of the Council.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

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

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



## Submit Nominations for Hall of Honor

In 1991, the Hall of Honor was developed to recognize citizens of Bowie who made “major and lasting contributions” to the City. The first inductees were honored in 1994. A nominee must:

- be deceased for at least one year as of the nomination deadline;
- have made both a major and lasting contribution to the City of Bowie;
- have been a resident of the City of Bowie either during the time of his/her contribution or at the time of death.

The City’s Community Outreach Committee reviews all applications. After an honoree is approved, a reception is held in the inductee’s honor and a plaque is hung in the front lobby of City Hall.

For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or email [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

Nomination forms are available at [www.cityofbowie.org/hallofhonor](http://www.cityofbowie.org/hallofhonor). The deadline to receive nominations for 2023 Hall of Honor inductions is Monday, **March 6** at 5 p.m. at Bowie City Hall.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest Program

The Diversity Committee will host the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest Program on Saturday, **January 14**, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Bowie City Hall. The winners of the art contest will be recognized and

will share their artwork. The community is invited to the program; refreshments will be served. More information may be found at [www.cityofbowie.org/mlk](http://www.cityofbowie.org/mlk). If you have questions, please contact Lori Cunningham at [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org).

## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - City Holiday**

City offices and the Senior Center are closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on **Monday, January 16**; however, the Bowie Gymnasium and Ice Arena are open on the holiday. There is no trash or recycling on this date; services will resume on the next regularly scheduled day.

## **Single Family Housing Rehab Program Launches January 6**

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, correct interior and exterior deficiencies, energy improvements, modifications for persons with disabilities, and eliminate lead based paint hazards. Income limits apply.

The City will begin accepting applications **January 6**. For more information and to apply, visit [www.cityofbowie.org/rehabgrants](http://www.cityofbowie.org/rehabgrants). The state of Maryland also offers assistance programs. Visit <https://mymdthink.maryland.gov> for more information.

## **Energy Efficiency Business Grant**

To help reach its Climate Action Plan goals, the City is proud to offer a reimbursement program to businesses seeking to promote energy efficiency and move towards more sustainable practices. The Climate Action Plan calls for a 50% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. This program seeks to help the commercial sector lead the fight towards sustainable change.

Businesses within the incorporated limits of Bowie may apply for this reimbursement program, though priority will be given to small businesses and those looking to purchase a heat pump.

Other grant parameters are as follows:

- This program is aimed at small and local businesses.
- Applications will be on a first come, first served basis.
- Applicants are encouraged to be innovative, creative, and open-minded.
- The Sustainability Division will review applications and decide upon awardees and reimbursement amounts.
- Reimbursement will be capped at \$5,000 per awardee. The majority of the project must be completed before reimbursement is given. Applicants must agree to a site visit before reimbursement is given.
- Awardees will be required to sign a contract and must apply to the MD Green Registry to become part of the Green Bowie Business Program.

Examples of projects are:

- Equipment replacements with EnergyStar Certified equipment including high efficiency heating and cooling (HVAC), heat pump water heaters, dishwashers, lighting, clothes washers, electric dryers, and refrigeration
- Addition of ceiling fans
- LED lightbulb installations/retrofits
- Installation of solar panels
- Installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Improvements to the building envelope that increases energy efficiency such as insulation, air sealing, and replacement of inefficient windows

Purchase of small appliances such as microwaves, vacuums, printers, and coffee makers are not eligible. Questions? Contact Ashleigh Diaz or visit [www.cityofbowie.org/sustainingrants](http://www.cityofbowie.org/sustainingrants) to apply today!

## **Tanglewood Park Stakeholders Meeting**

Tanglewood Park is a city-owned, 127-acre wooded property located in the Huntington community off Zug Road in Old Town Bowie. This property has had many challenges over the years due to its secluded location, preventing the property from achieving its highest and best use. Throughout January and February, the City, with the assistance of Human & Rohde, Inc. (Landscape Architects), will work to revise the 1990 Tanglewood Park Master Plan to identify the best possible uses, based on input received from the community and neighboring property owners and businesses.

The first stakeholders meeting will take place on **January 24** from 7 - 9 p.m. at City Hall. The purpose of the stakeholders meeting is to acquaint the community with the master plan process and to obtain public input on the future use and design of the property. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

## **Youth & Family Services Offers Winter Psychoeducational Groups**

Bowie Youth & Family Services offers a variety of psychoeducational groups that focus on educating participants on practical life skills such as parenting, managing stress, and improving relationships. Upcoming groups include:

- **“Calm, Confident Kids” (CCK)**  
This group is designed to help school-aged children, 7 – 10 years old, develop strategies for managing worries. Kids will talk about various worries and anxieties. They will learn and practice strategies for coping to help them overcome fears and remain calm.
- **“Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder” (ADHD)**  
The ADHD Group focuses on the “art of survival” for parents and to help school-aged children, 7 - 11 years old, with or without a diagnosis, with or without hyperactivity. Register today at [www.cityofbowie.org/ysfform](http://www.cityofbowie.org/ysfform).

For more information on other groups visit [www.cityofbowie.org/yfsgroups](http://www.cityofbowie.org/yfsgroups).

## Get Involved with the Arts Committee or Education Committee

Are you supportive of education and teachers? Do you have school-age (or soon to be school-age) children? Are you artistic, creative, or appreciate art? Our Arts and Education Committees are in search of new members to help complete their many fun and important projects throughout the year.

The Arts Committee supports local artists and promotes arts in the City. The committee curates four gallery exhibitions and juries work of local artists. The committee reviews grant applications and recommends applicants for grant funding and awards college scholarships to high school seniors planning to pursue a four-year degree in an arts related field of study. The committee also recommends art submissions for the City's Public Art program.

The Education Committee supports Bowie school communities. The committee hosts the annual Excellence in Education Teacher/Staff Awards and presents scholarships to high school seniors planning to pursue a four-year degree. The committee manages the citywide Education Grant program, providing financial support to educational activities and projects. They also manage the Academic Travel Grant, assisting academic teams participate in regional or national competitions.

Both committees host special events and participate in citywide festivals such as Bowiefest, the Memorial Day Parade and National Night Out. Meetings are being held virtually and easy for all to attend. Joining a committee is as simple as filling out a quick application, having a brief interview, and then being appointed/sworn in.

For more information, contact Lori Cunningham, Staff Liaison, at [lcunningham@cityofbowie.org](mailto:lcunningham@cityofbowie.org) or 240-544-5601, or the City Clerk at [cityclerk@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3029.

## Winter Preparedness

Winter is here! While snow may be beautiful, the season comes with 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. Information will be shared on social media, via [Alert Bowie](#) and at [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org).
- **Generators:** If you own a generator, ensure that you are familiar with how to use it properly and safely. Make sure to have it outside of your house and make sure you have an up-to-date carbon monoxide alarm 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 when temperatures are frigid, 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 receive information about winter storm warnings, watches, or weather advisories in our area and to 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](http://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, and on Bowie Government TV. It will also be sent out via Alert Bowie and shared with local news channels. And you can call City Hall at 301-262-6200 to get the latest updates.

## COVID Update

The CDC’s COVID-19 variant dashboard shows that the Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5, has more than doubled its percentage among reported cases in each of the last four weeks, rising from about 4% to 41% of new infections over the month of December 2022. In the northeast part of the US, the CDC estimates, XBB.1.5 is causing 75% of new cases. XBB.1.5 has features that give it the potential to cause an increase in new cases, however, it remains unknown if this will be reflected in case numbers, since more people are testing at home and not always reporting positive cases. Hospitalizations will be a better indicator of the impacts of XBB.1.5 in the coming weeks.

As of January 3, there are 825 patients hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 in the state of Maryland. On December 3, 2022, there were 509 patients hospitalized. Similar increases were reported in Virginia and Washington, DC. On December 29, 2022, the CDC updated its COVID-19 Community Levels. The District of Columbia; Charles, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland; and the City of Alexandria and Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun in Counties in Virginia are at Medium COVID-19 Community Levels. Frederick County in Maryland and Prince William County in Virginia remain at Low.

Each US household is eligible for four at-home tests this winter. Kits started being mailed to those who requested them on December 19, 2022. If you have not already done so, visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits> to place your order for free at-home COVID-19 tests.

## 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 your home.

**Secure your garbage.** Store garbage in hard plastic trash containers 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](mailto:animalcontrol@cityofbowie.org) or 301-809-3002. Office hours are on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information on Avian Influenza, visit [mda.maryland.gov/avianflu](http://mda.maryland.gov/avianflu).

## 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](http://www.cityofbowie.org/jobs) for links to job postings.

### Open until January 6

- [Administrative Assistant – Records](#) – Police Department

### Open until January 13

- [Building Maintenance Supervisor](#) – Community Services
- [Assistant Director of Public Works](#) – Public Works Department

### Open until January 27

- [Building Maintenance Worker I](#) – Community Services

### Open until filled

- [Entry Level Police Officer](#) – Police Department
- [Communications Specialist II](#) – Police Department
- [Part time Gymnasium Attendant](#) – Community Services

- [Part time Ice Arena Attendant](#) – Community Services

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, January 11

- [Senior Program: Better Day Live! Chat Preparation for Crisis](#) | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

### Friday, January 13

- [Senior Program: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program](#) | 10 - 11 a.m.
- [Kid's Kaboose at Bowie Railroad Museum](#) | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

### Saturday, January 14

- [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest Program](#) | 10 - 11 a.m.

### Monday, January 16

- [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday](#) City Holiday: Offices closed

### Tuesday, January 17

- [Regular City Council Meeting](#) | 8 - 10 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 18

- [Senior Program: Better Day Live Chat! - Self Care Session](#) | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, January 24

- [Tanglewood Property Stakeholders Meeting](#) | 7 - 9 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 25

- [Fairy Tale Fun at Belair Mansion](#) | 10 - 11 a.m.

Visit [www.cityofbowie.org/calendar](http://www.cityofbowie.org/calendar) for details about other upcoming events sponsored by the City.