



July- September 2023

www.districtheights.org



THE HERALD



"Love After Love"

The time will come
when, with elation
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror
and each will smile at the other's
welcome,
and say, sit here. Eat.
You will love again the stranger who
was yourself.
Give wine. Give bread. Give back
your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has
loved you...

-Derek Walcott

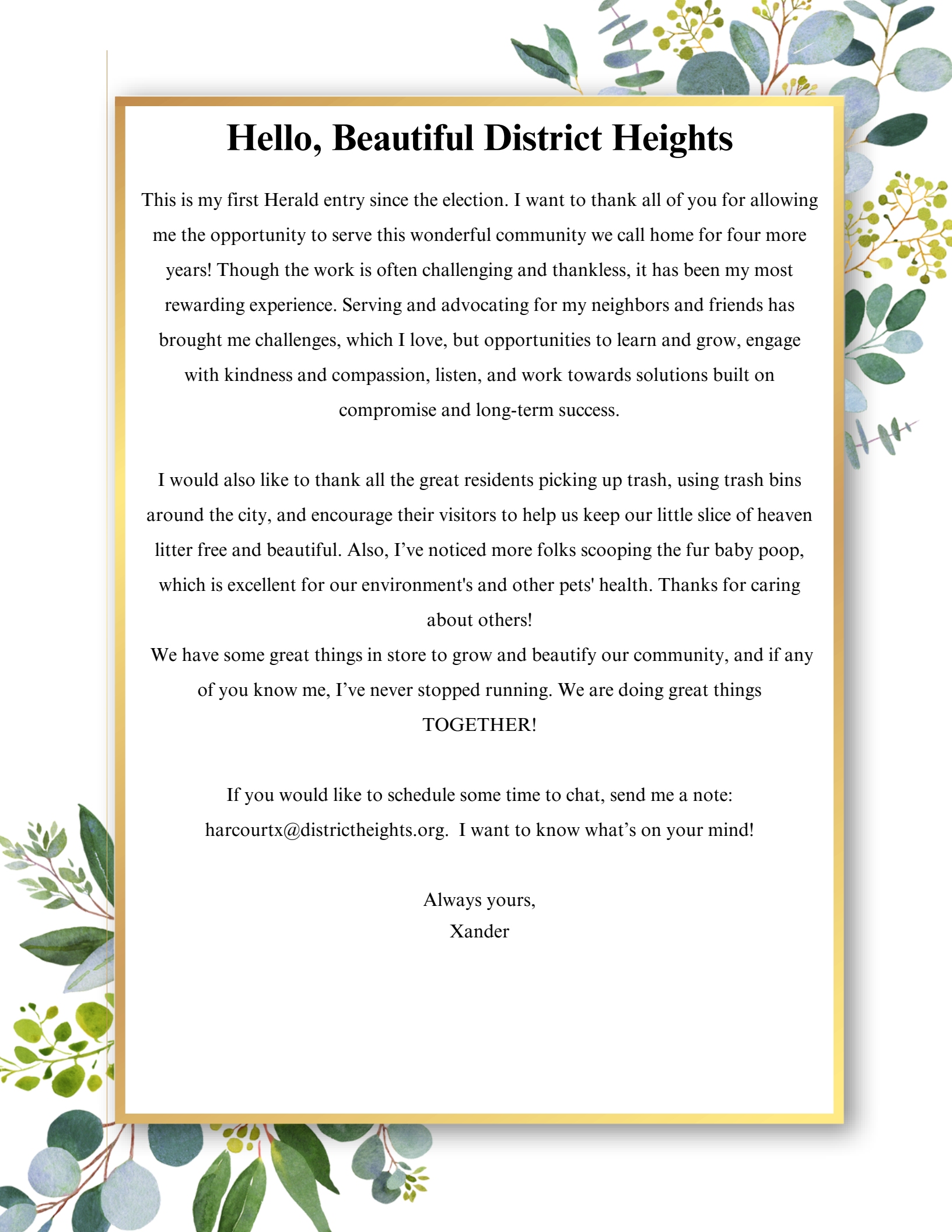


“The time is always right to do what is right.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



LATEST NEWS!!!

- Letters from Commission
- Mosquito Control Information
- Letter from Chief Tarpley
- Code Enforcement News
- CAP updates
- Active Aging Community Assessment
- And more...



Hello, Beautiful District Heights

This is my first Herald entry since the election. I want to thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve this wonderful community we call home for four more years! Though the work is often challenging and thankless, it has been my most rewarding experience. Serving and advocating for my neighbors and friends has brought me challenges, which I love, but opportunities to learn and grow, engage with kindness and compassion, listen, and work towards solutions built on compromise and long-term success.

I would also like to thank all the great residents picking up trash, using trash bins around the city, and encourage their visitors to help us keep our little slice of heaven litter free and beautiful. Also, I've noticed more folks scooping the fur baby poop, which is excellent for our environment's and other pets' health. Thanks for caring about others!

We have some great things in store to grow and beautify our community, and if any of you know me, I've never stopped running. We are doing great things
TOGETHER!

If you would like to schedule some time to chat, send me a note:
harcourt@districtheights.org. I want to know what's on your mind!

Always yours,
Xander

Attention: City of District Heights Residents

By: Commissioner Anthony Tilghman

We would appreciate your help. Please stay active and involved. Remember, we work for you, and we're here to help. Check out these tips to stay engaged.

- Our city meetings are held Monthly: the First Thursday, 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. Visit www.districtheights.org for more information.

Missed a Meeting? Check out our Meeting Archive!

<https://www.districtheights.org/home/pages/meeting-archive>



- Have a question about Ordinances and Resolutions that the Commission has passed? If you have any questions or require a copy, please email City Clerk Starr Jefferson, call (301) 336-1402 ext. 110, or visit the Municipal Building.

- Need help with a specific department? Here is the contact information for all city departments and services.

<https://www.districtheights.org/departments>

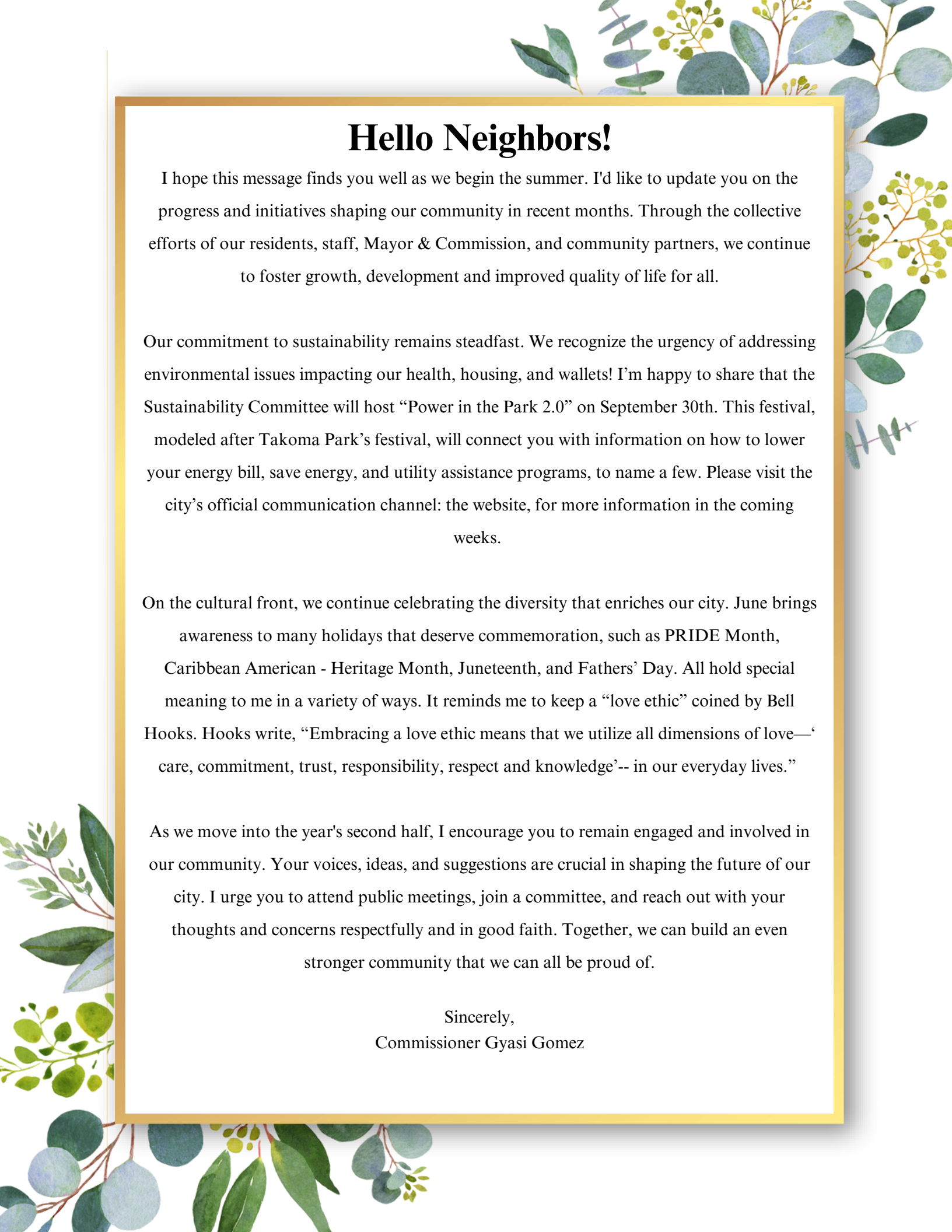


- Besides the Mayor and City Commission, City residents are represented by several local, state, and federal elected officials. Helpful resources for accessing services can be found online.

The City's local, state, and federal legislative delegation is listed Here

<https://www.districtheights.org/government-resources>





Hello Neighbors!

I hope this message finds you well as we begin the summer. I'd like to update you on the progress and initiatives shaping our community in recent months. Through the collective efforts of our residents, staff, Mayor & Commission, and community partners, we continue to foster growth, development and improved quality of life for all.

Our commitment to sustainability remains steadfast. We recognize the urgency of addressing environmental issues impacting our health, housing, and wallets! I'm happy to share that the Sustainability Committee will host "Power in the Park 2.0" on September 30th. This festival, modeled after Takoma Park's festival, will connect you with information on how to lower your energy bill, save energy, and utility assistance programs, to name a few. Please visit the city's official communication channel: the website, for more information in the coming weeks.

On the cultural front, we continue celebrating the diversity that enriches our city. June brings awareness to many holidays that deserve commemoration, such as PRIDE Month, Caribbean American - Heritage Month, Juneteenth, and Fathers' Day. All hold special meaning to me in a variety of ways. It reminds me to keep a "love ethic" coined by Bell Hooks. Hooks write, "Embracing a love ethic means that we utilize all dimensions of love—care, commitment, trust, responsibility, respect and knowledge'-- in our everyday lives."

As we move into the year's second half, I encourage you to remain engaged and involved in our community. Your voices, ideas, and suggestions are crucial in shaping the future of our city. I urge you to attend public meetings, join a committee, and reach out with your thoughts and concerns respectfully and in good faith. Together, we can build an even stronger community that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,
Commissioner Gyasi Gomez

PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT

Mosquito Control

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 most active. Residents may fax complaints to 301-442- 0502, email skeetermd1.mda@maryland.gov, or call Mrs. Barnhill-Love at 301-336-7417.

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 Thursdays, and yard waste pick-up days are Mondays. Limb pick-up 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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





Greetings, District Heights Residents

The safety and well-being of our community are paramount. As responsible residents, it is crucial that we actively contribute to the security of our streets and properties.

Please report crimes promptly to the local police department for a safer environment.

Maintaining a safe community is a shared responsibility that involves collaboration between law enforcement agencies and residents. Reporting crimes promptly aids in the swift apprehension of criminals and deters future unlawful activities.

Regardless of perceived severity, every report plays a crucial role in keeping our community secure. By reporting suspicious activities, providing accurate information, and cooperating with law enforcement, we actively contribute to the well-being of our neighborhood.

When witnessing or experiencing a crime, it is imperative to report the incident promptly. The District Heights Police Department offers by E-mail at Police2000@districtheights.org or by calling in an anonymous time tip at 301-324-6359 Ext.111

1. Emergency Hotline: In case of emergencies or situations requiring immediate attention, dial 911 to connect with the police department.
2. Non-Emergency Line: Call the non-emergency line at 301- 352-1200 for non-urgent matters. This number is suitable for incidents that do not require immediate police response.

Provide accurate and detailed information when reporting a crime, including location, time, descriptions of individuals involved, and any pertinent details assisting law enforcement in investigations.

Sincerely,
Chief Tarpley

Upholding code enforcement standards is essential for a pleasant and secure living environment. Several common violations require attention:

1. **Tall Grass and Weeds:** Overgrown vegetation detracts from our neighborhood's aesthetic appeal, poses fire hazards, and attracts pests. Regularly mowing lawns and trimming vegetation ensures a well-kept community.
2. **Unregistered Vehicles:** Ensure vehicles parked on private and public properties are properly registered. Unregistered vehicles contribute to disorder and visual nuisance. By ensuring vehicle registration, we promote a more organized and secure community.
3. **Failure to Obtain a City Building Permit:** Obtain a city building permit for any construction or remodeling project. Failure to do so violates regulations and compromises safety. Acquire permits and follow guidelines to ensure structural integrity and compliance.
4. **Sanitation/Open Storage on a Property:** Proper storage is crucial for hygiene and safety. Items left in open storage areas become breeding grounds for pests and pose tripping hazards. Ensuring a clean and orderly environment benefits our community's overall well-being.

By addressing code enforcement violations, we create an attractive, secure, and livable community for all District Heights residents.

Maintaining a secure and thriving community requires our united commitment to community safety and code compliance. Reporting crimes promptly and upholding code enforcement guidelines are essential contributions to our community's well-being. Let's work together to build a safer and brighter future for The City District Heights.

Contact the District Height Police Department at 301-336-1200 for crime-related concerns and for more information on reporting incidents. For code enforcement inquiries, reach out to the District Heights Code Compliance Office at 301-336-1400 or visit DistrictHeights.org.



Citizens Action Patrol (CAP) NEWS (June 2023)

National Night Out: NNO is scheduled for August 1, 2023. Planning meetings are ongoing.
If you want to volunteer at the event, please contact (301) 336-1400.

Tip of the Issue: Scam Alert: Scams are still alive and well, especially targeting seniors. They are becoming more sophisticated, and many are computer generated. If you suspect you are being targeted, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." You should contact local authorities.

House(s) of the Month: The District Height's houses of the month are as follows: April- 6220 Belwood St., May- 2200 Roslyn St., June- 6501 Gateway Blvd.
Please visit the website for more information on "House of the Month" nominations.



CAP Meetings: Meetings are held bi-monthly, 7:00 P. M. at the District Height's Municipal Bldg. 2000 Marbury Dr. The next and last meeting for the year is Oct 18th.

We are constantly searching for individuals to serve as "Block Captains." Do you want to reduce crime and increase the quality of life in the City of District Heights? Become a block captain, a go-to person on your block for reporting violations and suspicious activities to members of CAP, Code Enforcement, Public Works, or the Police Department. Importantly, no special training is required; all that is required is your active engagement and desire to improve your neighborhood.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Reporting code violations (e.g., trash, tall grass, excessive noise, and cars parked illegally to the city code enforcement – codeenforcement@districtheights.org
- Reporting potholes, dead trees, and lighting deficiency to public works – publicworks@districtheights.org
- Welcoming new neighbors with a City welcome packet with important community information and resources.

If you want to become a block captain, email your contact information and the street(s) you want to be responsible for to dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com.

District Heights Civic Coalition

Veterans Corner: Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SHA) –SHA grants are awarded to veterans with service-related disabilities to buy or modify their homes to navigate their residences better. The maximum allowable grant for 2023 is \$109,986. Contact the VA at (800) 698-2411.

Contact us at: dhciviccoalition@gmail.com.



Senior Olympics starts in July 2023!

Every other year, the Senior Olympics, known officially as the National Senior Games, hosts aging adult athletes from the United States and Canada to participate in national competitions. These senior games allow aging adults to remain active and competitive, pursue a sport they enjoy and optimize their health. The minimum age of eligibility is 50 years old.

Here are a few additional facts regarding the Senior Olympics:

- It is sponsored by the National Senior Games Association (NSGA).
- It is a nonprofit organization and a member of the United States Olympic Committee
- It was founded in 1985 in St Louis, Missouri
- Held the first Senior Games (in Missouri) in 1987

The primary goal for the Senior Olympics is to encourage seniors, through regular competition, exercise, and education, to remain physically active and fit and nurture a healthy lifestyle. The event features 19 different sports, with each athlete competing in their selected sport. The most popular activities include track and field, golf, bowling, swimming, and shuffleboard. Track and field is #1, with over 10,000 athletes competing in events ranging from the 100-meter dash to the javelin throw. Golf is #2, with nearly 5,000 athletes competing in events ranging from the 9-hole tournament to the 18-hole tournament. Humana Inc is a leading U. S. healthcare company and the Official Presenting Sponsor for the Senior Olympics.

The City of District Heights wants to encourage physical activity through competition and volunteerism at the Senior Olympics. So, accordingly, we will schedule an interest meeting in September 2023. In the meantime, please review the Maryland State guideline at [MSO-2023-Guide-revised.pdf \(mdseniorolympics.org\)](#). Stay tuned for more information!



Greetings, Active Aging Community!

We thank you in advance for participating in the Incorporated City of District Heights' 1st Annual Active Aging Community Assessment. Biennially, the City will send the residents an assessment to reevaluate needs and desires related to active aging services and programs. Your input is invaluable!

Accordingly, if you are 50 years and older, please click the link or copy and paste it into your internet browser or use the QR Code to complete the assessment. Once you have answered all the questions, click submit, and your document will be sent to the Director of Senior Services, Dr. Katrina Polk. You can access the document from July 1st through July 31st. If you need help completing the assessment, please call (301) 752-9395 to schedule an appointment.

The next steps include analyzing the data in August 2023 and a final public report in September 2023.



Click the Link or Copy & Paste it into the Internet Browser:

[https://na4.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?
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jr2iGnhVuXlSwnwgZG6kP6oQTY5b9mgvGBMRUXUY0RtAtSmFMKKvmp_Y
](https://na4.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLb1qZhBSICdD7r-jr2iGnhVuXlSwnwgZG6kP6oQTY5b9mgvGBMRUXUY0RtAtSmFMKKvmp_Y)



Cynthia Miller
Mayor
millerc@districtheights.org



Xander Hardcourt
Vice Mayor, Ward 1
Liaison for Police & Code
Enforcement
harcourt@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) 336-1402



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