

Mayor James L. Walls, Jr.



Vice Mayor Eddie L. Martin
Commissioner Harryette Irving
Commissioner Cynthia Miller
Commissioner Jack C. Sims

THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS HERALD

A Message from the Mayor...

Mayor James L. Walls Jr. was selected as a Board Member for Greater Baden Medical Services during the summer of 2014.

Greater Baden Medical Services is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) founded in 1972 to provide primary care services to residents of rural Prince George's County. Greater Baden Medical Services provides a wide range of health services to best meet the needs of the population they serve. It has received recognition from various federal agencies for providing quality health care and support services.



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AARP, Chapter #939 welcomed Congresswoman Donna Edwards on October 7th, 2014 to their monthly meeting held at District Heights' Recreation Center.



AARP also welcomed Mayor James L. Walls, Jr., Vice Mayor Eddie Martin, Prince George's County Sheriff Melvin C. High, Darryl Barnes Delegate candidate for the 25th Legislative District, and Chief Elliott W. Gibson, Sr., DHPD.

Sincerely,
Mayor James L. Walls, Jr.

THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU HOSTS TWO-DAY TRAINING

Twelve therapists, representing four Maryland Youth Services Bureaus attended two days of overview training for Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT®). Four staff from the District Heights Family and Youth Services Bureau (DHFYSB) were joined by clinicians from Baltimore City, Silver Spring, and the trainer, Patsy Shaffer, who directs the BSFT program in Carroll County. BSFT® is an evidence based therapy used to help families improve their abilities to function in healthier ways. There are 19 YSBs in Maryland. All of the bureaus serve children, youth and families and many are considering, or are in the process of being trained in BSFT® due to its success rates with helping families cope.

"The model was designed and multiple times tested for effectiveness with resistant families," said Olga Hervis, the BSFT® co-developer and Director of the Family Therapy Training Institute of Miami. "The rate of engagement success ranged from 78 to 82%." The DHFYSB is positioning itself to continue to meet the needs of this growing community, said its director, Dr. Beverly R. Sargent. "We are the only YSB in the South-Central portion of Prince Georges County. Through two major programs, we served more than 400 children, youth and families in fiscal year 2014 - over 200 of those were in four middle schools," she said. Obtaining this overview training poises us to serve more families. "Building teamwork and partnerships within family units builds stronger families, stronger communities, reduces crime and raises economic stability from A to Z," added Dr. Sargent. Hervis and the FTTIM Institute faculty stand ready to help YSB's partner to form training teams that could share costs, thus making certification and establishment of BSFT® programs more affordable, she added.

I had a wonderful experience and enjoyed presenting to such engaging and sharp clinicians," said Patsy Shaffer, facilitator and BSFT® program director at the Carroll County YSB. If you have questions or would like to know more about the services your Youth Services Bureau provides, please contact us at 301-336-7600. Our email address is ysb@districtheights.org.

CAP NEWS

CAP partnered with the District Heights Civic Coalition to do an evening drive to several locations in the city that were reported by residents as having insufficient lighting. With support from Commissioners Irving, Miller, and the City Police Department, we documented several areas that needed brighter lights or more light poles. Some areas needed additional light poles and in some areas lights were being blocked by tree limbs. If you live in an area that you feel needs better lighting, contact the city's Public Works Department (301) 336-7417.

REPEAT: CAP is looking for residents who want to get involved with crime prevention and neighborhood code violations and are unable to attend our regular meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We are recruiting for Neighborhood Block Captains. These are residents who will be the Eyes/Ears of their block, get to know their neighbors and will: (1) keep them informed about residential and personal safety issues, (2) educate them on the city code matters and informed them when they are not in compliance, (3) coordinate with the city's code enforcement and police department officials concerning issues pertaining to their departments, (4) participate in patrol duty with the CAP main body when they are available.

NextDoor - NextDoor is a free private social network for neighbors, which is offered to us through the affiliation of National Night Out. Numerous District Heights residents are already connected to this social media platform, which allows us to post and receive city events. NextDoor can also be used to report suspicious activity and send real time alerts. Visit www.nextdoor.com/nno to read more about this valuable tool. If you wish to be connected to the District Height's NextDoor, contact Carolyn Davis at cdavis1019@hotmail.com and she will get you connected.

House of the Month: 6923 Gateway Blvd and 7214 Kipling Parkway-Congratulations! If you wish to nominate a house for the House of the Month submit the address at our CAP meetings to be held bi-monthly beginning November 2014.

Tip of the Issue: SCAMS! Scams are perpetrated by con-artists against seniors who are most trusting. One example: you receive a call that you have won a new car. In order to claim delivery you need to mail a check to cover taxes and delivery fee. Later you receive another call that the prize company has gone out of business, but not to worry, because another company has purchased the defunct company's assets but you have to send another check to cover the new company's legal transaction then you will receive the delivery of the new car. The car of course never arrives. The old adage that if it sounds too good to be true - you know the rest. Report scams to the police department and district attorney's office. This information is provided by the National Crime Prevention Council located in Arlington, VA.

CAP meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. Bi-monthly, beginning November 2014, at the District Heights Municipal Building, 2000 Marbury Drive. This is a change from the previously held monthly meetings. The next meeting will be 19 Nov. 2014 and 21 Jan. 2015. Recruitment for Neighborhood Block Captains is ongoing. Contact CAP at (301) 336-1400 for more information.

The Economic Development Planning and Zoning Committee Will Host a "Meet and Greet" with our business owners/residents on Wednesday, November 12th, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the City of District Heights.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES, CLASSES AND EVENTS
CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

AARP Chapter #939 meets every 1st Tuesday at 12 noon

Citizens Action Patrol (C.A.P) meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month

District Heights Boys & Girls Club meets every 3rd Monday of each month

Marbury Homeowners Association meets every Third Thursday of each month

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) meets every Monday 6:45 p.m.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Adult Gym	Every Wednesday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bible Study	Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Boxing	Monday-Friday 6 p.m. -8 p.m.
Chair Aerobics	Every Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.
Crocheting	Every Monday 10 a.m.
Fitness Center	Monday-Friday 9:15 a.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Hand Dance	Every Monday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Male Mentoring	Every Monday and Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Open Gym	Monday-Friday 3:30 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.
Line Dance	Every Tuesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Line Dance (Beginner)	Every Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Senior Wii Bowling	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Tai Chi	Every Monday 12 p.m.
Tang Soo Do Karate	Every Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Zumba	Every Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

The Thanksgiving Luncheon will take place on November 24, 2014.

From: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

You must call 301-336-5633 and register with your name, address, and phone number. All persons attending must bring a new unwrapped toy.



The Recreation Christmas Party will place on December 22, 2014.

From: 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Ages: 1 – 12 years old

You must call 301-336-5633 to register your child.



Diamonds & Pearls

MISS DISTRICT HEIGHTS PAGEANT 2014

By Charles E. Hall, II



The impromptu question was, "How would you help other girls respect and love themselves more?" The response, "I would write a book called Girls Rule, and the book would be about how girls should love themselves, and believe that they can do anything in life," said Kendall Morris at The Miss District Heights Pageant. The City of District Heights, held its Miss District Heights Pageant on Saturday September 27, 2014.

The Miss District Heights Pageant featured eleven young ladies, but only three of them walked away with the title of Miss District Heights. Kanaiah Fox, an 8 year old, 3rd grader, won Little Miss District Heights and Miss Congeniality. Kindi Bost, a 10 year old, 5th grader, won Junior Miss District Heights and Miss Congeniality. Morris, an 11 year old, 6th grader, won Miss District Heights. The pageant featured contestants performing poetry, singing, dancing, and stepping in the talent competition. All of the young ladies looked beautiful and appeared to have a lot of fun. "It was fun! I want to do it again," said Kindi Bost when asked how she felt now that the pageant was over. This was the first Miss District Heights Pageant in almost 20 years.

The other contestants in the pageant were Michah Gallion, a 9 year old, 4th grader. Monyae Gallion, a 12 year old, 6th grader. Emani Houston, a 10 year old, 5th grader. Amari Mobley, a 12 year old, 7th grader won Miss Photogenic. Kiaya Trusty, an 8 year old, 3rd grader. Brooke Wilson, a 7 year old, 2nd grader. Niaya Wilson, a 13 year old, 8th grader, and Samya Vincent, a 10 year old 5th grader.

From the Desk of Commissioner Irving,

During the months of September and October:

I attended meetings concerning the following projects: Commissioner Jack Sims Fitness Trail, District Heights Senior Citizen Facility, City Codes and Ordinances Review, District Heights Rain Garden and the Fiesta Place City Garden. In addition I attended District Heights Public and Work Sessions, Civil Action Patrol (CAP), District Heights Recreation Council, Community Policing (all 5 locations), and AARP Suitland Chapter 939 meetings. Mr. Jeffrey Taylor and I had an introductory meeting with the leaders of the District Heights Boys and Girls Club.

I assisted with and participated in the Roller Skating Party and the Miss District Heights Diamonds and Pearls Pageant, which were sponsored by the Recreation/Culture/Parks Department and the Recreation Council. As part of the Prince George's County Fourth Annual Countywide "Clean up Green Up" Day, I joined the Young Marines, the District Heights Garden Coalition, several community volunteers, Commissioner Miller and District Heights Public Works, in planting trees and flowers at the city message board on Kipling Parkway and Marbury Drive and on Rochelle Avenue and District Heights Parkway. I also joined the District Heights Garden Program at their Harvest activity, for pre- school age children, held at Fiesta Place (DH city garden). Lastly, I joined several CAP members, Commissioner Miller and Chief Gibson on a ride through the city to view areas that had been identified, by District Heights' citizens, as needing additional lighting.

Outside of the city, I attended the fall session of the Maryland Municipal League training/conference, which was held in Annapolis, Maryland. As usual, the classes were excellent and the networking, priceless. Along with Commissioner Sims and Commissioner Miller, I attended and represented the city at the Ploughman & Fisherman "Unity" Breakfast sponsored by the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee.

I am very happy to announce that during this period, a Director for the Recreation, Culture and Parks Department, Mr. Jeffrey Taylor, was selected and hired. The vacancy announcement for the position of Assisted Director for Recreation and Culture was forwarded to and posted by several recreation and municipal organizations.

E-mail address: irvingh@districtheights.org

Cell: 301 456-3885 FAX: 301 350-3660

Looking forward to providing you with dedicated and quality service.

Commissioner Harryette Irving

THE POLICE BEAT BY CHIEF ELLIOTT W. GIBSON, SR.

The City of District Heights and the District Heights Police Department appreciate those residents who attended our monthly Community Policing Initiative Meeting in September 2014. The Police Department recorded over 150 attendees at the five (5) meetings throughout the City. We had two meetings at the District Heights Elementary School, one at the First Baptist Church of District Heights, one at the Christ Kingdom Church, and one at the Municipal Building. A wealth of information was disseminated to those in attendance. We discussed traffic problems, city ordinances, crime issues, vacant properties, lights out, trees in need of cutting, and safety tips. A special thanks to those Commissioners who were in attendance at these meetings!



The locations, times, and the Service Area Map of all meetings are posted on the City of District Heights Television Station. Also, flyers are available at the Municipal Building advertising the dates, times, and locations of all community meetings. This initiative will require Police and Citizens to work closely together to solve problems in our community. The Police Department has divided the City into five (5) distinct service areas. We are assigning two (2) police officers to each of the service areas. The officers will be the problem solvers in your small neighborhood. The officers will be required to meet with the residents of their service area and provide information regarding crime and disorder, as well as receive complaints of street lights out, trees blocking lights, trash complaints, noise complaints, vacant properties, abandon vehicles, and any other issue in the neighborhood.

Watch your speed (25 mph), and look both ways before driving through an intersection; even those that are not controlled by a stop or yield sign. Also, as the holiday season approaches, there will be more of our residents, who will visit the stores and shopping malls. Please pay attention to your surroundings. Please make an effort **not** to go to the ATM machine, or get gas after dark. When shopping, never go to your car, place packages in the car and then return to the store. Criminals are always watching you. As it gets colder, some residents have a tendency to have their car running unattended. Please take a few minutes to sit in your car to warm it.

Also, residents should write down the telephone numbers of emergency and non-emergency services. The telephone number to ask a question about the Community Policing Meetings is [\(301\)-336-1400](tel:301-336-1400). Emergencies will require the resident or businessperson to dial 911. The non-emergency dispatch number is [\(301\)-352-1200](tel:301-352-1200).

Please follow us on the City’s Twitter account at @Watchdhchief. Public Safety is a Team Effort. COME JOIN THE TEAM!
Elliott W. Gibson, Sr.
Chief of Police

FROM THE DESK OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement handles hundreds of complaints annually. The Code Enforcement officers patrol the City on a routine basis. We respond to complaints that are called, mailed, or e-mailed.

CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCE

Section 302. Burning or Igniting of Trash or Leaves Prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person to burn or ignite trash or leaves on any public or private property within the City. Violation of this section shall be a municipal infraction punishable by a fine established by the Mayor and Commissioners and specified in Article XIV of this Code.

Leaf pick-up. The City will provide leaf pickup from November through January or until weather conditions prohibit this service. Bagged leaves are picked up in the spring. Residents should rake leaves into piles between the sidewalk and the curb, and not in the street. Leaf piles should not be contaminated with grass clippings, litter, garbage or other non-organic materials, including pet waste. Residents should not park cars near leaf piles; it creates a fire hazard and makes it impossible to pick up the leaves. All leaf piles are to be at least ten feet from any storm drain. Residents should make a conscious effort to help the City keep storm water inlets clean and free of obstructions, litter and pollution. Storm water drains are only for rain.

Yard Waste. Includes leaves, grass clippings, shrubs, garden debris and brush.

REMINDER: LEAVES/YARD WASTE WILL NO LONGER BE PICKED UP IN PLASTIC BAGS

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Fiesta Place Garden!

It was a superb year for Fiesta Place Garden; we were able to harvest around 100lbs. of produce and shared it with the community. What did we do this year? We had a joint venture with Garden Coalition to the famous Philadelphia Flower Show, showcased the Garden Program at the Unity in The Community Event in April, had a May plant sale, transformed the incline next to the garden, created a flower float for the DH Day Parade, had Grow It Eat It workshops with the DH Summer Campers, and had Plant Clinics every Saturday from June thru September. We were also selected nationwide among Top 10 winners of the Get2gether Neighborhood Challenge Matching Grant in August 2014 and received an invitation to their annual event in New York, sponsored a bus trip to the Marker-Miller Apple orchard, and held an OktoberFest event for the Children’s Day Cares in the city. In 2015, we will be creating another educational space for the community. This area will be an expansion of the Fiesta Place Garden, located in the forest area behind the existing garden. We hope you will be a part of this project. We’ll keep you informed. It’s going to be awesome!

This fall we planted all kinds of leafy lettuces, kale, spinach, cabbage, swiss chard, bok choy and Brussel sprouts. I picked salad grown from the garden for AARP’s annual birthday event, it was a hit!

It’s still time to plant spring blooming bulbs, transplant trees and shrubs if needed and cut back the stems of perennial back to the ground. This winter may be a harsh one, so get prepared to protect your hardy and semi hardy plants by layering the garden beds with leaves or pine straw which will provide organic matter and help stop soil erosion.

We must thank our elected Officials, the Staff and all of the Volunteers that have supported our efforts, Thank You!
The District Heights Community Garden Program got it going on! Sharing, Learning, and Growing is Living the Good Life!

*Wishing you a Safe and Happy Holidays!
From District Heights Community Garden Program*

*Until the next time, keep it growing and Happy Planting! And check us out on Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest at DHCGardens.
Deborah Turner, Garden Coordinator.*

THE GARDEN COALITION

On October 18th, The Garden Coalition and the City of District Heights participated in the 4th Annual Clean Up Green Up Day. What a terrific day it was! The initiative to make Prince Georges County cleaner and greener has been a coordinated effort of Prince Georges County for the past four years. Our mission for the day was to beautify two key sites within the City and make them beautiful. Our other objective was to bring together our residents young and old to make a positive difference within our City – TOGETHER!

I am proud to say that we did just that. Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Irving, Public Work employees: Roger Beam and Justin Edwards, the local AARP, and the Oxon Hill Young Marines came out and made our day a fun filled and joyous one. The Garden Coalition says THANK YOU!



From clearing the site, amending the soil, planting the plants, planting the bulbs, mulching the freshly installed site to cleaning up our debris, it was a communal effort and enjoyed by all. We even showed our Seniors a new way to plant...imagine that!

The goal of The Garden Coalition is to cultivate friendships by growing a gardening community as we take ownership in the beautification of our City. Gleaning ideas from trips to the Philadelphia Flower Show and by visiting the White House Grounds and Gardens. The Garden Coalition is committed to bringing quality programming events and beautification efforts to the City of District Heights.

We meet the second Monday of every month (except Federal Holidays) at 7:00 p.m. in the Computer Lab at The Municipal Building. We share information that is important to the gardening community via our Facebook page... The Garden Coalition-DH. We can also be reached via email at: thegardencolalition@gmail.com. Come join us as we keep it green and growing in the City of District Heights! Our December meeting (12/8/2014) we will be creating holiday crafts...stay tuned for details!

We hope we see you at the next meeting!
-Teri Spieght & The Garden Coalition



Public Works Department News

By Brian Edwards, Sr., Supervisor

Bates Trash Service will not collect on Thanksgiving (November 27th), Christmas Day (December 25th), and New Years Day (January 1st)

2014 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule

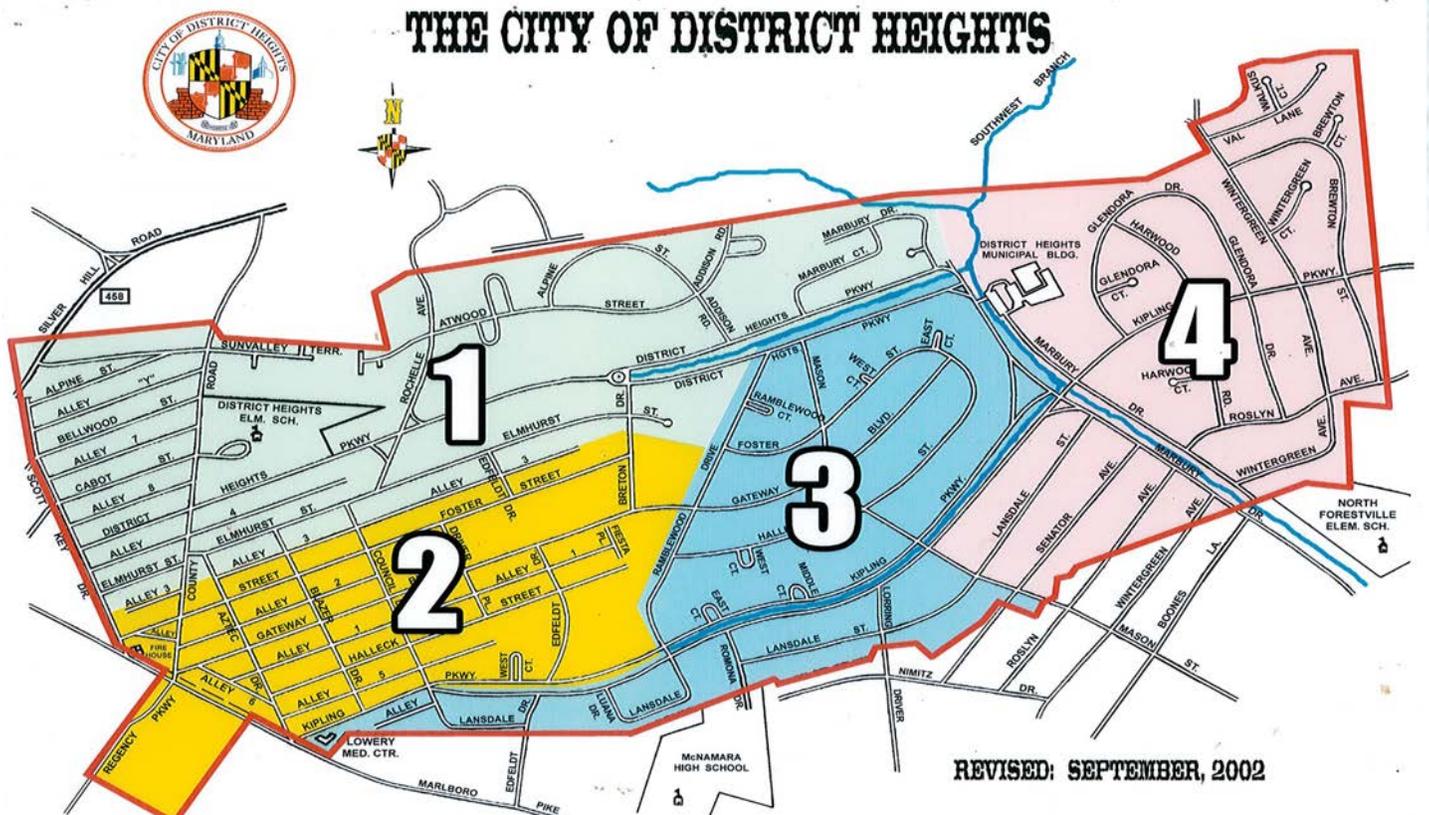
The Public Works Department will begin its annual Fall Leaf Collection on Monday November 03, 2014. The City will be divided into four sections, as shown on the map below. Piles of leaves that have sticks, rocks, bricks, car parts, bottles, etc., will not be picked up. The leaves should be piled between the sidewalk and curb, not more than four feet from the curb, as the vacuum hose will not reach any further. If the leaves are wet and heavy, on the scheduled pick-up day, they will not be picked up until they become drier.

Please note: Leaves will be picked up on a non-scheduled basis from January 02, 2015 through January 5, 2015. After this time, all leaves must be put in **brown lawn bags or a trash can with an X on the front or a note that says yard waste** and placed curbside for Bates Trash Service, which picks up leaves and grass clipping on Wednesdays. **There will be no leaf collection on the following dates: November 11, 27, and 28, 2014, and December 23, 24, 25, and 2014. Tree limbs will not be picked up during the fall leaf removal season.** Limb pick-up will resume on Tuesday January 13, 2015. Christmas trees will also be included in this pick-up.

Section I: November 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 24, & December 10, 11, 12.

Section II: November 6, 7, 10, 25, 26, & December 1, 15, 16, 17.

Section III: November 12, 13, 14, & December 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, 22.



THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

2000 Marbury Drive
District Heights, Maryland 20747
www.districtheights.org

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General Government (301)-336-1402

District Heights Call-A-Bus (301)-336-1402

Police Department & Code Enforcement (301)-336-1400

Youth Services Bureau (301)-336-7600

Recreation/Cultural Department (301)-336-5633

Public Works Department (301)-336-7417

Bulk Trash (301)-773-2069

District Heights Inclement Weather Hotline (301)-499-1157

Commission Meeting Days: 1st Thursday and 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month starting at 7 p.m.

Community Garden Program Volunteers meet every 3rd Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in Commission Chambers.

Watch us on Channel 71 (Comcast) and Channel 25 (Verizon)

City Meetings are aired Monday-Friday at 12 noon and 7 p.m.