

The City of District Heights

# The Herald

## Empowering Growth

"Empowering Growth: Cultivating Opportunities for Economic Resiliency"



April 2024





## Message from Mayor Cynthia Miller

Dear Residents,

I am thrilled to share this issue of the Herald with you because it contains so much of the positive change happening in our community and in your government. This issue starts with a profile of one of our newest staff members in the Youth Services Bureau, Ms. Tanory Ateek, a social worker who after just a few months with the City is already making an impact at District Heights Elementary School. Her valuable, hard work is just one part of the broader District Heights Cares initiative which seeks to provide financial, material, and in-kind support to our schools. I'm proud that our government has supported field trips, classroom initiatives, and sought to further connect the school with the community.

The issue also covers some important updates to the City Code – we recently celebrated the adoption of our new City Code of Ordinances, which updates and replaces the old Code. The new Code will be easier for residents to read and access. The Commission also reviewed and approved great improvements to the fence ordinance; the updates, which are now in effect, streamline the process of approving fences within the City of District Heights. The amendments include reducing the number of hearings required for fence approvals before the Commission and adopting the county's four-foot front yard height limit. These changes are intended to provide a more efficient and user-friendly experience for residents during the application and permitting process.

District Heights is a city on the move and nothing shows that more than our purchase of 6114 Marlboro Pike and launch of our economic development initiative. Revitalizing our main street corridor, Marlboro Pike, is so important to the future health of the City; the stronger the Pike is, the more great businesses we can attract and the less the City will have to rely on residential property taxes. A healthy Marlboro Pike means a healthy District Heights.

There is so much more that the City is working on for you. I invite you to join us at a City Meeting (first Thursday of the month, 7 PM), a City Work Session (second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 PM), or one of our upcoming City events. Thank you for your commitment to our community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Miller  
Mayor



**“Tanory has been a great addition to the support/counseling staff at the school. There has been a noticeable change in the students that engaged in services with her,”**

**-Tracy Smith Walters, Principal, District Heights Elementary School.**

### **TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT: TANORY ATEEK'S JOURNEY IN CHILD-CENTERED PLAY THERAPY**

Tanory Ateek is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland's School of Social Work with a background in early childhood education. Tanory was hired to join the Family and Youth Services clinical staff in August of 2023 to implement the clinical services within the school. “Tanory has proven to be a great addition to the agency’s team bringing a willingness to serve others,” Katrina Emerson, Executive Director, District Heights Family & Youth Services Bureau.

Since October, Tanory has been on-site two days a week providing Child-Centered Play Therapy to students ages seven and younger in grades K through 3. Through the implementation of this program, parents and teachers have unanimously reported improvements in classroom performance and behavior. “Tanory has been a great addition to the support/counseling staff at the school. There has been a noticeable change in the students that engaged in services with her,” Tracy Smith Walters, Principal, District Heights Elementary School.

# District Heights Residents Welcome Enactment of New City Code

## City Commission Approves Comprehensive Code Update at Public Hearing on March 7, 2024

Residents of District Heights, Maryland, celebrated a milestone in local governance as the City Commission officially adopted the codified City Code of Ordinances at a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 7, 2024. This significant update represents a concerted effort to modernize regulations, improve accessibility, and enhance transparency within the community.

The adoption of the new city code follows an extensive review and deliberation process, culminating in a public hearing at which community members had the opportunity to voice their input and concerns. With the Commission's approval, District Heights prepares to enter a new era of governance marked by clarity, efficiency, and responsiveness to residents' needs.

Effective March 28, the new code will replace outdated ordinances and incorporate essential updates to reflect current priorities and legal standards. One of its notable features is the code's availability online, which provides residents with convenient access to information about local regulations and policies.

"We are pleased to announce the adoption of the new city code, which underscores our commitment to promoting effective governance and community engagement," stated Ronald Tarpley, Chief of Police. "By modernizing our legal framework and enhancing accessibility, we aim to empower residents to participate actively in civic affairs and ensure the continued progress of District Heights."

In addition to promoting accessibility, the new code adoption emphasizes the city emphasizes the importance of regularly updating the code to address evolving needs and challenges.

By embracing a proactive approach to governance, District Heights aims to foster trust, cooperation, and accountability within the community.



Residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new code and provide feedback as necessary. Public notice requirements have been fulfilled, including postings on the city's website and in the City Clerk's office, ensuring widespread awareness of the changes.

"We value the input and engagement of our residents," affirmed Commissioner Pamela Janifer, "We encourage everyone to review the new code and reach out to us with any questions or concerns. Together, we can build a stronger and more vibrant District Heights."

As the city prepares for this important transition, residents can expect ongoing updates and communications regarding the enactment of the new code. District Heights remains committed to promoting an inclusive and responsive governance framework that serves the needs of its diverse community.

For more information and updates, residents are encouraged to visit the city's official website and contact city officials with any inquiries at [www.districtheights.org](http://www.districtheights.org).

The adoption of the new city code represents a significant step forward for District Heights, Maryland, signaling a commitment to effective governance, transparency, and community engagement. With enhanced accessibility and clear regulations, residents can look forward to a more informed and empowered civic experience in the days ahead.

## City of District Heights: Economic Development

Earlier this year, staff presented the City Commission with District Heights' first draft economic development plan and considered several policy position statements that focus on business attraction, business retention, and workforce development.

**Business Attraction:** "District Heights seeks to attract businesses that provide goods, services, and experiences that are beneficial and desirable to residents. The attraction of new businesses enhances local economic health by creating newer, higher paying jobs and by reducing the homeowners' tax burden for municipal services."

**Business Retention:** "District Heights seeks to implement programs that allow businesses to stay or expand in incorporated boundaries. The retention and expansion of current City-based businesses allows for greater economic mobility within the community."

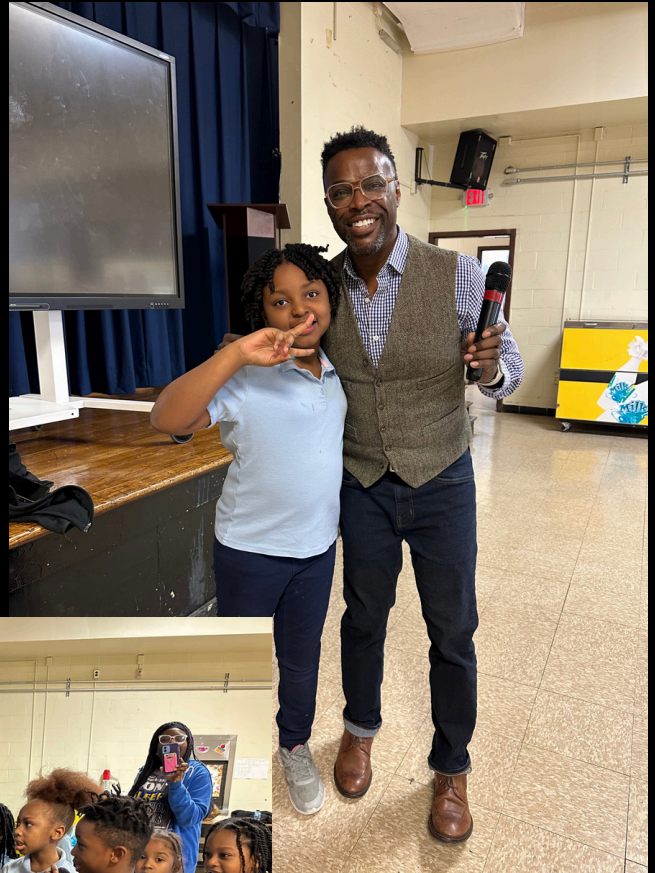
**Workforce Development:** "District Heights seeks to support and develop programming that supports entrepreneurship, education, and skill-development. An educated and prepared workforce is a higher-earning workforce."

The plan aims to enhance and bolster the city's commercial taxbase through targeted strategies, including attracting specific businesses to the area, promoting Marlboro Pike as the primary downtown corridor, and providing support to existing businesses. Given that the city's budget relies heavily on residential real property taxes, this initiative seeks to diversify revenue sources and stimulate economic growth in the commercial sector.



**"District Heights seeks to support and develop programming that supports entrepreneurship, education, and skill-development. An educated and prepared workforce is a higher-earning workforce."**





## District Heights Cares: It Takes a Village

The District Heights Cares initiative has been created to foster a positive and empowering relationship with our community's youngest members. Our program will bring together community leaders, residents, and future leaders to engage in discussions on a range of topics, including critical issues affecting our community and our children's learning environment.

Through this initiative, we will help our children navigate their life paths and become leaders of tomorrow.

# NOTICE OF ADOPTION DH 2024-01 & 02 FAIR SUMMARY

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION

### DH 2024-01

#### FAIR SUMMARY

Ordinance Of The Mayor And Commission Of The Incorporated City of District Heights, To Adopt And Enact A New Code For The City Of District Heights, Maryland; To Provide For The Repeal Of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing A Penalty For The Violation Thereof; To Provide A Penalty For The Violation Thereof; To Provide For The Manner To Amend Such Code And When This Ordinance Shall Become Effective.

This Ordinance will organize and consolidate city laws and regulations into a systematic and accessible format and enhance the clarity, accessibility, and efficiency of the City of District Heights' legal framework, promoting better governance and understanding of local laws within the community.

DH-2024-01 was introduced at the City Meeting on February 1, 2024, and a Public Hearing was held on March 7, 2024. The Ordinance was adopted on March 7, 2024, and will become effective March 27, 2024.

Copies of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland 20747, by calling 301-336-1402 x 110 or from the City's website: [www.districtheights.org](http://www.districtheights.org).

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk, Starr Jefferson, at 301-336-1402 x 110.

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION

### DH 2024-02

#### FAIR SUMMARY

Ordinance Of The Mayor And Commission Of The Incorporated City of District Heights, To Amend The City's Ordinance On Fences; To Reduce The Number Of Hearings Before The Commission; To Adopt The County's Four-Foot Height Limit; And To Enhance the Application and Permitting Process.

This Ordinance aims to streamline the process of approving fences within the City of District Heights. The amendments include reducing the number of hearings required for fence approvals before the Commission and adopting the county's four-foot front yard height limit. These changes are intended to provide a more efficient and user-friendly experience for residents during the application and permitting process.

DDH-2024-02 was introduced at the City Meeting on February 1, 2024, and a Public Hearing was held on March 7, 2024. The Ordinance was adopted on March 7, 2024, and will become effective on March 27, 2024.

Copies of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland 20747, by calling 301-336-1402 x 110 or from the City's website: [www.districtheights.org](http://www.districtheights.org).

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk, Starr Jefferson, at 301-336-1402 x 110.



**Schedule of Services:**

**Regular Trash:** Mondays and Thursdays

**Street Sweeper:** Tuesdays and Fridays

**Yard Waste:** Mondays

**Recycling:** Thursdays

**Limb Pick-Up:** 2nd Tuesday, monthly

**Annual Spring Clean-Up Alert!**

Get ready, District Heights! From April 15 to April 19, 2024, it's time for our annual Spring Clean-Up Week.

During this week, residents can place heavy bulk items and trash curbside for pick-up. Just so you know, no limbs or grass clippings will be collected.

Remember, we cannot accept hazardous materials like paint. Let's work together to keep our community clean and safe!

**Spring-Cleaning Plan Overview:**

Dates: April 15-19, 2024

Pickup Sections: 1-4

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Quick Tip:** Residents, help us help you during Spring Clean-Up! If you have 3-4 heavy items (furniture, appliances) for disposal, call Bates Trash for a hassle-free pick-up. Let's make this spring a clutter-free delight!

**Bates Bulk Trash:** By **APPOINTMENT ONLY** on Wednesdays. Call Bates Trash by 2 pm on Tuesdays to schedule. Call 301 773-2069

**Mosquito Control Alert!**

Attention District Heights residents! From May 26, 2024, through September 30, 2024, the county will be conducting mosquito larvae spraying in our city. We need your help to ensure effective mosquito control.

Please report any mosquito-related complaints as soon as possible. Provide details, including your name, address, the problem area, and the time of day when mosquitoes are at their worst.

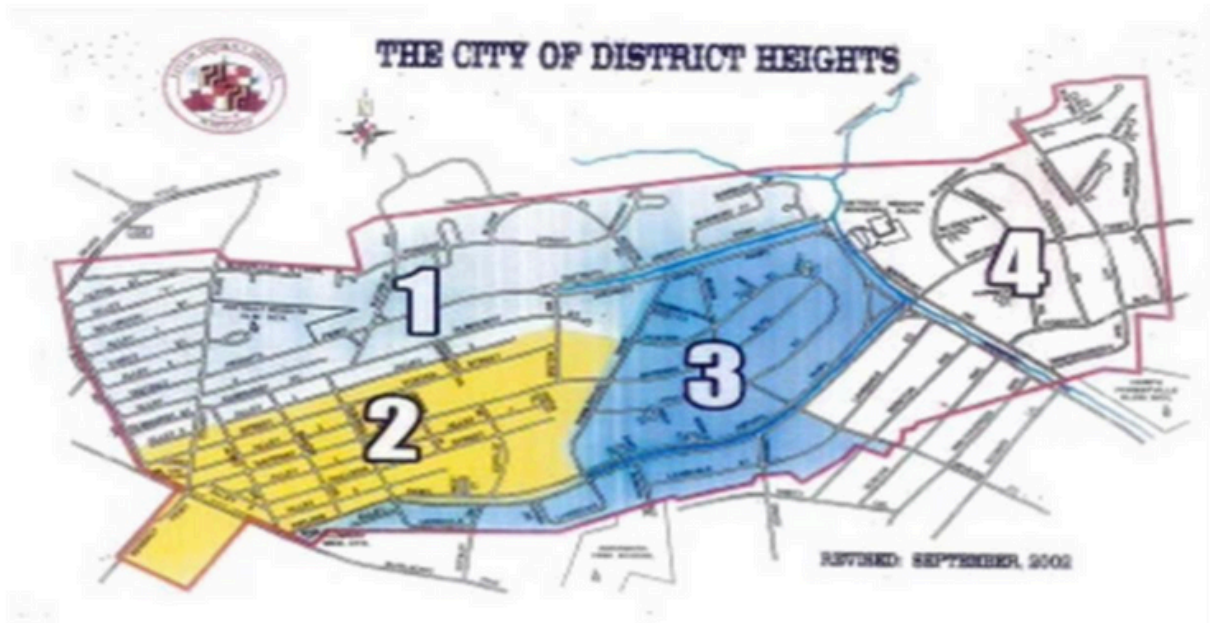
**You can submit complaints via:**

**Fax:** 301-422-0502

**Email:** [skee-termd1.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:skee-termd1.mda@maryland.gov)

**Phone:** Public Works at 301-336-7417

Let's work together to keep District Heights mosquito-free and enjoyable for all residents. Thank you for your cooperation!



As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of our city, we have collaborated with Prince George's County to develop a tentative Spring-Cleaning Plan for the Incorporated City of District Heights. Please note that this plan is subject to written confirmation from Prince George's County.

**Permitted Items:** Furniture (small items must be bagged or boxed), Household appliances, Electronics TVs and monitors, Clothing and textiles, Toys and small recreational items, Non-hazardous household items, lawn and garden equipment (cleaned of fuel and oil), Small automotive parts, Bicycles, Small home improvement items, Covered Mattresses, batteries, and tires.

Unpermitted items include mattresses (unless properly covered), propane tanks, paints and solvents, Hazardous materials, construction debris, and yard waste.

**Special Instructions:**

- All items must be brought to the resident's curb.
- Advise residents that excessive household items and illegal dumping can result in items not being picked up.
- Roll-off Dumpsters will be available on municipal grounds from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to prevent illegal dumping. 24-hour security surveillance will also be in place.
- For residents with special needs or restrictions requiring further assistance, please get in touch with Public Works at [PublicWorks@districtheights.org](mailto:PublicWorks@districtheights.org). Provide your address and a list of items for assessment and approval by April 8.

**Safety Measures:**

To ensure our staff's and residents' safety, no entry into your residence will be permitted. Please place items for pickup in an easily accessible location. Mattresses must be covered appropriately to prevent damage during transport.

We kindly remind residents to refrain from allowing outsiders to bring trash into their neighborhood. This contributes to illegal dumping and affects the cleanliness of our community.

We appreciate you taking the time to look into this and will provide further updates when we receive written confirmation from Prince George's County.

# PICKUP SCHEDULE:

**MONDAY, APRIL 15: SECTION 1**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16: SECTION 2**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17: SECTION 3**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18: SECTION 4**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19: ADDITIONAL CITY CIRCULATION**

## **SECTION 1:**

Alpine Street  
Belwood Street  
Cabot Street  
Elmhurst Street  
District Heights Parkway  
Rochelle Avenue  
Atwood Street

## **SECTION 3:**

Ramblewood Drive & Court  
Gateway Blvd  
Halleck Street  
Kipling Parkway  
Lansdale Street  
Senator Avenue  
Roslyn Avenue  
Foster Street  
District Heights Pkwy  
Lorring Drive  
Roma Drive  
Luana Drive  
Mason Street

## **SECTION 2:**

Gateway Blvd  
Halleck Street  
Foster Street  
Breton Drive  
Edfelt Drive  
Blazer Drive  
Aztec Drive  
Council Drive  
Driver Place  
Kipling Parkway

## **SECTION 4:**

Glendora Drive & Court  
Hardwood Road & Court  
Roslyn Avenue  
Wintergreen Avenue & Court  
Marbury Drive  
Val Lane  
Walkus Court  
Kipling Parkway  
Lansdale Street  
Senator Ave  
Brewton Street & Court





"HONORING SERVICE, EMPOWERING LIVES: CELEBRATING THE VALOR AND SACRIFICE OF VETERANS."

**Tip of the Issue: Neighborhood Courtesy:**

It is extremely important to be good neighbors. Being a good neighbor consists of consideration when parking your vehicle so as to not block your neighbor's driveway and restraint from excessive party noise (especially late evening).

Remember that the city has a noise ordinance. Also, always keep your dogs on a leash when walking, restrain them from excessive barking, and pick up their waste.

**CAP Meetings:** Meetings are held bi-monthly, 7:00 P. M. at the District Height's Municipal Bldg. 2000 Marbury Dr. There are no meetings scheduled for August or December. The following are scheduled CAP meetings for 2024. April 17, June 19, and October 16.

Contact CAP at [dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com](mailto:dhcivicactionpatrol@gmail.com) for more information.

**Veterans Corner: Vet Centers:** Vet Centers exist to provide emotional and mental health support to veterans and their families. "Vet Centers were established outside the Veterans Administration medical care system to encourage veterans who did not trust the government to seek help.

Vet Centers consist of 300 centers, over 80 mobile units, and a call center. The number for the call center: (877) 927-8387. Contact: [vetcenter.va.gov](http://vetcenter.va.gov) for the location of the nearest vet center.

**City of District Heights Notice of a Proposed Real Property Tax Rate Increase:** For the taxable year beginning July 1, 2024, the City of District Heights, Maryland proposes to increase real property tax rates from \$0.687 per \$100 of assessment to \$0.692 per \$100 of assessment.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 PM on April 9, 2024 and April 23, 2024 at 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland, 20747. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-336-1402 or visit [www.districtheights.org](http://www.districtheights.org) for further information.

**FY 2025 Budget Calendar**

**April 4:** Budget Proposal  
**April 9:** Budget Hearing and Work Session  
**April 23:** Budget Hearing and Work Session  
**May 4:** Budget Adoption

# EVENTS

## CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS



2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747

@thecityofdistrictheights

www.districtheights.org

@thecityofdistrictheights

### April

#### DH City Spring Clean-up

**Dates:** Monday, April 15  
thru April 19th

#### Invasive Species Removal partnering with Sierra Club/ GreenWorks

**Date:** Saturday, April 20th  
**Time:** 9:00 am- Noon

#### Grand Opening of Prince's George Work Force Development Job and Resource Lab

**Date:** Tuesday, April 23  
**Time:** 10:00am to 11:30am

#### Rising Green Prince George's County with Pride

**Date:** Saturday, April 27  
**Time:** 8:00 am -Noon

#### Cinderella Play

**Date:** Saturday, April 27  
**Time:** 1:00pm - 5:00pm

### May

#### Cinco de Mayo Soccer

**Date:** Friday, May 3  
**Time:** 5:30pm - 7:30pm

#### Mother's Day Brunch

**Date:** Saturday, May 11  
**Time:** Noon - 2:00pm

#### Mosquito Control Spraying Efforts

**Date:** Sunday, May 26-  
Monday, September 30

### June

#### District Heights Day

**Date:** June 1  
**Time:** 10:00 am- 4:00pm

#### District Heights Cares Day

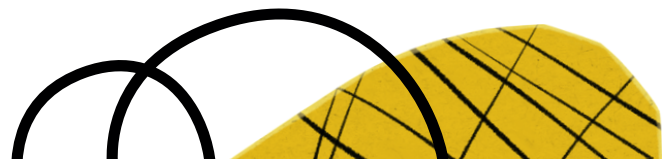
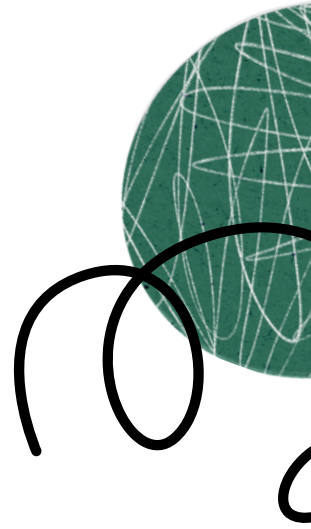
**Date:** Wednesday, June 5  
**Time:** TBD

#### Juneteenth Freedom Walk

**Date:** Wednesday, June 19  
**Time:** 10:00am- 3:00pm

#### District Heights Summer Camp

**Date:** Monday, June 24 thru  
Friday, August 2





# CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH WITH US!

JOIN THE CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS FOR OUR  
ANNUAL JUNETEENTH FREEDOM WALK AND FESTIVAL!

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 | 10AM – 3PM**

FREEDOM WALK LOCATION:

**ATHLETIC REPUBLIC PARKING LOT AT 6417 MARLBORO PIKE**

JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL LOCATION:

**DISTRICT HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 2000 MARBURY DRIVE**

## YOU'RE INVITED!

STEP INTO HISTORY AND CELEBRATE FREEDOM WITH US AT THE ANNUAL JUNETEENTH FREEDOM WALK AND FESTIVAL! ALL RESIDENTS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO COME OUT AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE RALLYING AROUND THE CRUCIAL CAUSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION BECAUSE OUR FREEDOM IS STILL AT STAKE!

**CALLING ALL POETS, ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS!  
SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS AT OUR JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION.  
JOIN US IN HONORING FREEDOM THROUGH ART!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, **CONTACT [PUBLICAFFAIRS@DISTRICTHEIGHTS.ORG](mailto:PUBLICAFFAIRS@DISTRICTHEIGHTS.ORG)**

**TOGETHER, LET'S CELEBRATE OUR PAST, HONOR OUR PRESENT, AND SHAPE OUR FUTURE!**



CITY OF  
DISTRICT HEIGHTS  
MARYLAND

2000 Marbury Drive  
District Heights, MD 20747

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District Heights, MD  
Permit No. 1840

# GRAND OPENING

## American Job Center Community Network & Resource Lab



**Date: April 23, 2024**

**Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am**

**Location: The City of District Heights  
2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747**

### RSVP TODAY

Please email [publicaffairs@districtheights.org](mailto:publicaffairs@districtheights.org)  
by Monday, April 15, 2024.  
For any questions please call 301-336-1402x164

➤ Valuable search resources at your fingertips

➤ Access the latest job postings in every major industry

➤ Utilize our full suite of tech resources and applications to rebrand and revamp your resume

**Employ Prince George's and the City of District Heights are working together to help our community achieve more.**