



District
Heights
Maryland

The HERALD

SPECIAL EDITION

Summer in the City...



In this Issue:

- Summer 2025 Recap
- From the Podium
- Upcoming Events
- The Community Corner
- DH Business Blvd.
- and MORE!

From the PODIUM



General Government: The People Who Make ‘This Is Home’ Work

When we say, “**This Is Home,**” we mean more than just a slogan—it’s a promise. A promise that your city is working every day to make **District Heights a place where families can thrive**, seniors feel supported, and every neighbor feels seen and served. At the center of that promise is **General Government—the administrative core of our city** that ensures the services and systems you rely on are dependable, efficient, and responsive.

So, **what exactly is General Government?** It’s the branch of our municipal operations responsible for city leadership, financial management, communications, and day-to-day administration. It includes the **Mayor**, the **City Commissioners** (like myself), and the **dedicated staff** who make sure your local government functions with care and integrity.

Here’s a look at who serves in General Government:

- **City Manager:** Leads daily operations across all departments, making sure our city runs smoothly, and our goals are met.
- **City Clerk:** Maintains official records, prepares legislative agendas, and supports city meetings with accuracy and professionalism.
- **City Treasurer:** Manages budgeting, payroll, and financial planning to ensure transparency and fiscal health.
- **Communications:** Keeps residents informed and connected through citywide alerts, newsletters, social media, and special campaigns.
- **Administrative Support:** Help guide residents, schedule services, and provide the frontline customer service that keeps City Hall accessible.



This team works behind the scenes, but **their impact is everywhere:** in the timely trash pickup, the smooth processing of permits and other financials, the city communications in your mailbox, and the community events that bring us together. **General Government is the glue that holds the promise of “This Is Home” together.** With every policy, every call answered, and every document filed, they’re helping build a city rooted in service, transparency, and care.

Because when it comes to our community—home should work for everyone.

Best Wishes,

Pamela Janifer

Commissioner, City of District Heights

From the PODIUM

Happy Summer, District Heights!

I hope you're enjoying a safe and relaxing summer. As we move through these warmer months, I want to take a moment to thank you for the trust you've placed in me to serve as your Commissioner. It has been an honor and a privilege. I take this responsibility seriously, and everything I do is grounded in listening to your needs, acting on your feedback, and finding solutions that reflect our shared values. I serve at the pleasure of the residents—and I never forget that.



When I took office, I laid out a clear set of goals based on the needs I heard from so many of you. Today, I'm proud to report that, together, we've made meaningful progress on many of those goals—and it wouldn't have been possible without your engagement and support.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

I'm proud to report that District Heights is now the first municipality in our area with an in-house Workforce Development Lab. This vision started before I took office, and with determination and community collaboration, it's now a reality. The Lab is already helping residents gain skills, improve resumes, and connect with employment opportunities—right here at home.

PARKS AND RECREATION

As one of the Commission's recreation liaisons, I prioritized what residents, especially families, told me they wanted most: new playgrounds. I'm thrilled to report that, thanks to our work together and your advocacy, District Heights now has four new playgrounds for our children and families to enjoy. These aren't just places to play—they're spaces for wellness, safety, and community.



These are just two examples of what we've been able to accomplish together, and there's more work ahead. I remain committed to listening, leading, and delivering for you. If you ever have questions, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your voice matters and helps guide my work every day.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and let's keep building a better District Heights together.

Best Wishes,

Anthony Tilghman
Commissioner, City of District Heights

SUMMER 2025

DISTRICT HEIGHTS DAY 2025 RECAP: A Celebration of Community and Champions

District Heights Day 2025 brought the heart of the city to life with thousands gathering for a full day of food, fun, music, dance, and pride. This year's celebration was headlined by the **Washington Commanders Marching Band** and the **Command Force Dance Team**. Their presence made this year's festival our biggest and boldest yet.



We also extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose generosity made it all possible:

1936 | Republic Services
Training By Design



GOLD | Judge Me Now

BLUE | Royal Farms

GREEN | Infinite Legacy
First Baptist Church
of District Heights
Target

ORANGE | Canteen Vending
Cricket Wireless /
Mobilelink
Transcend Wellness



SUMMER 2025

INAUGURAL JUNETEENTH BRUNCH

Recap by Darren Swain
Assistant to the City Manager, Economic Development

The **Inaugural City of District Heights' Juneteenth Celebration and Brunch** honored the sacred resilience and unyielding joy of Black communities—past and present. Born from the longstanding traditions of the District Heights faith community and community partners, the annual gathering commemorates the delayed but powerful announcement of freedom to enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865.

The city carried forward that legacy—not just by remembering the pain of bondage, but by celebrating the beauty of resistance through worship, movement, music, and fellowship. The brunch joyfully declared our shared belief that freedom must be protected, culture must be preserved, and community must be nourished.

Joining us for this momentous occasion was our keynote speaker, Maryland State Treasurer, the Honorable Dereck E. Davis. We were also graced with the presence of his colleague and fellow member of the Maryland Board of Public Works, the Maryland State Comptroller, Brooke Lierman, who also brought brief remarks. Our 25 Legislative District Delegates Karen Tolls and Kent Roberson also attended in support.

The celebration was capped off with the unveiling of the Inaugural Juneteenth Medallions. This prestigious honor is a community- rooted award that recognizes individuals who embody the spirit of collective care, cultural pride, and the pursuit of justice.

Recipients are chosen for their steadfast commitment to uplifting others, protecting legacy, and serving with dignity. Designed with reverence, the medallion bears the City's historic 1936 Seal on one side and the Juneteenth Flag alongside the date June 19, 1865 on the other, symbolizing the journey from enslavement to emancipation and the enduring fight for full freedom.



The inaugural medallions are generously sponsored by the City's longtime partner N'Style Express Barbershop and Salon and Cultivating Unlimited Talent, Inc. (C.U.T., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit).



SUMMER 2025



4th OF JULY



FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Thank you to all the residents, neighbors, and community partners who joined us for the District Heights Fourth of July Fireworks Display. Your presence made the evening unforgettable, and we're grateful to celebrate with such a vibrant and supportive community. See you next year!



THE COMMUNITY CORNER

District Heights Leaders Take the Lead Across Maryland



The City of District Heights is proud to celebrate two of our own for stepping into major leadership roles on behalf of municipalities across the state. **Vice Mayor Gyasi Gomez** has been appointed Treasurer of the **Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)** for the 2025–2026 term, continuing her dedication to advancing strong, responsive local government.

Mayor Cynthia Miller is also making history—serving as Vice President of the **Maryland Black Mayors Association** from January through December 2025, and as the 2025–2026 Conference Planning Chair for the **Maryland Municipal League (MML)**.

Through these appointments, Mayor Miller and Vice Mayor Gomez are elevating District Heights' voice in statewide conversations about municipal policy, equity, and innovation.

Congratulations to both leaders for representing our community with excellence, vision, and pride!



Volunteer Spotlight Ms. Harryette Irving—A Lifetime of Service

For Harryette Irving, service isn't just a duty—it's a calling. A longtime resident of the Incorporated City of District Heights, Irving has spent decades giving back to her community through advocacy, leadership, and hands-on volunteerism.

As a former commissioner and vice mayor, Irving played a pivotal role in the development of the city's Senior Center, ensuring that its design and programs truly served the needs of District Heights' older residents. But her service extends far beyond local politics. Whether participating in food distributions around the City, serving on AARP committees, or leading activities at the Senior Center, Irving is always looking for ways to uplift others.

"I think I've been blessed," Irving says. "My purpose in life is to serve others, to volunteer, and to advocate." This passion is evident in her commitment to everything from senior fitness programs to youth mentorship and even veterans' affairs. As an Army veteran herself, Irving's advocacy helped establish the Veterans Park Walk of Fame, a tribute to those in the community who have served their country.

District Heights is stronger because of people like Harryette Irving—people who embody the spirit of service and community. She encourages others to step up as well, reminding them, "You're either part of the problem or part of the solution. Let's work together and make it right."

THE COMMUNITY CORNER



Community Spotlight

Kiah Whitfield Tease: “District Heights Chose Me”

Since 2018, Assistant Principal **Kiah Whitfield Tease** has been a pillar of **District Heights Elementary School**—bringing heart, purpose, and community spirit to her leadership. But for her, this work has never been just a job—it’s personal.

“I have wanted to be an educator since I was in third grade,” she says. “I went to a small school in Georgia, which is where I’m from, and it was a family environment.” That **family-centered foundation** shaped her vision for what school should feel like for every child: “I just had these experiences where school was a family space. **I wanted to be able to create that for children.**”

Though she originally had no desire to step outside the classroom—“I did not want to be an assistant principal. I also did not want to be a math coach”—she eventually realized that leadership could multiply her impact. “My former principal said... if I pull you out, the things that you do, you share those with others and then you impact 500. And so, isn’t our goal to reach more?”

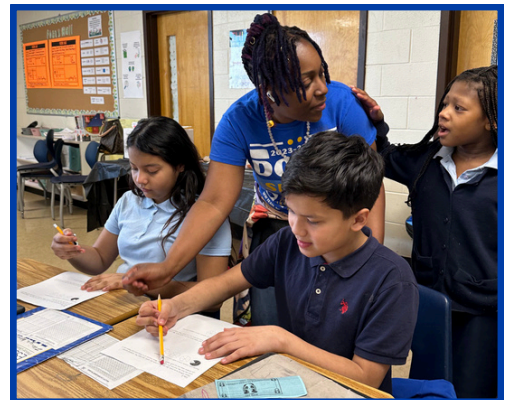
As an administrator, she now focuses on uplifting educators and families, reminding them of their essential role in student success. “You are a parent at times. You are a confidant. You’re a counselor. **There are just so many things that go into the role of being an educator,**” she explains. “And in many cases, it’s a thankless task.”

To the greater District Heights community, her message is clear: **“Assistance just starts by showing up. We love to see your face.”** Whether it’s for Career Day, classroom visits, or community reading programs, presence matters deeply. “By seeing people that look like them in positions to support and impact change... **those things make them feel like, hey, I can do that too.**”

Many of her students have never left the neighborhood. “We have babies who have never been to D.C. They’ve never been to Baltimore. And so their view is just so small.” Opening their eyes to possibility is part of her mission. “Stories are amazing. We’ve got members of the City of District Heights who come in and read to our babies, and they’re not just reading stories, but they’re also sharing their own stories. And again, by doing that, **you just open up a whole new world.**”

For those considering a career in education, she shares hard-earned wisdom: **“Be very intentional about the community that you’re serving...** know who you’re serving, and know yourself.” And above all, remember that balance matters. “You have to be filled in order to pour out,” she says. “Sometimes it’s okay to say no, because that’s the only way that you can recharge so that you can give the best of yourself.”

In her words: **“I don’t think I chose District Heights—District Heights kind of chose me.”** And it’s clear the students, staff, and community are better for it.



THE COMMUNITY CORNER

District Heights Students Recognized for Participating in Mayors' Essay Contest

Students at both **District Heights Elementary School** and **North Forestville Elementary School** participated in the 2024 Maryland Municipal League "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest. The contest encouraged young writers to reflect on **leadership, civic responsibility**, and how they would serve their communities as mayor.

To honor their efforts, **Mayor Cynthia Miller** invited each school to the Municipal Building to personally present participants with **certificates of recognition** from the City of District Heights. The Mayor applauded the students for using their voices and imaginations to engage with local government and community building.

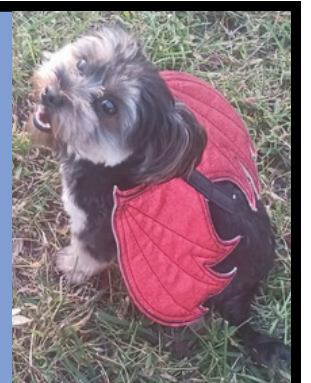
"It's important that our young people know their ideas matter," said Mayor Miller. "These students reminded all of us that **leadership starts with caring about your community**—and their words were thoughtful, powerful, and full of hope."



HAVE YOU SEEN ME? I MISS MY FAMILY!

Kodak slipped out the front door of our residence on March 24th and remains missing. Our family strongly believes that he may still be in the District Heights area. He is a family pet, male Yorkie, with a black and tan coat, and weighs approximately 5 pounds.

Please help us find Kodak! A reward will be offered for his safe return. If you spot Kodak, please contact **(301) 336-6890** or at dorseyd1950@aol.com.



DID YOU KNOW?



YARD WASTE GUIDELINES SUMMER 2025

From **June 23 through September 22**, yard waste pickup in the City of District Heights will take place **every Monday citywide**—

NOT on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

- Collect your yard waste over the weekend and place it at the curb Sunday evening.
- If your yard waste is not in a **BROWN PAPER BAG**, it will not be collected.
- The Department of Public Works will begin pickups starting **8:00 AM Monday mornings**.

YARD WASTE



Grasses & Weeds



Branches & Brush



Leaves, plants, & floral trimmings



Fruit & Vegetable Scraps

Alternative Disposal Option.

If you are using a **REPUBLIC SERVICES**-issued trash can, you may place **acceptable yard waste** directly inside the container. Republic Services will collect it with your regular household trash, as long as it contains only **approved yard materials**.



Help keep our city clean and **GREEN** this summer!

Questions? Contact Public Works at publicworks@districtheights.org.

NOT YARD WASTE



Plant Tags & Pots



Wire & Metal



Dirt, Rocks, & Bricks



Painted/Treated Wood

Hey, Neighbor!

CALL **(301) 324-3455** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR **TWICE-WEEKLY TRASH PICKUP**, **WEEKLY RECYCLING**, AND **ON-CALL BULK TRASH PICKUP**, OR...

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



DID YOU KNOW?

Treasurer's Tips

by Cecelia Smith-Budd, Deputy City Treasurer

As the State of Maryland will begin mailing tax bills this month, I am happy to share information for a **Homeowner's Tax Credit**. The State of Maryland provides a credit for the real property tax bill for homeowners of all ages who qualify on the basis of gross household income. The credit shall be limited to the portion of the dwelling that is used only for the applicant's residential purposes.

In 2025, the Department will be accepting applications through October 1st. For more information, visit www.dat.maryland.gov and type "Homeowners Tax Credit" in the search bar, or call 1-800-944-7403.



New State Law Expands Charter Amendment Notification Options

by Kenneth Warren, City Clerk

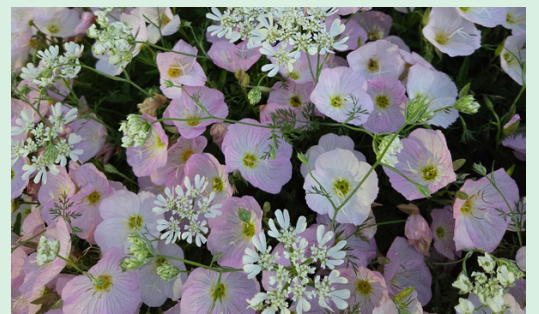


A recent change to Maryland law now gives cities like District Heights more flexibility in how we notify residents about proposed charter amendments. Under the updated law, municipalities may either continue using the traditional method—posting the full text for 40 days and publishing a summary in a local newspaper four times—or use a new option: publish the summary once and deliver it directly to each residence, such as through a newsletter. Regardless of the method, records of the notice must be retained and made available to the public under the Maryland Public Information Act. This change balances transparency with practicality and ensures that our community remains informed.

Gardening Season is Here!

by Teri Speight, Fiesta Place Community Garden Co-Chair

While the weather may still be unpredictable, many gardeners are ready to bring beauty and fresh food to their yards. District Heights falls in growing zone 7b—warmer than in years past—so it's wise to choose heat-loving, drought-tolerant plants. Annuals like lantana, zinnias, sunflowers, and cosmos are not only resilient but also attract essential pollinators to your garden.



To stretch your budget, consider planting perennials. Though they don't bloom year-round, with proper care, they return each season and support local ecosystems—especially when choosing native varieties.

For edible gardening, now is the perfect time to plant warm-season vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. Be sure to support local farmers by purchasing seedlings and fresh produce throughout the season.

Need more tips? Visit extension.umd.edu for expert guidance. Or swing by the Fiesta Place Community Garden—if the gate's open, you're welcome to come in and say hello! fiestaplace@districtheights.org.

CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 2



- **Annual Town Hall**
 - 10am-12pm in the Senior Center
 - Email cityclerk@districtheights.org for more information.

Tuesday, August 5



- **National Night Out**
 - 5-8pm on Municipal field
 - Email pdinfo@districtheights.org for more information.

Monday, August 11

- **Charter Committee Meeting**
 - 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom (virtual call)
 - Email cityclerk@districtheights.org for more information.

Tuesday, August 12



- **District Heights Work Session**
 - 7pm in the Municipal Building
 - Email cityclerk@districtheights.org for more information.

Thursday, August 21



- **Sustainability Committee Meeting**
 - 7pm in the Municipal Building
 - Email greenteam@districtheights.org for more information.

Tuesday, August 26



- **District Heights Work Session**
 - 7pm in the Municipal Building
 - Email cityclerk@districtheights.org for more information.

NOTE THAT EVENT DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
To view more events, visit
www.districtheights.org/calendar/month.

Announcements

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS & MILITARY SPOUSES

Veterans and Military spouses who have been impacted by recent federal employment changes can receive support and guidance for unemployment insurance, employment, healthcare, and financial support by contact veterans.maryland.gov.

CITIZEN'S ACTION PATROL MEETING

The next Citizen's Action Patrol meeting is on **October 15 at 7pm** in Chambers. We are seeking new members to join CAP to help support our city code enforcement and police department to keep our city safe and clean. Contact CAP at dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com.

NEXT CITY MEETING: AUGUST 7

To participate, you **MUST** email the clerk's office (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.

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!



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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.

CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNLOCK YOUR CAREER POTENTIAL
 at **District Heights Maryland** American **JobCenter**
 Job and Resource Lab
 City of District Heights



TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **Career Counseling:** Personalized guidance to help you identify and achieve your career goals.
- **Job Search Assistance:** Access to job listings, resume workshops, and interview preparation to enhance your employment prospects.
- **Training Programs:** Opportunities to develop new skills or upgrade existing ones to stay competitive in today's job market.
- And **MORE!**

Visit Us TODAY!

District Heights Maryland
 American Job Center Resource Lab-District Heights
 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747
 Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Contact: proctort@districtheights.org • (301) 336-5633

District Heights Maryland

MY SOLE KNOWS

5K

RUN/WALK VIRTUAL

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS THE MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS OF OUR YOUTH!



SCAN ME

FOR MORE INFO, CALL (301) 336-7600
 REGISTER HERE: [RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/MD/DISTRICTHEIGHTS/MYSOLEKNOW5K](https://runsignup.com/race/md/districtheights/mysoleknow5k)

DISCLAIMER: The Prince George's County Public School system is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending the activities announced in this flyer.



SEE YOU AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5
 5-8 PM**



FREE ENTRY | FREE FOOD | FREE EXHIBITS

POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Got a story for "The Herald"? Send your submissions to 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.



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Dina Bell Nance, Chief Culture Officer
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Contact:
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BUSINESS BLVD.

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.

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



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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

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

Code Enforcement

districtheights.org/code-enforcement

301-336-1400 ext. 160

Public Works

districtheights.org/public-works

301-336-7417

Senior Services

districtheights.org/senior-services

301-350-3660

Recreation Center

districtheights.org/recreation-parks-culture-department

301-336-5633

Family & Youth Services

districtheights.org/family-youth-services

301-336-7600

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS



The Herald