

## Commissioner's Note

As spring settles in, I want to encourage each of us to look at our front yards a little differently—not just as decorative spaces, but as places to grow something meaningful.

Imagine fruit trees, berry bushes, container gardens, and pollinator patches **thriving right here in District Heights.**

I have a vision for our community that's not only more **sustainable**, but more **shareable**—a neighborhood where kids can pluck fresh berries on their way home from school, where pollinators have safe spaces to thrive, and where we use our green spaces to support food security and **healthier living.**

In my own yard, I've planted serviceberry trees and will be adding more fruit trees and bushes throughout the season. These plantings offer more than food—they provide shade to help with cooling costs, improve air quality, support local ecosystems, and even **boost property values.**



Too often, our front lawns go unused—just patches of grass. But what if those spaces could feed a neighbor, inspire a child, or bring people together? By **planting with intention**, we can turn our yards into **tools of care and connection.**

This kind of thinking reflects the spirit of District Heights—**This is Home.** And home should be a place where everyone feels nourished, welcomed, and **empowered** to contribute. By planting gardens and trees, we're planting roots—literally and figuratively—that **strengthen our bonds** as neighbors.

Let's start small: a pot of herbs on the porch, a blueberry bush by the sidewalk, or a sunflower patch for the bees. Together, we can grow something beautiful—not just for ourselves, but for our entire community.

**Let's make "home" even more meaningful, one yard at a time.**

Best Wishes,

**Xander Harcourt**

Commissioner, City of District Heights

# CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, May 12

- Charter Committee Meeting
  - 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom (virtual call)
  - Email [cityclerk@districtheights.org](mailto:cityclerk@districtheights.org) for info.

### Tuesday, May 13

- Ethics Commission Meeting
  - 11am-1pm in the Municipal Building
  - Email [ethics@districtheights.org](mailto:ethics@districtheights.org) for info.
- District Heights Work Session
  - 7pm in the Municipal Building
  - Email [cityclerk@districtheights.org](mailto:cityclerk@districtheights.org) for more information.



### Thursday, May 15

- Sustainability Committee Meeting
  - 7pm in the Municipal Building
  - Email [greenteam@districtheights.org](mailto:greenteam@districtheights.org) for more information.

### Saturday, May 17

- Weekends with Fiesta Place Garden: Native Plants
  - 11:30am-2pm at 6717 Gateway Blvd.
  - Email [fiestaplace@districtheights.org](mailto:fiestaplace@districtheights.org) for more information.

### Monday, May 26

- Memorial Day Ceremony
  - 10am at District Heights Veterans Park

### Tuesday, May 27

- District Heights Work Session
  - 7pm in the Municipal Building
  - Email [cityclerk@districtheights.org](mailto:cityclerk@districtheights.org) for more information.

NOTE THAT EVENT DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

To view more events, visit

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

## Announcements

### MAY 19: STOP THE BLEED AT REC CENTER

Join a free training Monday, May 19 (10am and 12pm) and learn how to respond in a bleeding emergency. Pre-registered attendees receive a FREE Bleeding Control Kit (\$42 value)! Visit [www.mdcot.com/stop-the-bleed-week-2025](http://www.mdcot.com/stop-the-bleed-week-2025) to register.

### MAY 31: HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous waste collection day has been rescheduled to **Saturday, May 31**, 10am-2pm in the lower lot of the Municipal Building (2000 Marbury Drive).

### NEXT MONTH'S CITY MEETING: JUNE 5

To participate, you **MUST** email the clerk's office ([cityclerk@districtheights.org](mailto:cityclerk@districtheights.org)) **24 hours prior** to the beginning of the scheduled meeting date. The email **must include your full name, address, telephone number, purpose for public participation at a meeting**, and any accompanying materials you wish to be distributed to the Mayor and Commission.

## Want to be in The Herald?

Send your submissions to [publicaffairs@districtheights.org](mailto:publicaffairs@districtheights.org).

Emails **must** include the subject line "**Herald Submission, [Month] 2025**". Emails without this text in the subject line will **not** be considered or included in the next issue.

## Follow us!



@THECITYOFDISTRICTHEIGHTS



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The City of District Heights encourages all to voice any questions, comments, and concerns that you may have. We are committed to responding to comments and complaints within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. It's very important that citizens identify themselves so we can respond quickly to your concerns. Please be sure to include within your email your Name, Home Address, and Phone Number.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Discover Joy, Wellness, and Community at the District Heights Senior Center

by Tomiko Thomas, Director of Senior Services

Looking for a **vibrant space** to stay active, connect with others, and enjoy enriching programs? The **District Heights Senior Center** welcomes seniors aged 55 and up from all across Maryland—no matter where you live. Our regional center offers a wide range of engaging activities designed to support your physical, mental, and social well-being.



Whether you're looking to get your heart pumping with Zumba, find your flow in traditional or chair yoga, or keep your mind sharp through **PGCC's SAGE courses** like Brain Fitness with Music, there's something here for everyone. Enjoy time with friends, catch a weekly free movie, or try your hand at sewing, arts and crafts, or bingo.

We also host **monthly health seminars** to keep you informed and empowered, as well as special events and exciting trips—both near and far. Some activities and trips carry a small fee for those who do not live within the incorporated City of District Heights, but **the sense of community is priceless.**

Open **Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM**, the District Heights Senior Center is a welcoming hub where seniors can thrive, have fun, and feel right at home.

## YARD WASTE & LIMB PICKUP TIPS

**Yard Waste Collection** occurs on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Yard waste must be placed in **paper bags only** and set out in a clearly visible location near the street.



- **Acceptable** yard waste includes: grass clippings, leaves, and yard plants.
- **Prohibited** materials include: metal, dirt, limbs, concrete, rocks, and similar debris.

**Limb Pickup** takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please note that:

- We will not pick up whole trees.
- Limbs must be no more than 7 inches in diameter to be eligible for collection.

Your cooperation ensures safe, efficient service. Thank you for doing your part!

## It's a GREAT Time to Garden!

by Teri Speight,  
Fiesta Place Community Garden Co-Chair

Now that the threat of snow is off the radar, it is a great time to get into the garden to prepare for a new season. Here are a few simple things to remember:



*Fiesta Place*  
Community Garden

- **Be gentle** when raking the garden. There are beneficial insects still evolving. Leave a little debris to break down and feed the soil.
- Plant **cool season plants and vegetables** only when the ground is consistently above 50 degrees. Patience is a part of gardening.
- **Feel like pruning?** Cutback any browning foliage, crossing branches, or shrubs that can safely be cut back to encourage compact growth and bloom on new seasons wood.
- Prepare new beds by **incorporating compost**, last year's leaves and grass clippings. Cover with an organic mulch. This will prevent new seeds of unwanted plants from blowing into newly prepared beds.

**Interested in becoming a plot partner this season? Email [fiestaplace@districtheights.org](mailto:fiestaplace@districtheights.org).**

# DISTRICT HEIGHTS DAY



**SATURDAY  
JUNE 7  
2025  
10AM - 4PM**

**THIS IS  
HOME.**



**FOOD  
MUSIC  
SHOPPING  
DANCE  
FUN**



**DISTRICT  
HEIGHTS  
DAY 2025**

**PARADE STARTS AT 10 AM**  
ATHLETIC REPUBLIC  
PARKING LOT  
6417 MARLBORO PIKE, DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD

**FESTIVAL STARTS AT 11 AM**  
CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS  
MAIN CAMPUS FIELD  
2000 MARBURY DRIVE, DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD



**FEATURING THE  
WASHINGTON  
COMMANDERS  
MARCHING BAND &  
COMMAND FORCE  
DANCE TEAM!**



Want to see your logo on the official DH Day 2025 flyer?  
Visit [bit.ly/DHDaySponsor](https://bit.ly/DHDaySponsor) for more information.

# DISTRICT HEIGHTS DAY

## ROAD CLOSURES & PARKING RESTRICTIONS

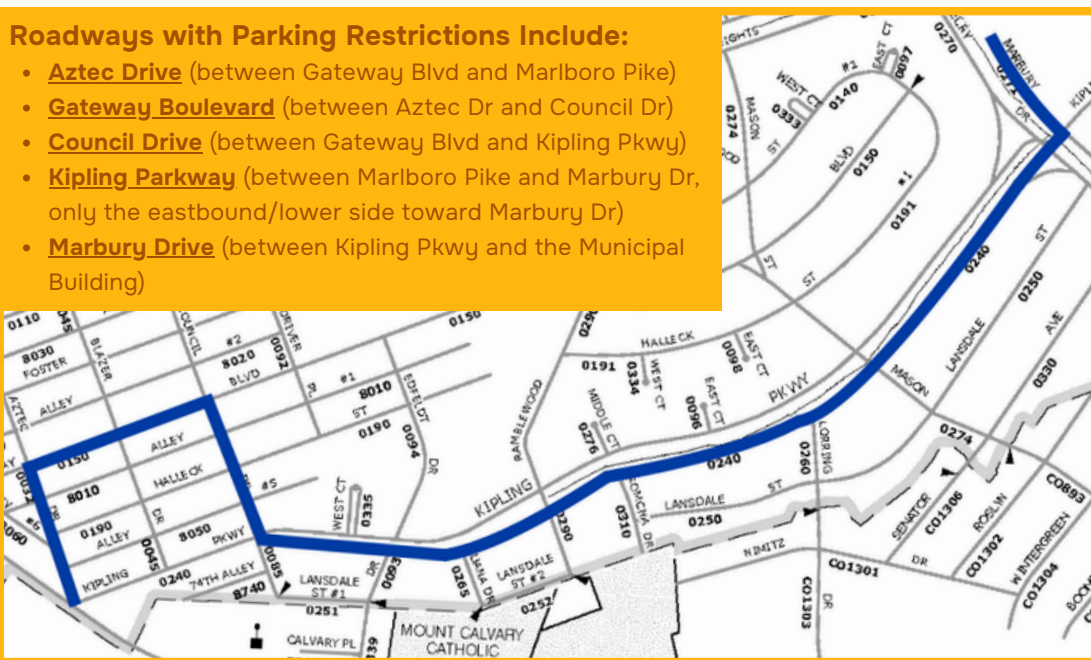
Please be advised that **multiple road closures and parking restrictions** will be in effect on **Saturday, June 7, 2025**, to accommodate the parade route.

All residents along the parade route are asked to have their **vehicles off the roadway** no later than **7:00 AM on June 7**. The parade is expected to conclude by 2:00 PM, if not earlier.

**See the Parade Route Map below.** All roads that feed into the parade route will also be closed to through traffic. Residents in these areas should plan ahead:

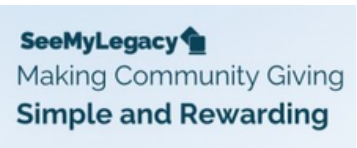
- Exit your neighborhood **before** closures begin
- Expect **limited to no re-entry** until after the parade has concluded

**Thank you for your support;** your cooperation helps ensure a safe and successful celebration for all. We look forward to seeing you at District Heights Day!



## INTRODUCING THE SeeMyLegacy PLATFORM

The City of District Heights is pleased to highlight community campaigns now available through the **SeeMyLegacy platform**, an innovative digital tool that facilitates civic engagement by connecting residents with local programs, events, and volunteer opportunities.



Campaigns led by City departments and committees will be added throughout the year. Among the featured initiatives is **District Heights Day 2025**, scheduled for June 7, with sponsorship packages currently available for businesses and community partners interested in supporting this annual celebration. Visit [bit.ly/DHDaySponsor](https://bit.ly/DHDaySponsor) for more information.



# DHPD Welcomes New Leaders to Our Ranks

by Chief Tarpley



I am proud to announce a historic milestone for the District Heights Police Department: **for the first time under my leadership, our department is fully staffed.** This achievement represents a renewed commitment to public safety, responsiveness, and excellence in law enforcement.

These appointments mark a new chapter for DHPD as we continue to strengthen our capacity to serve the residents of District Heights with professionalism and care. Please join me in welcoming **Major Hodge** and **Corporal Banton** to our police family.



**Major Timothy Hodge** brings to District Heights over 35 years of exemplary service. A United States Marine Corps veteran, Major Hodge later served 22 years with the United States Park Police, concluding his career as East District Commander. His prior roles included Executive Officer to the Chief, Commander of the Motorcycle Unit (which provided dignitary escorts to U.S. Presidents and foreign Heads of State), and Commander of the Secretary of the Interior’s Special Protection Detail. Most recently, he served as Deputy Police Chief at a municipal agency, where he commanded the patrol division. His leadership, integrity, and operational experience are invaluable additions to our team.

**Corporal Kirk Banton** joins us after serving as Assistant Chief of Police in Forest Heights, Maryland. Over his career, he has led Internal Affairs, Policy Development, Officer Training, and Evidence Management, and built interagency training partnerships throughout the region. Prior to that, he served in senior leadership at the National Security Agency Police Department, as well as in municipal departments across Prince George’s County. With a career defined by accountability, innovation, and community engagement, Corporal Banton brings deep operational knowledge and a service-driven approach to policing.



## MEET THE CODE ENFORCEMENT TEAM

As the city continues to grow, the **Code Enforcement Department** continues to grow with as well. We are constantly looking for new and improved ways to enforce the laws that has allowed our community to thrive even in the face of adversity.

**Call Us:** (301) 336-1400 ext.140  
**Email Us:** [codeenforcement@districtheights.org](mailto:codeenforcement@districtheights.org)

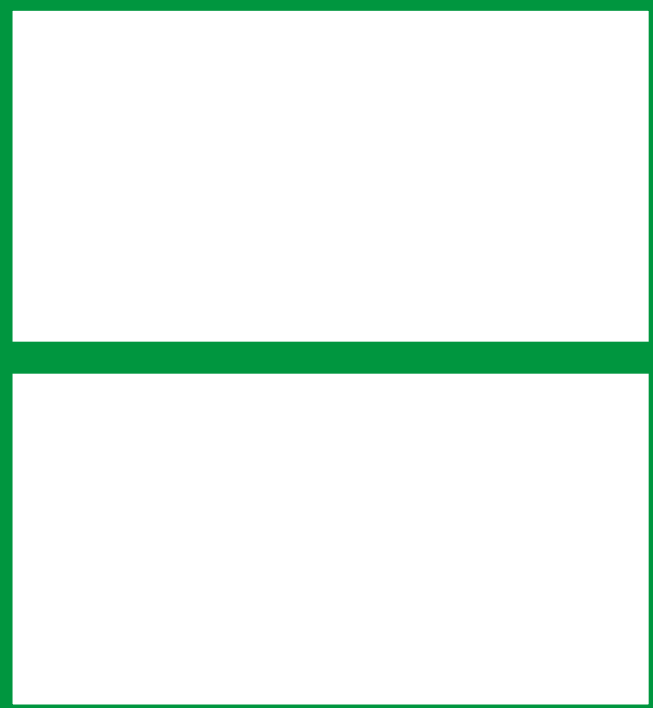
**Left to Right:** Keyon Lomax, Rashad Lee, Damon Thompson

# THE COMMUNITY CORNER

## PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE HERALD

The Herald is now offering ad space in upcoming issues. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business to residents and community members. See the chart below for pricing and details, or contact Kellye Beathea, Director of Communications, at [beatheak@districtheights.org](mailto:beatheak@districtheights.org).

**SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**



## Ad Pricing for The Herald

SIZE	DIMENSIONS (approx.)	PRICE (1 issue)	PRICE (3 issues)
1/8 Page	3.5" W x 4" H	\$75	\$200
1/4 Page	3.5" W x 4" H	\$125	\$350
1/2 Page	7.5" W x 4" H	\$250	\$700
Full Page	7.5" W x 8.25" H	\$600	\$1,500



2000 Marbury Drive  
District Heights, MD 20747

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## **THIS IS HOME.**

### **General Government**

(Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm)

**301-336-1402 ext. 110**

### **Police Department**

[districtheights.org/police-department](http://districtheights.org/police-department)

**301-336-1400 ext. 111** For emergencies call 9-1-1 (24 hours)

### **Code Enforcement**

[districtheights.org/code-enforcement](http://districtheights.org/code-enforcement)

**301-336-1400 ext. 160**

### **Public Works**

[districtheights.org/public-works](http://districtheights.org/public-works)

**301-336-7417**

### **Senior Services**

[districtheights.org/senior-services](http://districtheights.org/senior-services)

**301-350-3660**

### **Recreation Center**

[districtheights.org/recreation-parks-culture-department](http://districtheights.org/recreation-parks-culture-department)

**301-336-5633**

### **Family & Youth Services**

[districtheights.org/family-youth-services](http://districtheights.org/family-youth-services)

**301-336-7600**

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS**



# **The Herald**