



January-March 2023

www.districtheights.org



THE HERALD

THE ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE

Did you hear about the
rose that grew
from a crack in the
concrete?

Proving nature's law is
wrong it
learned to walk with out
having feet.
Funny it seems, but by
keeping its dreams,
it learned to breathe fresh
air.

Long live the rose that
grew from concrete
when no one else ever
cared. -Tupac



'The greatest discovery of all time is that a person
can change his future by merely changing his
attitude' -Oprah Winfrey.



WHAT'S NEW???

- Commissioners Corner
- 2022 Recap
- Senior Center Update
- Election Day
- Farewell to Brian, Anne & Dan
- Fiesta Garden & CAP updates
- And more...

HELLO BEAUTIFUL DISTRICT HEIGHTS RESIDENTS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS!

By Vice Mayor Harcourt

I hope that you had a holiday filled with reflection and gratitude, as well as a New Year's outlook with possibility and opportunity!

2022 was a year of dynamic and positive change for our community. We have ushered in new and professional staff; instituted training and growth opportunities for current staff and made changes that will positively impact your engagement and experience with your government.

We have a new local permanent Chief of Police, Chief Ronald "Ron" Tarpley. He has hired several new officers in a very tough market, improved onsite working conditions, instituted a new policy for body-worn cameras and deployed new technology to deal with traffic, and violent crime in our community. Also, he is working across several agencies to proactively deal with some of the more endemic violence and undesirable activity in our community. The department has been working to deploy new schedules to ensure more hourly city coverage, with a focus on community policing and fostering a new relationship between residents and the brave men and women that keep us safe. He has also been building relationships and sharing resources with Prince George's County Police and our surrounding municipal police agencies.

We have a great website that is getting better everyday under the watchful eye of our new Media Coordinator, Ms. T'Neisha Turner.

We distributed funds to many of our most vulnerable residents through President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, and will be using those funds to upgrade our playgrounds and other public spaces.

In 2023, we will focus on restructuring Code Enforcement and working with a new committee to start the process of updating some of our very old, duplicative and inefficient codes and outdated fee structure. If you are interested in joining, please send me an email: harcourt@districtheights.org and request a DH Volunteer application by contacting the City Clerk, Ms. Starr Jefferson at: cityclerk@districtheights.org

We will stay actively engaged with our partners with the Marlboro Pike Coalition, working to bring change to the corridor.

Finally, we have a very important election in May that will decide where we go in the future as a community – TOGETHER! Please stay engaged, involved and reject misinformation. Be safe, vigilant and kind – It's what makes our community so special.

Vice Mayor Xander Harcourt



Commission Corner



HAPPY NEW YEAR DISTRICT HEIGHTS!

By Commissioner Gomez,

The last quarter of 2022 was eventful, here are a few highlights from November and December:

On November 5th, in partnership with the Sierra Club, the city hosted a special in-person community forum – Environmental Justice and You: Energy and Equity. We heard remarks from Antoine Thompson (Prince George's Sierra Club) and Vice Mayor Harcourt, and a keynote address from Yinka Bode-George (Sharing the Power Foundation). Special thanks to Vice Mayor for securing the city's partnership for the community forum. Most extraordinarily, we had a zero-waste meal. If this event is of interest, consider joining our Green Team.

On December 10th the city hosted an in-person and virtual Townhall. We appreciate the feedback and questions from our community. Having the opportunity to hear directly from you is highly valued and welcomed.

I look forward to continuing to serve you into 2023. This will be a year of continued growth for the city of District Heights!

Yours Truly,

Commissioner Gyasi Gomez, Ward 2

Liaison for Public Works

gomezg@districtheights.org

202-961-6137

Police Tips



- Use a door viewer before opening your door. Always demand identification from strangers (even repair or sales persons).
- Always lock up your home before leaving and don't hide your house keys outdoors anywhere.
- Have keys ready and in your hand for immediate use when you return home.
- Use interior and exterior lighting at all times.
- Always use Safe Internet Shopping practices.
- Shred credit card offers and bank statements before you throw them away if you do not plan on using them.
- Hide or destroy boxes from expensive purchases.
- Do not answer personal questions about your home such as type of alarm, daytime occupancy, etc.
- Do not let people inside your home (to use the bathroom, phone, etc.).
- Avoid mail theft by obtaining a locked mailbox and dropping off outgoing mail at the local post office.
- Do not give out your personal information or credit card number over the phone unless you initiated the call.



COMMISSION CORNER



A successful shred day was held on Saturday, November 29th. There were almost 50 residents that came out to have documents shredded. Residents also received complimentary water and face masks. Another shred day will be planned sometime in May 2023.

Neighbors, it is my honor to serve you and to be your advocate. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season, hug your loved ones a little longer and tighter, remind those you care about how much you appreciate them, and have a very Happy New Year!

To help grow our city, Mr. Tony Perez, LA Perez and Ms. Therese Hessler, Ashler Government Relations have been hired to provide lobbying and government relations services for the city. We are thrilled to begin working with Mr. Perez and Ms. Hessler.



FAREWELL

The City of District Heights is saddened as we say farewell to three of our colleagues: Mr. Daniel Baden, Treasurer with 30 years of services; Ms. Anne Cairns, City Accountant with 15 years of service; and Mr. Brian Edwards, Public Works Supervisor with 40 years of service. We thank them for their dedicated service to this Community. We pray this next chapter of their lives bring them endless time to do all the things they love.

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED?

The city recognizes that many in our community are living very full lives and don't always have the opportunity to check the city social media sites for information. If you would like to receive meeting notifications and updates regarding activities and events, please consider signing up for Constant Contact. Notifications will be timely forwarded to you for your reading pleasure.

Please send a message to our Media Department at mediacoordinator@districtheights.org or turnert@districtheights.org. If you have any questions please call at (301) 336-1402.



Fiesta Place COMMUNITY GARDEN



What a terrific 2022 season we shared at the Fiesta Place Community Garden. We are grateful for being present as the City of District Heights is in a season of positive growth. We have new beds, we have a new shed and a bulletin board where we will be sharing information. We are in the midst of planning for the first quarter of 2023. Plots will be available on a first-come first served basis. Last year's Plot Partners will have a first preference as of February 1.

On March 1, 2023 we will offer newcomers the option to sign up for a plot. The care of the garden lies on the shoulders of every plot partner. Each person will be required to donate designated hours towards the maintenance of our garden. Details will be forthcoming in the Plot Agreement and Plot Partners Manual.



Saturday Children's Garden Time

So what is in store for the winter months? Saturday Children's Garden will be coming soon!!!!

Winter Tip:

No children? It is ok, we are all children at heart. Join in the fun and remember the children are listening and paying attention. April will bring more fun - weather permitting in person!



Winter tip - do not use a broom to brush off ice and snow from the shrubbery. The branches are brittle and fragile. You just might do more harm than good. Be gentle or allow the snow/ice to melt by the hands of Mother Nature. Itching to have blooms during the winter months? Try growing Hellebore (a perennial) or Camellias (a beautiful shrub). Interested in a winter shrub that has a fragrance to enjoy during the colder months? Try growing Sarcococca hookeriana. Insignificant blooms add value from their fragrance that wafts through the winter garden. Almost like grandma's sweet perfume.



Join Us:

Join us at the garden or online. We intend to grow a non-judgmental community of gardeners. If you are interested, send an email to fiestaplacegardeninfo@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to a new season of growth in our community! Will you join us??

Citizens Action Patrol (CAP) News

U p d a t e s



National Night Out 2022:

The City's NNO 2022 held at the St Paul Towne Centre 6417 Marlboro Pike, District Height's Md. on August 22nd, received an award from the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). To enter and qualify for an award, a packet with all required attachments such as pictures, videos, and post NNO reports were submitted to the NATW by Ms. Cheryl Atkinson "DHPD administrative Assistant", and the District Height's NNO committee. District Height's placed 14 out of 24 in our awards category. Thanks to the District Height's Police Department, CAP members, Public Works, and all volunteers who participated.

Holiday Safety:

During the holiday season it is recommended by the Prince George's County Police Department that when shopping do not leave packages visible inside your vehicle. When returning to the store, place all packages in your vehicle trunk. Also, at your place of residence do not leave empty boxes for trash pickup visibly displaying what those boxes contained. There is no need to allow potential criminals knowledgeable as to what you have for them to steal.



House(s) of the Month:

July: 6503 Kipling Pkwy
August: 6600 Gateway Blvd
September: 6600 Gateway Blvd
October: 2112 Wintergreen Ave
November: 6607 Foster St.
December: 7013 Lansdale St.
Congratulations to all. Contact CAP for nominations to house of the month.

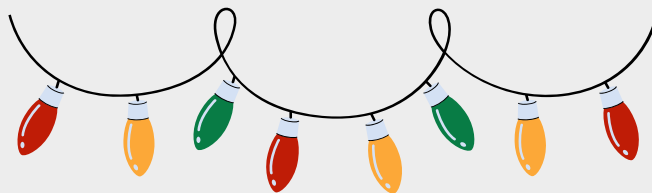
Citizens Action Patrol (CAP) Cont.

U p d a t e s



Best Festive House(s):

- 1924 Glendora Dr.
- 6529 Halleck St.
- 7400 Kipling Pkwy.
- 2111 Brewton St.



CAP Meetings:

Meetings are held bi-monthly at the District Height's Municipal Bldg. 2000 Marbury Dr. The next scheduled meetings are February 15th, April 19th, June 21st, August is National Night Out, October 18th, and December is our Christmas Party. Meeting dates are subject to change. All meetings are scheduled at 7:00 P.M. Contact CAP at dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com for further information.



District Heights Civic Coalition

Veterans Corner: The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is a new law that expands VA health benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent orange, and other toxic substances. Call 800-698-2411 to file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation. Disabled Veterans (DAV) license plates will be available for veterans with 50 percent to 100 percent disability vs the current 100 percent requirement. Contact the Department of Veteran Affairs (<https://www.va.gov>) for more information.

Contact us at: dhciviccoalition@gmail.com

Election Day

Monday, May 1, 2023

10:00am - 8:00pm

Ward 1 Commissioner and Ward 2 Commissioner



Polling Location:

Family and Youth Services Bureau
6421 Atwood St.

District Heights, MD

Polling location is subject to change

Voter's Requirement:

Registered voter with the Prince George's County Board of Elections (BOE). You may register to vote at any time. However, voter registration is closed 21 days before an election.

Registration is permanent if the voter keep his/her address current with the Board of Elections. Residents will receive a **Voter's Notification Card (VNC)** by mail before the election. The VNC will have the voter's name, address, polling place and your WARD Number.



Important information about Absentee Voting Important Note:

A recent change in the law requires the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections to refer to absentee ballots as "mail-in ballots" and absentee voting as "mail-in voting." Please note that this change in terminology does NOT change the process of Mail-in Voting.



Check your registration status, please call: 301 341-7300.
Email election questions to the City of District Heights' Board of Supervisors of Elections
bose@districtheights.org

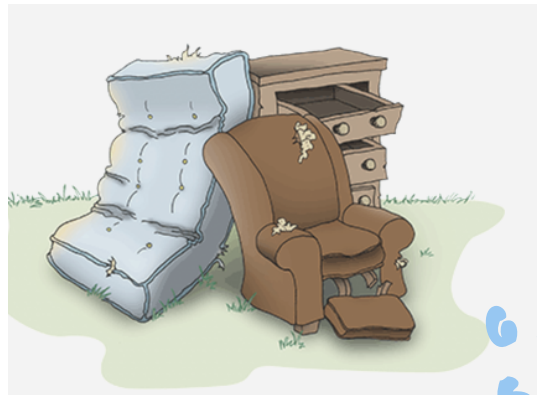
Public Works Department

UPDATES

2023 SPRING CLEAN-UP

April 17-21, 2023

Residents may rid their properties of heavy bulk items and trash. No hazardous material, such as paint will be accepted. Place your items curbside during the week of the clean-up.



LET IT SNOW

What should I do if it snows?

In the event of snow, Public Works Department will plow the streets and open all entrances into the city. Wait before you shovel your driveways and around your vehicles.

BATES TRASH SERVICES

Trash Pick-up

Bulk trash is collected on Wednesdays (Appointment only). You must call by 2:00pm on Tuesday, before Wednesdays pick-up. Regular trash pick-up days are Monday and Thursday. Recycle pick-up is on Thursday and Yard waste pick-up is on Monday. Limbs pick-up will resume on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Christmas trees are included.



YOUTH SERVICES

BUREAU



Did you know?

As the YSB continues to provide culturally competent, professional mental health counseling services to the residents of District Heights and surrounding communities, we wanted to keep you informed of our upcoming workshops and opportunities to engage in the various events that are taking place during this quarter.

Beginning in January, the YSB will begin hosting a parent support group that is focused on assisting parents in addressing concerns that impact their children while at school and in the home. Topics of focus will include, difficult behaviors, decreasing grades, exposure to drugs, just to name a few. For inquiries of interest and more information on how to sign up, please contact the YSB via phone (301) 336-7600 or email ysb@districtheights.org.

The YDF will also host a two college tours during this quarter – Prince George's Community College in January and Morgan State University in March 2023. As the dates for both of these wonderful events draw near, more information will be provided. The college tours are offered to students and their parents at no cost. For more information, please contact Vinessa Canady, Executive Admin Assistant, at (301) 336-7600.

For the most up to date information about our array of services, please contact the bureau at (301) 336-7600. Also refer to the official city website calendar and the YSB website page for a snapshot of current and upcoming events. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your inquiries so you will not miss out on these wonderful events and services right in your neighborhood.



DISTRICT



HEIGHTS

FITNESS ROOM



FREE

- Equipment demo
 - Blood pressure
- By appointment
ONLY

COST

ADULTS (18–54)

\$25 for (3) months for
District Heights Residents

\$50 for (3) months for
Non-District Heights Residents

SENIORS (55+)

FREE For District Heights
Residents ONLY

HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:15 AM – 7:00 PM

TEEN HOURS (13–18)

MONDAY – FRIDAY

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Must have parent/guardian complete and sign registration form. All participants must complete and sign registration forms before joining.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

301.336.5633

CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS
Recreation/Cultural Department

2000 Marbury Drive
District Heights, MD 20747



DID YOU KNOW?

CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS UPDATES



SENIOR CENTER

The Commission is excited about all the positive changes occurring in the city. The work continues on the Senior Center Building. Leading up to the opening, the Commission have secured the services of Mr. Chris French, Heron Consulting to provide a project status assessment and project management services, as well as Mr. Perry P. Savoy, Peristyle, LLC. to provide interior design and consulting for the Senior Center Building. The expectations are that this beautiful facility will open sometime in early 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Check out the Home Burglary prevention Tips:

- *Safeguard your home and yourself while you are away with Vacation safety.*
- *Do not leave any valuables in plain view inside your vehicles.*



CITY MEETINGS

City Commission meetings are scheduled on the 1st Thursday, as well as the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.



Cynthia Miller
Mayor
millercc@districtheights.org



Xander Hardcourt
Vice Mayor, Ward 1
Liaison for Police & Code
Enforcement
harcourttx@districtheights.org



Anthony Tilghman
Commissioner, Ward 1
Liaison for Recreation
Department
tilghmana@districtheights.org



Gyasi Gomez
Commissioner, Ward 2
Liaison for Public Works
gomezg@districtheights.org



Pamela Janifer
Commissioner, Ward 2
Liaison for General
Government
janiferp@districtheights.org



Telephone Numbers

General Government
(301) 336-1402

Police Department & Code
Enforcement
(301) 336-1400

Non-Emergency Police
Contact
(301) 352-1200

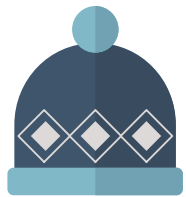
Youth Services Bureau
(301) 336-7600

Recreation, Cultural and
Parks Department
(301) 336-5633

Public Works Department
(301) 336-7417

Bulk Trash
(301) 773-2069

Communications/Media
Department
(301) 550-0001



WINTER WORDS

Word Search Puzzle



r h p x b k g m s n o w f l a k e s f f s d
v h f b w y r e i j u m t o n c w t z d h d
s k a t i n g k l t d c f e t h z e t s d c
z i i v k l a g f a t r v b f i f l b f r b
e h j c s j s l i p p e r y b l l k z k w o
t r a s o w a n s a a a n x s l u c e d i o
c v t w h v t v g d y i t s i y r g l n n t
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n t o b o g g a n o f s o u c c i t b s e s
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m p i f g l o v e s m j w p s n s o q o v o
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c e s l e d d i n g c a h w a p p w f c n v
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o a r i l y f i r e p l a c e k f x i a a c
y u r p n l q d s l u s h p m a a l f t z e
e i c i c l e t v f b t m w e h z v n e z f
i d h i b l i z z a r d w t z b a w x m k e



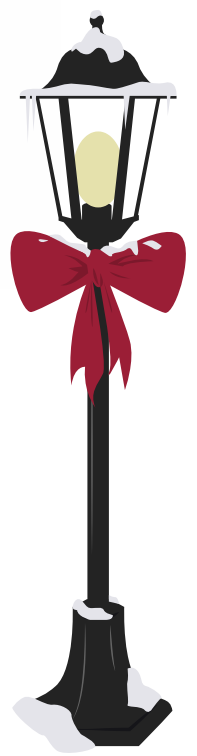
Find these words.

fireplace
snowflake
blizzard
icicle
boots
parka
sledding
gloves

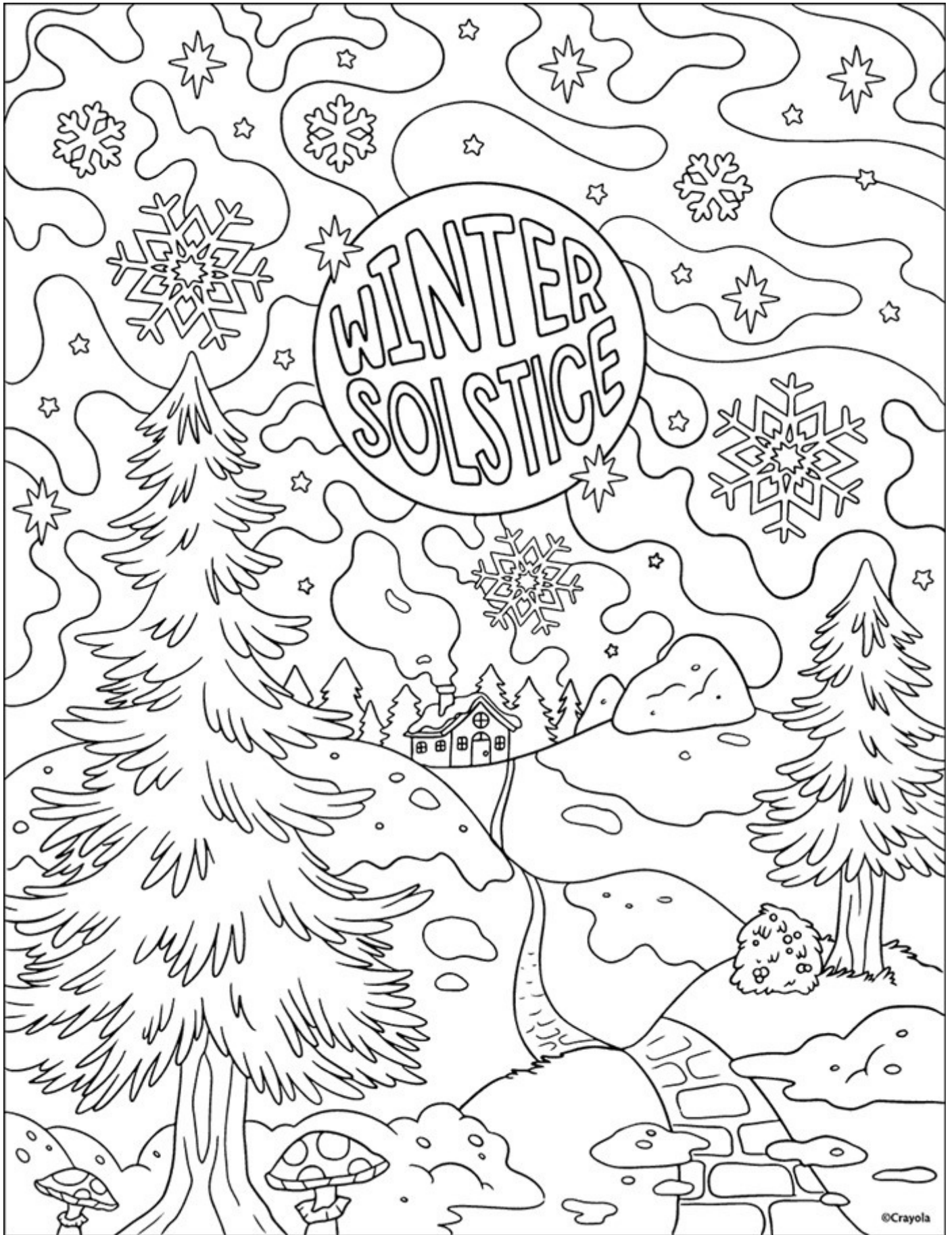
hat
ice
cold
slippery
chilly
snowman
December
toboggan

hot chocolate
slush
January
freezing
skating
scarf
holidays
frost

mittens
shovel
snow
flurries
February
winter



(The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.)



Coloring Page



CITY OF
DISTRICT HEIGHTS
MARYLAND

2000 Marbury Drive
District Heights, MD 20747

Pre-sorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
District Heights, MD
Permit No. 1840

