



April-June 2023

[www.districtheights.org](http://www.districtheights.org)



# THE HERALD



## "BLOOM"

I want to tell you  
about the sunflower I found  
on the sidewalk yesterday.  
It is wilting and curled and  
gorgeous  
and knows it.

I want to age like that,  
never forgetting my own beauty,  
never forgetting how to say  
bloom

By Anna Voelker



“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy  
not on fighting the old, but on building the new”  
-Socrates



## LATEST NEWS!!!

- First Quarter Recap
- Senior News
- Election Day
- Did you know???
- Recreation activities and events
- Fiesta Garden & CAP updates
- And more...

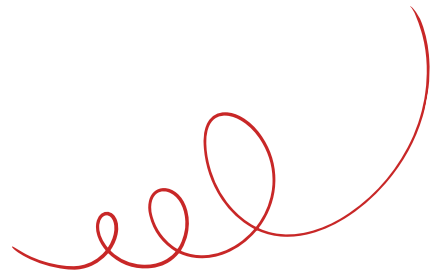


# Election Day

Monday, May 1, 2023

10:00am - 8:00pm

Ward 1 Commissioner and Ward 2 Commissioner



## Official Maryland Ballot Drop Box Location

Family and Youth Services Bureau

6421 Atwood St.

District Heights, MD

Your ballot must be received by the Board of Supervisors of Elections by 8:00 p.m., Monday May 1, 2023.

\*\*\*Face mask are available\*\*\*

\*\*\*Polling location is subject to change\*\*\*

## Mail-in Ballot:

**Vote:** In Person OR Mail-In

Mail-In Ballot Request Form, AVAILABLE  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Downloadable:

[www.districtheights.org/Election/Mail-In](http://www.districtheights.org/Election/Mail-In)

Pick-up form at the Municipal Building Lobby  
Email, Board of Supervisors of Elections  
[bouse@districtheights.org](mailto:bouse@districtheights.org).

Return your Mail-In Ballot Request Form by  
Friday, April 14, 2023.



## Emergency Mail-In Ballot Request form

is given in person **ONLY** Available - Thursday,  
April 27, 2023 by 4:00 p.m.

To receive your ballot, you must return your  
Emergency Mail-In Ballot request form by 4:00  
p.m., Friday, April 28, 2023

Mail to:

Board of Supervisors of Elections /

City Clerk

2000 Marbury Drive

District Heights, MD 20747



# PUBLIC WORKS

## DEPARTMENT

### 2023 Spring Clean-Up Week

The annual clean-up will take place from **April 17-21, 2023**. Residents may rid their properties of tree limbs, grass clippings, heavy bulk items, and trash.

**\*\*\*We will not accept any HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, such as paint. Place items curbside during clean-up week.\*\*\***

### Shred Day

Date: April 22, 2023

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Location: First Baptist Church of  
District Heights Parking Lot  
7234 Lansdale St, District Heights,  
MD 20747



#### Public Works Liaison

Commissioner Gyasi Gomez  
202-961-6137

#### Public Works Supervisor

Roger Beam  
202-560-8153

#### Foreman I

Rick Whitman  
240-508-7290

#### Building Coord./Admin Asst.

Angela Barnhill-Love  
240-508-6679

### Bulk Trash Collection

Bulk trash is collected on Wednesdays by  
**APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

You must call by 2 pm on Tuesday before  
Wednesday's pick-up days are Monday  
and Thursday.

Recycle pick-up days are on Thursdays,  
and yard waste pick-up days are on  
Mondays.

Limb pick-up 2nd Tuesday of the month.

### Mosquito Control

Beginning May 31, 2023, and continuing through  
September 27, 2023, the county will spray the City  
of District Heights for mosquito larvae. Complaints  
should be forwarded regularly: name, address,  
problem area, and time of day when mosquitoes are  
worst. Residents may fax complaints to 301-442-  
0502, email [skeetermd1.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:skeetermd1.mda@maryland.gov), or call  
Mrs. Barnhill-Love at 301-336-7417.



# Recreation, Parks, and Culture Department

The recreation department is open from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Please call (301) 336-5633 or email [recreation@districtheights.org](mailto:recreation@districtheights.org) for more information about classes, activities, programs, and more!

## FREE SPRINGTIME FUN

Activities and games for our youth, friends, and families to enjoy.

All activities are subject to weather conditions.

**Location:** 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747

## May 2023 Activities and Events

### Cinco De Mayo Soccer Party

**Date:** May 5th

**Time:** 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Family, friends, food and of course, fútbol.

Call (301) 336-5633 for more information and to pre-register by April 28th.

- Refreshments and drinks while supplies last
- Weather permitting



### Mother's Day Tea

**Date:** May 13th

**Time:** 12:00 PM- 2:00 PM

A lovely social for momma to relax and enjoy.

Call (301) 336-5633 for more information and to pre-register by April 28th.



### Children's Tea

**Date:** May 19th

**Time:** 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Add a touch of etiquette and elegance to your evening.

Call (301) 336-5633 for more information and to pre-register by May 5th.

- For girls ages 6 to 14



**GET IN TOUCH WITH US**

**301-336-5633**



# Recreation, Parks, and Culture Department Cont.

The recreation department is open from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Please call (301) 336-5633 or email [recreation@districtheights.org](mailto:recreation@districtheights.org) for more information about classes, activities, programs, and more!

## June 2023 Activities and Events

### District Heights Day

**Date:** June 3rd

**Time:** Parades starts at 10:00 AM, leaving from District Heights Elementary School.

**Location:** 2200 County Road,  
District Heights, Maryland 20747

Come out and support the parade!

The parade will travel between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM, using the following city streets near

District Heights Elementary

County Road

District Heights Parkway

Rochelle Drive

Council Drive

Kipling Parkway

Marlboro Pike (Athletic Republic Capitol Region Parking Lot)

DJ, Music, Bands, Vendors, and Activities 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Athletic Republic Capitol Region Parking Lot

6417 Marlboro Pike District Heights, Maryland 20747

Call (301) 336-5633 for more information and/ or vendor request.

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### Father's Day Kickback

**Date:** June 14th

**Time:** 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Food, drinks, games, sports, music, and family.

### Summer Camp

**Date:** June 21st- July 28th

**Cost:** \$400 (price does not include field trips)

Pre-registration starts April 11, 2023, and ends June 9, 2023.

Call (301) 335-5633 for more information, dates, and any time changes.

# OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

Article submitted by: Dr. Polk

Established in 1963, Older Americans Month (OAM) is celebrated every May. OAM is a time for us to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans, highlight important trends, and strengthen our commitment to honoring our older citizens.

This year's theme, Aging Unbound, offers an opportunity to explore a wide range of aging experiences and to promote the importance of enjoying independence and fulfillment by paving our own paths as we age.

This May, we recognize the 60th anniversary of OAM and challenge the narrative on aging. Here are some ways we can all participate in Aging Unbound:

- Embrace the opportunity to change. Find a new passion, go on an adventure, and push boundaries by not letting age define your limits. Invite creativity and purpose into your life by trying new activities in your community to bring in more growth, joy, and energy.
- Explore the rewards of growing older. With age comes knowledge, which provides insight and confidence to understand and experience the world more deeply. Continue to grow that knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.
- Stay engaged in your community. Everyone benefits when everyone is connected and involved. Stay active by volunteering, working, mentoring, participating in social clubs, and taking part in activities at your local senior center or elsewhere in the community.
- Form relationships. As an essential ingredient of well-being, relationships can enhance your quality of life by introducing new ideas and unique perspectives. Invest time with people to discover deeper connections with family, friends, and community members.

For more information, visit the official OAM website, follow ACL on Twitter and Facebook, and join the conversation using #OlderAmericansMonth.

**Website: <https://acl.gov/oam/2023/older-americans-month-2023>**





# Happy Spring!

By: Teri Speight & Anthony Brooks

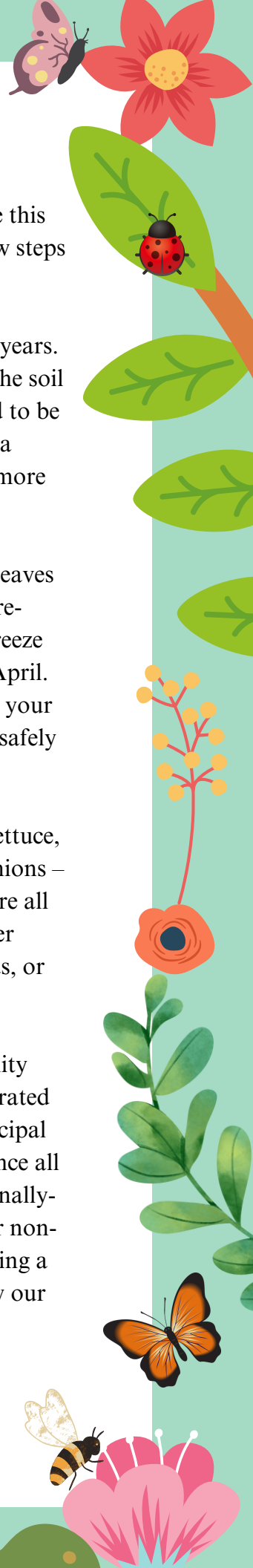
It is finally time to think about the garden and the bounty it will provide this year. Whether you are considering veggies, fruit, or flowers, there are a few steps that you can take now to ensure success later.

**Test your soil:** It is long overdue if you have not tested it in the past three years. Some of the local Independent Garden Centers offer soil testing. Testing the soil informs the consumer on what the soil needs. It could lack nutrients, need to be sweetened with lime, or need a top organic dressing. A soil test from a professional lab is just a great idea. Call your local Extension office for more details.

Wait until the temperatures are consistently 50 degrees before removing leaves or twigs left in the garden to protect the pollinators. We need to help re-establish the pollinator population for a balanced ecosystem. Our last freeze date is the latter part of March. Our later frost date is the latter part of April. We are in hardiness zone 7a. This information is helpful when looking at your local garden centers' plants, shrubs, and trees. It is always a good idea to safely plant Mother's Day weekend.

What can you safely plant now? If you are growing vegetables, consider lettuce, kale, collards, mustard greens, beets, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, and onions – and always try something new like Mache, Celery, or Bok Choi. These are all known as cool season crops. If you are planting ornamentals, consider Ranunculus, pansies, geraniums, osteospermum, nasturtiums, sweet peas, or calendula.

We are accepting a few new Plot Partners at the Fiesta Place Community Garden at 6717 Gateway Boulevard. If you are a resident in the Incorporated City of District Heights, you may pick up an application from the Municipal Building, City Clerk's office. We will have a waiting list for future plots once all the beds are accounted for. As a sustainable garden, we practice transitionally-organic disease and pest prevention methods. This means no chemicals or non-organic methods are allowed. Each Plot Partner plays a role in maintaining a garden where we grow food, share positive interactions, and get to know our neighbors.



# CITIZENS ACTION PATROL (CAP) NEWS

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**Tip of the Issue: Auto Thefts.** Car thefts have not diminished. Cars that have been targeted are Kias and Hyundais. Car thieves have learned how to steal these models through social media. There is a software update that dealers can administer to protect against the thefts of these models from years 2011-2022.

It is recommended that all vehicle owners use wheel locks, regardless of the model, to stop and deter thefts. FYI: All residents, military excepted, are required to transfer to Maryland State tags within 60 days of residency.

**House(s) of the Month:** The house of the month for February was at 7107 Gateway Blvd. Contact CAP for the house of the month nominations.



**CAP Meetings:** Meetings are held bi-monthly at the District Heights Municipal Bldg. 2000 Marbury Dr. The next meetings are April 19th, June 21st, August is National Night Out month, and October 18th, no meeting in December. We are constantly searching for individuals to serve as “Block Captains.” Contact CAP at [dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com](mailto:dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com) for further information. Meeting dates are subject to change. All meetings are scheduled for 7:00 P.M.

## District Heights Civic Coalition

**Veterans Corner:** Veteran Claims: If a veteran disagrees with a decision on a benefit claim, they can request a higher level review (HLR) which allows them an optional one-time informal conference with a higher level reviewer. Contact the Department of Veteran Affairs (<https://www.va.gov>) for more information.

**Coalition News:** (1) Property Tax Credit – Prince George’s County homeowners may be available for a 20% property tax credit if specific requirements are met. Search online for the HTC 2022 application form. (2) CB 007-2023 (Rent Stabilization Act) This act restricts landlords from raising rents above 3% for twelve months. Search online CB 007-2023 for details.

**Contact us at:** [dhciviccoalition@gmail.com](mailto:dhciviccoalition@gmail.com)





# Hello Beautiful District Heights!

By: Vice Mayor Xander Harcourt

We'd like to welcome our new City Manager, David Street to the community. Mr. Street brings a wealth of government experience to our community, and is eager to meet you. Be sure to stop by and say hello. His email is:  
[citymanager@districtheights.org](mailto:citymanager@districtheights.org)

Check out all the upcoming community events with our local faith-based community partners at The Heights Church, Christ Kingdom, Hemingway AME, and St. Paul.

We'd also like to thank them for their continued presence and the extraordinary contributions they provide to make our community such a special place to call home!

While on policing, as the weather warms up, please be mindful of your surroundings. The Department is working with the County and other agencies, including schedule changes, enhanced and targeted enforcement, and other measures to ensure we protect our community and make it unappealing for people who don't respect our homes, businesses, places of worship, schools, and personal safety.

I want to thank all the residents I see curbing their pets (scooping the poop), as this is an environmental and health hazard for other pets and people. I'd also like to thank all the folks I see collecting trash and depositing it in one of several trash receptacles throughout the City. I'm very grateful to the folks that care enough about the community to want to keep it beautiful and litter free!

Please be mindful of your neighbors that walk by slowing down. Also, many of us value the quiet enjoyment of our homes and outdoor spaces. Did you know there is a noise ordinance in the City? There will be increased enforcement and fines. Remember, it's too loud if your neighbor can hear your music in their closed homes.

I know neighbors who are kind enough to inform each other about parties and celebrations. We respect and appreciate that kindness. When these occur, please be mindful of the time when celebrating.

If you need to connect, engage, or chat with me, please send me an email to schedule some time: [harcourtx@districtheights.org](mailto:harcourtx@districtheights.org)

We're doing great things TOGETHER, District Heights!



# **First Quarter Updates**

## **By: Commissioner Gyasi Gomez**

As the state and county continue to drive sustainable infrastructure initiatives, we are well-aligned and actively seeking opportunities to transform District Heights into a Greener city.

The Sustainability Committee is up and running with residents Nicole Jackson as Chair and Teri Speight as Co-Chair, meetings are every 3rd Thursday of the Month, and the committee is accepting new members. If you are interested, please send an email to [greenteam@districtheights.org](mailto:greenteam@districtheights.org).

As Governor Moore stresses the importance of alternative energy sources and grid electrification, Vice Mayor and I have been exploring several ways to procure EV Charging stations, solar benches, and paneling in the Municipality and public areas.

The city co-sponsored the Greater Washington Region's Clean City Coalition Climate Career Fair at Bowie State University. Black and brown college graduates must be exposed to career opportunities in the climate sector as often our communities have a higher likelihood of experiencing negative climate consequences. Additionally, we are exploring partnerships with the University to welcome interns.

### **Pepco Streetlight Buy Back Program**

Maryland State Del. Al Carr (District 18) stated, "Street lighting is a basic municipal service important for public safety and commerce. Pepco owns and maintains all the streetlights on wood poles in its territory spanning Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Pepco's poor management of these taxpayer-funded assets harms public safety and wastes money."

Have you noticed a streetlight in your neighborhood that was out? As a municipality, Pepco continues to own and maintain all streetlights, and they can be incredibly slow to replace lights.

The city of District Heights, along with many other municipalities in Prince George's and Montgomery County, are exploring ways to buy back our streetlights, as the Maryland Delegation is re-drafting legislation to mandate Pepco work with Municipalities "in good faith" to facilitate a less cost prohibitive buy back structure.

I advocate that the Commission pursue a study to assess the feasibility and benefits of CODH's purchasing streetlights from Pepco. The estimated cost savings over twenty years is minimally \$1 million, and lastly, this will ensure that we can quickly replace lights, which is vital to public safety.

Lastly, as I meet you and hear your ideas and concerns, I will continue to share information on the bureaucracy, rules, and procedures under which the Commission is bound to operate.

If there are specific areas of government you are interested in learning more about please email me at [gomezg@districtheights.org](mailto:gomezg@districtheights.org).





# Spring Into Fitness for The Summer...

By: Commissioner Anthony Tilghman

First, it has been a pleasure meeting and working with our city residents on finding solutions for a better community. The Recreation, Parks, and Culture Department offers our youth residents various activities, from mentoring and financial literacy classes to open gym activities like basketball and soccer.

I connected the Recreation Department to Employ P.G. in January for a potential partnership. Once approved, our city will become the first municipality in Maryland to establish a professional workforce job center for our incorporated city and county residents.

In February, I worked with the recreation department to reopen on Saturday mornings, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, stop by to use the fitness room, or take a walk on the track around our municipal field.

In March, I donated blood at a community blood drive for people living with sickle cell anemia held by the America Red Cross at the recreation department. Thank you to Mrs. Teanika Hoffman, Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Coalition and resident of District Heights, on the importance of hosting blood drives and the positive impact on our community.

If you or someone you know in our city are interested in contacting me personally, I can be reached by phone at (301) 752-7924 or by email at [tilghmana@districtheights.org](mailto:tilghmana@districtheights.org).

As always, community support equals results ...





# Hello Neighbors!

By: Commissioner Pamela Janifer

Hello Neighbors,


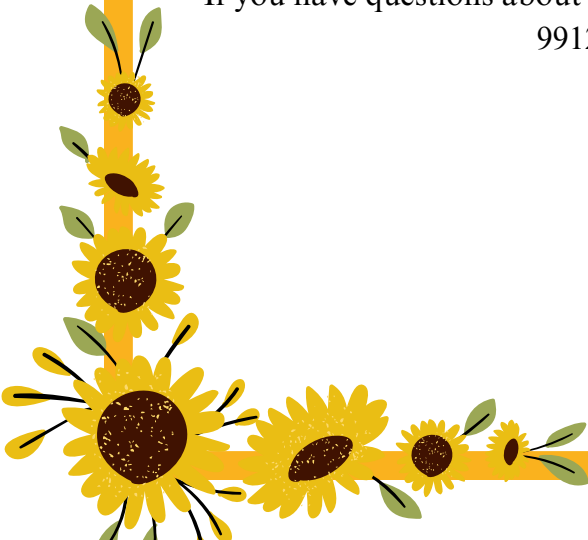
The Commission is excited about all the positive changes occurring in the city. We are encouraged by the engagement of the Community as the city continues to morph into a stellar place to live.

On Memorial Day, the City of District Heights will celebrate and honor U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day will be celebrated this year on Monday, May 29, 2023. Please remember that Memorial Day is a national holiday, and the city's offices will be closed.

The City of District Heights front office is now fully staffed. Don't hesitate to contact our friendly, professional, and knowledgeable staff with questions. You can reach Ms. Staff Jefferson and Ms. Nike'sa Lewis at (301) 336-1402 or [jeffersons@districtheights.org](mailto:jeffersons@districtheights.org) and [lewisn@districtheights.org](mailto:lewisn@districtheights.org).

The city is working very hard to keep the Community updated on meetings, events, and activities occurring throughout the city. Please check our website often at [www.districtheights.org](http://www.districtheights.org). If you want to receive these notifications electronically, please consider signing up for Constant Contact. Information will be forwarded to you promptly for your reading pleasure. Please message Ms. T'Neisha Turner in our Media Department at [mediacoordinator@districtheights.org](mailto:mediacoordinator@districtheights.org) or [turnert@districtheights.org](mailto:turnert@districtheights.org). If you have any questions, please call (301) 336-1402.

If you have questions about our government, please get in touch with me at (301) 752-9912 or [janiferp@districtheights.org](mailto:janiferp@districtheights.org).







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



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MARYLAND

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