

MH LIFE

April - May 2024

MAY THE POLICE FORCE BE WITH YOU

MHPD Open House returns
for an out-of-this-galaxy day
of fun!

Read more, Page 10-11



SUMMER 2024 GUIDE TO PARKS AND RECREATION

Included as an insert.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Learn about the support services
available in your community.

Read more, Page 12

CELEBRATE THE WORLD

See what's coming to Worldfest 2024

Read more, Page 19



City Of
Maryland
Heights

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INSIDE:
2024 Summer
Guide to Parks
and Recreation



This publication is produced by the City of Maryland Heights Communications Department. Contact them by emailing mhlife@marylandheights.com.



The MHPD is excited to host another out-of-this-galaxy open house for our residents this May!

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we welcome in the warmer weather, it's time to dust off the outdoor gear. In this issue of MH Life, we are excited to bring you a full lineup of updates and events that will make your spring even brighter.

First up, be sure to flip to the center of this newsletter to read the Summer Guide to Parks and Recreation. From concerts in the park to swimming under the sun at Aquaport, this guide has all the information you need to plan your summer. We have also included tips and tricks on visiting our local parks on **page 18**, so definitely give that a read before heading outdoors this season.

On **page 14**, we have included a list of the upcoming and ongoing road construction projects. Be sure to drive carefully in these areas and around our street inspectors who will be in the area this summer. Details on what streets this will affect can be found on **page 15**. We know that these projects may cause inconvenience. But in the end, it will make our community better for everyone.

On to the main events! I hope you will be able to join me at WorldFest 2024 at Saint Louis Music Park on **Sunday, April 28** from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Get ready to celebrate the diversity and cultural richness of our community with performances, music, dancing, food, and shopping. More details on this FREE community event can be found on **page 19**. Plus, learn more about one of the performers in a special

Culture on Your Block feature on **page 20**.

Another event you won't want to miss this spring is our Maryland Heights Police Department's Star Wars themed Open House, scheduled for **Saturday, May 4**. You can get all the details for this epic adventure on **pages 10-11**. This is the perfect opportunity for families and children to see real police equipment up close and meet our officers.

Beyond our upcoming events, this issue of MH Life covers topics such as solicitors, local taxes, exciting summer camps, and tips to reduce storm-water flooding. Then, take a dive into two local, Black historical sites here in Maryland Heights and check out a list of the new businesses that have opened in the last six months.

Life is certainly picking up around Maryland Heights and we are getting ready for a busy season! As we venture into springtime, remember that true community is built on shared experiences and personal connections. So, whether you are enjoying a city park, exploring new businesses, or immersing yourself in cultural celebrations, I hope that you can cherish these moments in Maryland Heights. Here's to a season filled with continued growth and community spirit!



mike moeller

Mayor Mike Moeller

(314) 878-6730

COUNCIL MINUTES

The following is a summary of action taken at the January 4, January 18, February 1, and February 15 City Council meetings.

For complete meeting minutes, visit www.marylandheights.com/minutes.

JANUARY 4

- Approved an ordinance authorizing the city administrator to enter into an agreement with Baker Tilly to conduct an executive search for the position of Director of Parks and Recreation.

JANUARY 18

- Approved a resolution adopting the City of Maryland Heights Voluntary buyout policy (Petition of City of Maryland Heights).
- Approved an ordinance amending Ordinance 93-760 to allow a wireless telecommunications tower at 12121 Dorsett Road (Petition of Ameren Missouri).
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 25-11.10 of the Municipal Code to change the required rear yard setback of the “M-1” zoning district (Petition of City of Maryland Heights).

FEBRUARY 1

- Approved a motion to purchase two (2) Dodge Durangos from Behlmann Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in the amount of \$85,668, under State of Missouri Procurement Contract CC240138001.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept four separate grants from the Missouri Department of Transportation Division of Highway Safety for the funding of traffic safety programs.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Municipal Code by repealing Section 14-707 relating to hunting and discharging of firearms, and enacting a new Section 14-707 in lieu thereof.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Municipal Code by repealing Section



21-209, related to Promotions; Captain, and enacting a new Section 21-209 in lieu thereof.

- Approved an ordinance amending Ordinance 2022-4747 to modify the parking requirements for the Planned Residential District at 1855 Craigshire Drive (Petition of CWP Westport LLC).
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the City of Maryland Heights, Missouri, to issue its taxable industrial revenue bonds (Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Project), Series 2024, in a principal amount not to exceed \$115,000,000, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of acquiring, constructing and equipping a facility for an industrial development project in the city; approving a plan for the project; and authorizing the city to enter into certain agreements and take certain other actions in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

FEBRUARY 15

- Approved an Original Package and Sunday Original Package liquor license for Aldi Inc., d/b/a Aldi Inc. #80, located at 12632 Dorsett Road, managing officer, Rob Jeffries.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the City Administrator to execute a contract with Worth Clark Realty representing the Estate of Steve Marshall for the purchase of properties located at 214, 215, 216 and 217 Apple Avenue and 101 Old Dorsett Road.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a sale contract between the City of Maryland Heights and HSL Sports LLC for the sale of property located at 12525 Sportport Road.

JOIN THE DISABILITY COMMISSION

Do you have an interest in helping the City of Maryland Heights ensure an inclusive community for all? The Disability Commission currently has two vacancies that need to be filled by qualified members.

Formed in December 2022, the Disability Commission serves as an advisory team to City Council. Its purpose is to make recommendations for programmatic and legislative matters related to the quality of life, overall well-being, and inclusivity of residents and visitors living with disabilities.

Boards and commissions are an integral part of municipal government, offering an outlet for community members to get directly involved in the planning and operation of City activities. Appointments to these advisory bodies are made by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council.

Members must be living with a disability, the caregiver of someone living with a disability, and/or a representative of a business whose primary mission is the care and services of people living with disabilities. Each member of the Disability Commission serves a term length of three years.

Applications are available by visiting www.marylandheights.com/applyB&C, emailing mhlife@marylandheights.com, or visiting the Government Center (11911 Dorsett Rd.).



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARYLAND HEIGHTS? UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

View our entire calendar of events online by visiting www.marylandheights.com/calendar.

COLOR KEY

- Adult & Senior Programs
- Administration/Finance
- City Events or Closures
- Community Development
- Council Meetings
- Economic Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Police
- Public Works

LOCATION KEY

- MHCC - Community Center
- MHGOV - Government Center
- CCIC - Centene Community Ice Center

APRIL

- 9 Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV
 - 9 Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV
 - 10 Public Improvements Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHGOV
 - 10 Beautification Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHCC
 - 12 Bullets in the Bathtub Mystery Dinner • 6:30 p.m. • MHCC
- Step into the 1920s for this thrilling murder mystery dinner! Cost is \$55/person. Register in person at the Community Center or online at www.marylandheights.com/webtrac.



- 15 Monthly Luncheon and Bingo • 10:30 a.m. • MHCC
To purchase tickets, call (314) 738-2599.
- 16 Grief and Loss Support Group • 11:30 a.m. • MHCC
- 16 Economic Development Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV
- 16 Reorg. Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV
- 17 Parks and Recreation Advisory Meeting • 6:30 p.m. • MHCC
- 18 City Council Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV

- 20 Bulk Waste Day • 8:00 a.m. • Aquaport
Got junk? Dumpsters will be available for residents to throw away oversized items. More info on [page 14](#).
- 20 Volunteer Service Day • 8:30 a.m. • MHCC
Make a difference for the elderly and disabled residents in our community with yard work. Sign up at www.marylandheights.com/volunteer.
- 23 Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV
- 24 Public Safety and Health Meeting • 6:30 p.m. • MHGOV
- 27 Paper Shredding • 9:00 a.m. • MHGOV
Registration required. More information on [page 8](#).
- 27 DEA Drug Takeback • 10:00 a.m. • MHGOV
- 28 Worldfest • CCIC
Worldfest 2024 is our annual celebration of diversity and global culture here in Maryland Heights! More info on [page 19](#).



MAY

- 2 City Council Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV
- 4 MHPD Open House • 9:00 a.m. • MHGOV
Meet your local PD at this out-of-this-galaxy Open House. More information on [pages 10-11](#).
- 6 First Monday Meet and Greet • 10:30 a.m. • MHCC
- 8 Public Improvements Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHGOV
- 8 Beautification Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHCC
- 10 Movie Night at Westport • Sunset • Westport Plaza
Featured Movie: Super Mario
- 11 Teddy Bear Picnic • 10:00 a.m. • Eise Park
Kids will bring their favorite bear to the park for a picnic and several other activities. More info. on [page 18](#).
- 14 Disability Meeting • 2:30 p.m. • MHGOV
- 14 Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV
- 14 Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV
- 15 Parks and Recreation Advisory Meeting • 6:30 p.m. • MHCC
- 16 Cultural Arts Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHCC
- 16 City Council Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV



- 17 **Summer Concert Series • 7:00 p.m. • Vago Park**
Featured Performer: Lindley Creek (modern bluegrass)
- 20 **Monthly Luncheon and Bingo • 10:30 a.m. • MHCC**
To purchase tickets, call (314) 738-2599.
- 21 **Grief and Loss Support Group • 11:30 a.m. • MHCC**
- 24 **Aquaport VIP Night • 6:00 p.m. • Aquaport**
Privilege Card and Season Pass holders are invited to celebrate the beginning of summer at Aquaport with a special VIP night.
- 25 **Aquaport Opens for the Season • Aquaport**
- 28 **Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV**

JUNE

- 3 **First Monday Meet and Greet • 10:30 a.m. • MHCC**
- 6 **City Council Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 8 **Fishing Derby • 9:45 a.m. • Hellebusch Park (Bridgeton)** In partnership with Bridgeton Parks and Recreation and the Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton, kids ages 4-12 are welcome to compete in this fishing derby. Bait will be provided but bring your own rod and reel.



- 11 **Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 11 **Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 12 **Public Improvements Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 12 **Beautification Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHCC**

- 14 **Family Swim Night • 7:00 p.m. • Aquaport**
Aquaport will be extending swim times so families can swim under the stars! Season pass holders are free, \$7 for general admission.
- 14 **Movie Night at Westport • Sunset • Westport Plaza**
Featured Movie: Live Action Little Mermaid
- 17 **Monthly Luncheon and Bingo • 10:30 a.m. • MHCC**
To purchase tickets, call (314) 738-2599.
- 18 **Grief and Loss Support Group • 11:30 a.m. • MHCC**
- 19 **Parks and Recreation Advisory Meeting • 6:30 p.m. • MHCC**
- 19 **Fun in the Park • 5:30 p.m. • Eise Park**
Explore the parks in Maryland Heights and enjoy a fun activity. Featured Activity: Rock Painting
- 20 **City Council Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 21 **Summer Concert Series and Pop-Up Market • 6:30 p.m. • Parkwood Park**
Featured Performer: Soul Cracker (classic rock)
- 25 **Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 27 **Summer Family Bingo • 6:00 p.m. • MHCC**
Bring the whole family out for a night of fun as we play Summer-themed BINGO.



JULY

- 1 **First Monday Meet and Greet • 10:30 a.m. • MHCC**
- 9 **Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 9 **Planning and Zoning Meeting • 7:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 10 **Public Improvements Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHGOV**
- 10 **Beautification Meeting • 6:00 p.m. • MHCC**
- 12 **Family Swim Night • 7:00 p.m. • Aquaport**
Aquaport will be extending swim times so families can swim under the stars! Season pass holders are free, \$7 for general admission.
- 12 **Movie Night at Westport • Sunset • Westport Plaza**
Featured Movie: Trolls Band Together
- 12 **Summer Concert Series and Pop-Up Market • 7:00 p.m. • Vago Park**
Featured Performer: Lone Wonders (one hit wonders)
- 17 **Parks and Recreation Advisory Meeting • 6:30 p.m. • MHCC**
- 17 **Fun in the Park • 5:30 p.m. • Vago**
Featured Activity: Hot Diggity Dog & Bubble Party

Scan to view
full calendar!



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOLICITATIONS

Have you ever wondered if the person knocking on your door to sell a service or a magazine is legal according to City regulations? Do you know your rights when it comes to solicitors? The City of Maryland Heights regulates the activities of solicitors to protect the privacy of residents and shield them from harassment. Maryland Heights issues solicitor licenses to those who apply and qualify based on regulations in the Municipal Code.

The following questions are frequently asked regarding this process:

Who is required to obtain a Solicitors License?

Any person who is knocking on your door, with the exception of individuals running for political office, require a Solicitors License. As soon as an individual knocks on your door and engages you personally, they are required to have a license. The regulations do not apply to those seeking to collect legitimate amounts

due, nor to any government agency or official in the pursuit of official duties. A license is not required to distribute a handbill, written advertisement, or other local publication provided the distributor does not knock on your door.

What is the application process?

Solicitors licenses are issued to each individual person going door to door. In other words, a company cannot get one license and send out many different solicitors. A license costs \$25.00 per solicitor for a 30 day period. The application requires a State Highway Patrol background check and a photo ID. Once a license is issued, a photo of the solicitor is added. This license and photo must be worn around their neck at all times and be visible upon request while they are soliciting.

What times can a solicitor knock on my door?

Solicitors are allowed to solicit at any time between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. or

sunset (whichever occurs first). Solicitors may not approach any premises where “No Trespassing” or “No Soliciting Allowed” notices are posted.

What should you do if someone comes to your home?

Ask to see their solicitors license if it is not visible. If they do not have one, contact the Police Department at their non-emergency number, (314) 298-8700. Please remember to take note of any identifying characteristics and direction of travel to report to the Police Department. These regulations are put into place by the Mayor and City Council to protect you from unwelcomed solicitors in your neighborhood and to provide you with the knowledge that those that have obtained a license have met the qualifications outlined in the Municipal Code. Concerns or questions regarding this article should be directed to the City Clerk’s office, (314) 738-2212.



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

The City of Maryland Heights would like to welcome the following new employees to our team:

Administration

Brendon Klohr – Marketing Assistant

Parks and Recreation

John Dawson - Customer Relations Supervisor

Caitlin Morrison - Aquatics Supervisor

Tony Verzino - Customer Relations Specialist

Police

Ryan Faulkner- Police Officer

Angie Wojtkowski - Police Administrative Assistant

Public Works

Nate Chowning - Public Works Maintenance

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL TAXES

After tax season, the City often receives inquiries and questions regarding taxes – whether it be property, utility, sales, or income tax. The City of Maryland Heights is NOT involved in the assessment, billing, or collection of property, income, or other state and federal taxes. However, here are a few answers to the common tax questions we receive:

If I own property in the City, how much of my taxes go to the City government?

Unlike several other cities (see graph below), Maryland Heights does not have a property tax. The City of Maryland Heights **does not** collect any property tax from residents or businesses for real estate or personal property.

If my property tax dollars don't support City provided services, what services do they fund?

On your property tax bill, every taxing jurisdiction is listed and includes special districts servicing the area such as schools, fire protection, sewer, community colleges, and libraries.

How are tax rates determined?

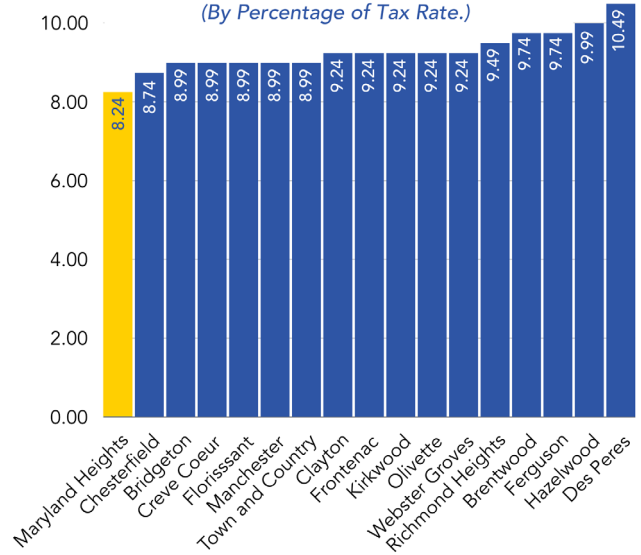
Although some limitations are defined by state statute, the local taxing districts set the tax rates. Generally, tax increases must be approved by voters within the district.

What is the sales tax rate and what services does it fund?

The City receives revenues from three different sales tax sources - a county-wide one percent tax on retail sales that is distributed by municipality population, a half-cent municipal tax on retail sales that can only be used to fund storm-water control and/or parks services, and a half-cent public safety sales tax. The State and St. Louis County levies sales taxes to fund a variety of services. Currently, our sales tax rate is 8.24% except in special tax districts.*

Sales Tax Rate Comparison

(By Percentage of Tax Rate.)



*Graph does not include special taxing districts.

How is the Maryland Heights Parks/Storm-water Sales Tax distributed?

Since 2015, all of this revenue has been distributed to the Parks Fund to fund recreation projects including the Community Center, recreation programming, trail expansion, Fee Fee Ballfields, Aquaport improvements, and the Sustainability Campus. Storm-water projects are funded from the Capital Improvement Fund, which the Parks/Storm-water Sales Tax is also allocated to.

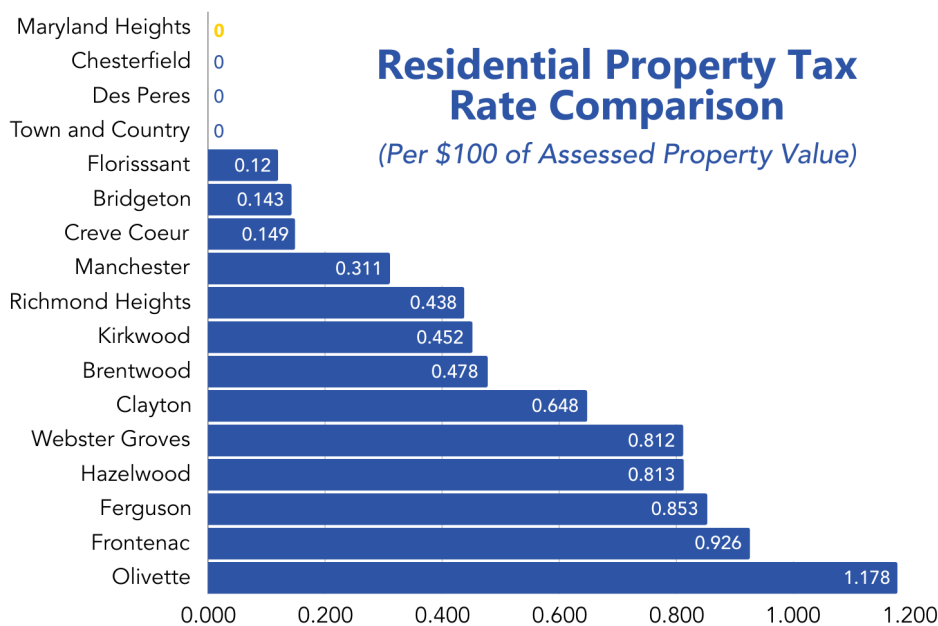
What is the City's largest revenue source?

Gaming tax is Maryland Heights' largest revenue source. The City receives a tax of \$1 per casino admission and 2.1 percent of the net gaming receipts of casino operations at Hollywood Casino. The collection of taxes and disbursement to the City is administered by the State. Gaming tax revenues are deposited into the General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund where they cover expenditures including trash/recycling/yardwaste collection (free to residents), road improvement projects, and general operations.

If you have any questions about local taxes, please contact the City by email at mhlife@marylandheights.com or call (314) 291-6550.

Residential Property Tax Rate Comparison

(Per \$100 of Assessed Property Value)



REGISTER FOR PAPER SHREDDING

The next Paper Shredding event has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 27**. At this event, residents may bring the equivalent of five file-sized boxes or bankers boxes (12"W x 15"L x 10"H) of paper to be shredded. Paper shredding trucks, provided by The Shred Truck, will set up at the Government Center in the parking lot that faces Millwell Dr. An employee of the City will be present to check you in.

This event is free and is for **Maryland Heights residents only**, no businesses. **Registration is required** to attend. If you do not register, you will be turned away. Register online at www.marylandheights.com/papershred or call (314) 738-2358. Registration will close on **April 19**.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

GOVERNMENT CENTER,

11911 DORSETT RD.

**Must register to attend. Maryland Heights residents ONLY. Residents will choose one session at registration.*



DEA DRUG TAKEBACK

The MHPD is proud to partner with the DEA to coordinate a Drug Take-Back day which aims to provide a safe and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs. Please note, this collection will be taking place in the same location as the Paper Shredding event. Follow the signage and staff will be there to assist.

There is no limit, but medications will not be accepted from medical practices, doctor offices, or pharmacies. NO needles, epipens, liquids, or inhalers will be accepted. Pills can be submitted in their original bottles or in a sealable (Ziplock) bag.

DEA DRUG TAKEBACK

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNMENT CENTER,

11911 DORSETT RD.



ANNUAL TRIATHLON ROAD CLOSURE

On **Sunday, May 19, 2024**, starting at 6:00 a.m., MSE Racing will hold the annual St. Louis Triathlon at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park in Maryland Heights. Please be mindful of the following scheduled road closures:

- Marine Ave. at Dorsett Rd. when the race begins at 6:00 a.m.
- One lane of SB Route 141 closed from Marine Ave. to Chesterfield city limits.
- Northbound lanes of Route 141 from Route 364 to Marine Ave.
- Access will be allowed to Creve Coeur Airport, Sportport, Golfport, and soccer fields from southbound Route 141 only. Please expect delays.
- Old Creve Coeur Mill Rd. from soccer fields to Route 141



On the day of the event, please follow detour signs and officers' directions. There will be no access to the lakefront during the triathlon.

MHPD YOUTH ACADEMY IS BACK!

Do you know a teen who would like to learn more about law enforcement? MHPD Youth Academy is back! This program gives young adults, ages 13-17, the opportunity to join the MHPD for a five-day interactive learning experience. Teens will be taught about various aspects of law enforcement in a quasi-academy setting under the direction of veteran police officers.

Sessions will include training and hands-on activities in investigative procedures, ethics, first-aid, defensive tactics, computer crimes, physical drills, and more. It is a perfect opportunity for teens interested in a career in Law Enforcement or wanting to major in Criminal Justice.

This program is provided free to our resident teens. Registration is currently open and will close on **May 31**. Scan the QR code below or visit www.marylandheights.com/youthacademy to register.

MHPD YOUTH ACADEMY

JUNE 10 - 14 OR JULY 8 - 12

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

POLICE DEPARTMENT,

11911 DORSETT RD.

Scan to Register!



POLICE-LED SUMMER CAMPS TEACH CHILDREN VALUABLE LESSONS

Kids can have a blast at summer camp while also acquiring important life skills at two police-led camps this summer. Both camps, instructed by the familiar face of DARE Officer Bob, offer a blend of fun and education.

SAFETY TOWN

The Safety Town program in Maryland Heights was established thirty-four years ago. While some aspects have evolved over the decades, such as the introduction of electronic kid-sized cars, the core curriculum remains focused on teaching essential safety awareness and preventative measures.

Lessons include the importance of signals and signs, as well as proper seatbelt use. Kids will be introduced to the Safety Town track and taught to stay on the "roadways," obeying signals and signs placed around the track. The dangers of home poisons lesson involves a show-and-tell with Officer Bob, displaying several examples of common household items that kids should not touch. Special guest visitors, such as the MHPD K-9 unit and the Fire District, will stop by to teach kids about using caution with animals and fire safety.

Along with other lessons on stranger

danger and pedestrian safety, one of the last things kids participate in is the lesson on bus safety – complete with a ride on a real school bus to a nearby park. For many pre-schoolers, this marks their first ride in a bus and helps prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. Safety Town concludes with a graduation ceremony where children showcase the lessons they've learned and receive their official certificates, alongside plenty of photo opportunities with Officer Bob.

"Safety Town is an incredible collaboration between the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments to bring safe, healthy play to our community's youngest members," states Officer Bob. "Children learn best when they are entertained and we use a unique mixture of guest speakers and hands-on lessons to drive home safety lessons that parents can continue at home. I love the enthusiasm of the young students and they come in each day eager to learn."

PLAY IT SAFE

Play it Safe, an offshoot of Safety Town, tailored for older children, was developed in response to feedback from kids. Also instructed by Officer Bob, the program revisits the Safety Town curriculum, reinforcing crucial safety lessons. One notable addition for the older group is a session on water safety held at Aquaport, providing children with a private swim practice before the park opens to the public.

"I've found with the Play it Safe kids, the important lessons taught from Safety Town are quickly recalled. Having this refresher course helps these valuable lessons become solidified," says Officer Bob.

The Maryland Heights Police Department is proud of the long-running success of these programs. "Both Safety Town and Play it Safe offer peace of mind to parents, knowing their children are learning essential safety skills from a trained police officer," said Public Relations Officer McComas. "We provide a fun and interactive way for kids to learn about safety.



The programs are designed to empower children to make smart decisions in real-life scenarios."

Opportunities are also available for high school counselors to assist Officer Bob with the classes. "The teenage counselors and myself quickly form bonds with these amazing young people," says Officer Bob. "Two weeks just fly by. It's a rewarding and fun way to spend my summer and if I'm lucky, I get to see the kiddos at my schools in the fall."

These two summer camps have limited space, so it's best to sign up early! Both camps take place at the Maryland Heights Community Center, 2300 McKelvey Rd. Parents are able to register in-person at the Community Center or online at www.marylandheights.com/webtrac.

SAFETY TOWN

JUNE 10 - JUNE 21

MONDAY - FRIDAY

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

AGES 3-5

MEMBERS/RESIDENTS: \$50

NON-RESIDENTS: \$67

PLAY IT SAFE

JULY 8 - JULY 12

MONDAY - FRIDAY

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

AGES 6-8

MEMBERS/RESIDENTS: \$35

NON-RESIDENTS: \$47



AN OUT-OF-THIS-GALAXY OPEN HOUSE EVENT

MHPD to host Star-Wars-themed Open House on May 4.

Gather round, young Jedi and citizens of the empire! The Maryland Heights Police Department (MHPD) is excited to announce an Open House event this spring!

The community will have the opportunity to get an up-close look at their local Police Department on **Saturday, May 4, 2024** at the Government Center, 11911 Dorsett Rd., where the MHPD will open their doors to the public to teach young Jedi the way of the force and share some of their galactic wisdom with the rest of the empire. Attendees will be immersed into a galaxy of fun and learning, as the MHPD will unveil some of the secrets of the (police) force.

A long time ago, in a galaxy not so far way, the Maryland Heights Police Department held its inaugural Open House in 2019 attracting nearly 600 attendees. Now, as it embarks in its third year, MHPD is excited to showcase the skills and maneuvers with the finesse of a seasoned pod racer on Tatooine.

As they charted the course for this year's event, they couldn't resist aligning with the stellar date of **May 4th**. Known to many as

"Star Wars Day," it's a time when Star Wars fans across the galaxy celebrate with movie marathons, trivia games, and themed snacks. Embracing this theme, the MHPD proudly presents "May the Police Force be with you," a fun fusion of law enforcement and intergalactic revelry.

This year's event will be filled with activities that are sure to delight everyone from Padawans to seasoned Jedi. Explore our Government Center parking lot, where a fleet of police vehicles, motorcycles, drones, and robots await your inspection. Engage with our officers as they stand ready to answer any questions you may have and pose for memorable photo opportunities.

Step inside the police station for guided tours led by dedicated police officers. Traverse the interior corridors and witness the inner-workings of our operations, from the bustling dispatch room to the secure confines of our jail cells. Please note, all light sabers will need to be checked



at the door.

Fear not, weary travelers, food and refreshments will be available, while supplies last. We don't want to give away any spoilers - although, we don't believe blue or green milk will be served - but those who align their hyperdrive to arrive at the start of the event will be able to kickstart their day with a flavorful surprise.

The excitement doesn't end there! Venture throughout the lot to discover tables brimming with giveaways from our partners that include the City of Maryland Heights, Maryland Heights Parks and Recreation, and the Maryland Heights Fire District. Young attendees can also marvel at the talents of a skilled balloon artist as they craft art for our youngest recruits to take home.

"Our main goal for this event is to forge a deeper connection with the community," said Public Relations Officer McComas. "It gives us an opportunity to share laughs, stories, and build trust in a relaxed setting."

Throughout the year, the MHPD works with several departments to develop community relations. One of the main examples of this practice is Maryland



Heights Night Out, an annual tradition where police officers stop by block parties around town to interact with the residents.

"Maryland Heights Night Out is important to us because it's become a time when we can check-in with our residents every year outside of patrolling their neighborhoods," said Officer McComas. "The Open House is more of a celebration. We get to invite everyone to our house!"

"The Open House gives our community the ability to interact with much of the police department's staff firsthand."

And what better way to foster camaraderie than with our beloved K-9 units! These specially trained dogs and their handlers will be making an appearance, providing demonstrations on their training in tracking and apprehension. In past open houses, attendees lined up to watch the incredible work that these dogs perform. It's a rare occurrence that the community is able to watch our police K-9s perform their duties. With this year's Star Wars theme, there may be a rebel-worthy surprise that is added to the demonstrations!

Another out-of-this-galaxy addition to this year's open house will be a raffle of



FEATURE STORY

MHPD swag, including a 'Peace, Love, & MHPD' hoodie from the MH Swag Shop and a chance to win a ride in a police car

To enter the raffle, community members will simply leave their email addresses to learn more about the Neighborhood Watch program. This program is a community partnership with the Maryland Heights Police Department and active residents who want to take action against crime in their area.

Neighborhood Watch participants act as the eyes and ears for the police department and use crime prevention practices and are trained to recognize and report suspicious activity. A Neighborhood Watch Guide will be available at the open house to provide information, instructions, and even templates to form your own

Neighborhood Watch!

"The Open House gives our community the ability to interact with much of the police department's staff first hand," said Major Jamison White. "It's a unique way to develop a better understanding of our dedication, professionalism, and service to the residents of Maryland Heights."

Are you ready to join us on this epic journey? Our staff is looking forward to this event and voyaging into the Star Wars universe, as you can tell from the cover photo featuring



Officer Johan Paul and his K9 Duke.

With the police force as your guide, we eagerly anticipate your arrival at our station gates. So, mark your calendars, set your coordinates, and prepare for an unforgettable journey with your local police force!

MHPD OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, MAY 4
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
GOVERNMENT CENTER,
11911 DORSETT RD.
Parking available in the lot that faces Millwell Dr.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Originated by Mental Health America, Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the United States since 1949. Each May, communities and organizations come together to promote awareness through vital resources, education, and advocacy.

When we do this, we fight to reduce the stigma surrounding behavioral health issues and highlight the ways mental illness and addiction can affect society.

Did you know one in five adults in the United States experience mental illness? Less than half of those adults receive treatment.

This issue also reaches our youth population. One in three students experience poor mental health – one in ten students have attempted suicide.

HOW WE CAN HELP

As part of our City's mission to provide superior municipal services to our residents, we aim to address the well-being of our residents with the assistance

of our Maryland Heights Social Services Coordinator Ericka Jones. Ericka helps provide our residents with a Mental Health resource packet of information on local counseling services, national crisis lines, inpatient mental health facilities, and more.

In addition to these resources, the National Alliance of Mental Health, NAMI St. Louis, is an organization of families, friends, and individuals whose lives have been affected by mental illness. Together, they advocate for better lives for individuals with mental illness.

On **May 11, 2024**, NAMI St. Louis will host a NAMIWalks fundraising event at Creve Coeur Lake. Their goal is to raise a total of \$230,000 towards NAMI's mission to provide education, advocacy, and support essential to the recovery, resilience, and well-being of all who have mental health needs. More information on NAMI St. Louis and this event can be found at www.namistl.org.

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

To address and assist with other needs in our community, Ericka has also provided updates to over a dozen resources packets in focus areas, such as:

- Affordable Healthcare
- Disability
- Domestic Violence
- Food Insecurity
- Pregnancy
- Substance Misuse
- Veteran Support

Each packet contains a list of resources available in the Greater St. Louis area, primarily focused on those in close proximity to Maryland Heights. To access these resource packets, please visit www.marylandheights.com/resources.

Need further assistance or have questions? Contact Ericka by email at ejones@marylandheights.com or by phone at (314) 738-2233.

**Disclaimer: The City of Maryland Heights does not claim responsibility for the services provided by the listed organizations, nor do the inclusions of these organizations serve as an endorsement of their services over those of any potential competitors. These resource packets are non-comprehensive and merely intended as an informative tool and starting point for those seeking assistance over crucial issues in their life.*

NAMI WALKS
SATURDAY, MAY 11
9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
 CREVE COEUR LAKE
 TREMAYNE SHELTER - 1
 3725 MARINE AVE.,
 MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO 63146



Scan to
 access
 resources
 packets.

KEEP STREAMS CLEAN TO PREVENT FLOODING

When it rains, storm-water runoff flows across the ground and pavement into storm sewers where the water makes its way to streams. As storm-water runoff moves over the ground, it picks up and carries natural and man-made pollutants including: fertilizers and herbicides used on lawns, automotive fluids, improperly disposed chemicals, improperly disposed yard waste, sediment from erosion, waste from animals, and trash. The polluted runoff flows through the storm sewer underground and is released, untreated, into local waterways.

With our provided tips, you can assist in keeping these storm drains clear of hazards so they may work properly during heavy rain and keeps streams clean.

Tips for Reducing Pollutants:

- Scoop the poop! Pet waste is not a fertilizer.
- Use less or no pesticides or herbicides.
- Never fertilize your yard before it rains and don't water immediately after applying.
- Never pour chemicals directly into storm drains. Dispose or recycle chemicals properly by taking them to the hazardous waste center. Visit www.hhwstl.com for more information.
- Use less salt or a salt alternative on icy sidewalks during winter.
- Repair leaky vehicles as soon as the leak is discovered.
- Wash your car at an indoor car wash.
- Properly dispose of trash before it ends up in storm drains.

Another threat related to improperly managed storm-water runoff is flooding. Often water flow is reduced or blocked when storm-water drains are clogged with leaves, grass clippings, and other improperly disposed yard waste. When storm-water drains can't do their job, areas that aren't in a

regulatory floodplain are subject to flooding.

Tips on Reducing Storm-water Flooding in Your Yard:

- Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering. See www.msprojectclear.org/customers/problems-tips/healthy-home-tips/rain-barrels/.
- Disconnect your rain gutters (downspouts) from impervious surfaces (such as driveways and sidewalks) and direct the flow to grassy areas or gardens.
- Allow a buffer of native grasses and other vegetation to grow along streams, ponds or wetlands. This not only filters pollutants, but also limits erosion. This is a great tip for those of you with creeks running through your backyards.
- Install water-tolerant plants and bushes in low-lying areas that tend to collect water. This vegetation will help soak up the rainfall.
- Do not sweep, rake, or blow grass clippings or leaves along the street or into a storm drain.
- Do not dump yard waste into creeks or

along creek banks.

- See the Missouri Botanical Garden's rainscaping resources at www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/sustainability/sustainability/sustainable-living/at-home/rainscaping-guide.

Taking the proper precautions can reduce the risk of flooding on your property. However, floods can happen anywhere. Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy that is designed to cover the building, the contents within the building, or both.

If you have any questions about floodplain requirements, flood insurance, storm-water issues, how to find out if you are within a floodplain, or request a site visit, please contact Director of Community Development, Michael Zeek, at mzeek@marylandheights.com or (314) 291-6550.



SPRING BULK WASTE DAY

Do you have large items that you're looking to get rid of this spring? The City of Maryland Heights is hosting another bulk waste collection on **Saturday, April 20**. Residents may stop by between 8:00 a.m. and noon to dispose items in dumpsters placed in the parking lot of Aquaport. Residents can utilize dumpsters to throw away unwanted or broken furniture, bundles of carpet (no longer than 4' in length and 3' in diameter), mattresses, and glass portion of doors/windows (broken down in a box and marked "glass"). Once dumpsters are full, no additional items will be accepted. No registration is required for this event.

BULK WASTE DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 20
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
AQUAPORT (PARKING LOT)
2344 MCKELVEY RD.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

The following is a brief update of the current Capital Projects as of **March 1, 2024**:

2024 Concrete Replacement Program

Construction is expected to begin April 1. Pavement replacement will take place in Parkland Woods and Autumn Lakes subdivisions.

Adie Road (Dorsett Rd. to Lindbergh Blvd.)

Construction is expected to begin April 1. The road is scheduled to be closed to through traffic from April 1 - mid-August. After August, the road will be open to one-way traffic going northbound. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

Get the latest updates at www.marylandheights.com/PublicWorks and click on "Project Updates." If you have any questions on the projects listed, contact staff at (314) 738-2250.

UPCOMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

As the weather improves, more road crews will be out on construction projects this spring and summer. In Maryland Heights, there are three main entities that maintain our roadways: MODOT (who maintain highways and other state routes), St. Louis County Transportation (who maintains several of our main roads), and the City of Maryland Heights Public Works Department (who maintains city streets). To view a map of who maintains which roads, visit www.marylandheights.com/streetmaps.

We've compiled a list of the projects that will be happening this summer, and a few that are just on the horizon in the design phase so you can stay alert, drive safely, and be updated with the most current news!

MARYLAND HEIGHTS Adie Road (Dorsett Rd. to Lindbergh Blvd.)

Adie Road is about to get a makeover! This project involves the reconstruction of this section of Adie with the addition of sidewalks constructed to Grand Circle Drive on the western/northern side. This will include the replacement of the box culvert, which sits under the road, during which Adie Road will be closed (April 1 - mid August) to all through traffic. After the box culvert replacement, the street will be constructed one-half mile at a time with traffic restricted to one lane from Dorsett to Lindbergh (August - October).

Construction is expected to be completed by fall 2024.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY Westport Plaza Dr./ Marine Ave.

Work continues with this resurfacing project, which is bringing



curb repairs, ADA-compliant curb ramps, sidewalk repairs, and Accessible Pedestrian Signal upgrades at traffic signals and traffic signal replacements.

Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2024.

McKelvey, Bennington, Ameling, and McKelvey Phase II

Both of these projects provide pavement resurfacing and the addition of ADA-compliant curb ramps and sidewalks. Once completed, pedestrian accessibility will be vastly improved. St. Louis County states that they are waiting for consistently warmer weather to finish the paving operations.

Construction is expected to be completed by spring 2024.

McKelvey (Creve Coeur Mill to Natural Bridge) and Creve Coeur Mill (Prichard Farm to Interstate Dr.)

These two resurfacing projects will include pavement resurfacing, concrete pavement repairs, curb ramps, sidewalk replacements, and traffic signal upgrades. St. Louis County will be hiring a contractor late this summer.

Construction will begin towards the end of 2024.

Prichard Farm Bridge

St. Louis County has been actively working with the levee district to coordinate mutually agreed repairs to the damage that took place in the June 2022 flooding event. They currently do not have a schedule for re-opening the road at this time.

No construction timeline has been set.

CITY TO INSPECT RESIDENTIAL STREETS THIS SUMMER

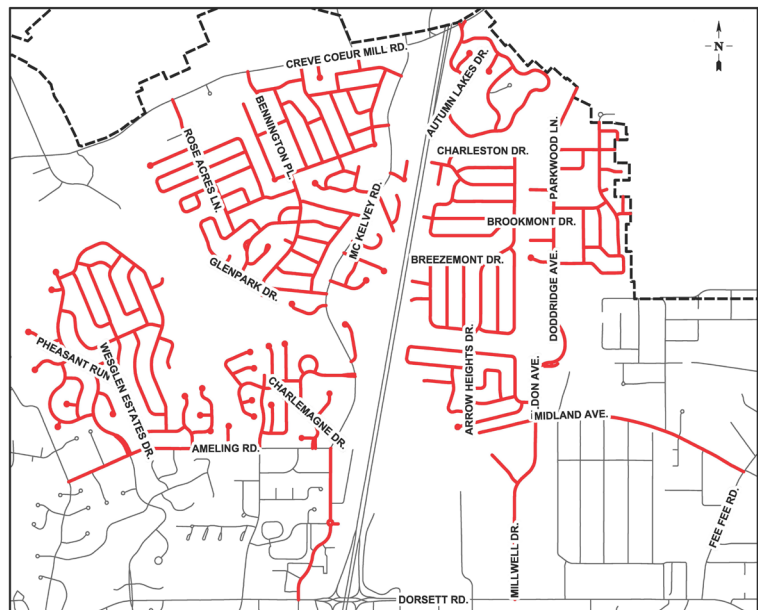
Beginning around the last week of May through approximately mid-July, the Department of Public Works' summer intern will be performing pavement inspections of streets maintained by the city.

This year's inspections include residential streets located generally north of Ameling Road and Midland Avenue.

The intern must be on the street within traffic lanes to count, measure, and record pavement defects. We ask all drivers to be alert and exercise caution in these areas. We may also have to stop traffic briefly to perform an inspection. Your patience and cooperation will allow the intern to perform these inspections safely.

List of streets to be inspected in 2024:

- Ameling Rd. (West of Bennington Pl.)
- Arrow Heights Dr.
- Autumn Lakes Ct.
- Autumn Lakes Dr.
- Autumn Shores Ct.
- Autumn Shores Dr.
- Autumn Trace Dr.
- Barbara Dr.
- Beckford Estates Dr.
- Bedford Pl.
- Beechwood Ln.
- Belaire Pl.
- Beloit Dr.
- Bennington Ct.
- Bennington Pl. (Ameling Rd. to Creve Coeur Mill Rd.)
- Berrybell Dr.
- Beverly Dr.
- Blaiser L.
- Bobbett Dr.
- Bonniebrook Dr.
- Bourbon St.
- Boward Ct.
- Breezemont Dr.
- Briarcote Ln.
- Brookmont Dr.
- Cedar Dale Ct.
- Cedar Lake Ct.
- Cedar Lake Dr.
- Celestial Dr.
- Charente Dr.
- Charlemagne Dr.
- Charleston Dr.
- Charmbrook Ln.
- Charterwood Ct.
- Chatham Dr.
- Cherry Point Ln.
- Clarksdale Dr.
- Colonial Dr.
- Country Place Ct.
- Count y Place Dr.
- Country Run Ct.
- Country Village Ct.
- Country Wood Ct.
- Country Wood Dr.
- Creston Ln.
- Creve Coeur Ridge Ct.
- Cynthia Dr.
- Diane Marie Dr.
- Doddridge Ave.
- Donnycave Ln.
- Dordogne Dr.
- Dunhill Dr.
- Eldon Ave.
- Epernay Ct.
- Fleetwood Pl.
- Flushing Dr.
- Forestel Ct.
- Foxwood Dr.
- Gay Glen Dr.
- Glenbrook Dr.
- Glendrive Pl.
- Glengrove Dr.
- Glenmar Dr.
- Glenmark Ct.
- Glenoak Dr.
- Glenpark Ct.
- Glenpark Dr.
- Glenridge Dr.
- Glenrose Dr.
- Glenvalley Dr.
- Glenview Dr.
- Glenway Dr.
- Glenwest Dr.
- Green Cove Ln.
- Hathaway Ave.
- Hillcrest Pl.
- Hollybrook Dr.
- Hollycrest Ct.
- Hollycrest Dr.
- Honey Hill Dr.
- James Christopher Dr.
- Jamestown Dr.
- Jane Ct.
- Jaquetta Ct.
- Jeannette Mary Dr.
- Jonesdale Ct.
- Josephine Marie Dr.
- Joyce Ct.
- Katiejo Ct.
- Kentwood Dr.
- Lakeport Dr.
- Laurel View Ln.
- Longmont Dr.
- Loxley Ln.
- Maryland Manor Dr.
- McKelvey Rd. - McKelvey Hill Dr. to Ameling Rd.
- McKelvey Hill Dr. - North of Dorsett Rd.
- McKelvey Woods Ct.
- Meadow Grove Ct.
- Meadowpark Ct.
- Meadow Run Ct.
- Midland Ave.
- Midvale Dr.
- Millwell Ct.
- Millwell Dr.
- Monica Dr.
- Nantucket Pl.
- Onondaga Dr.
- Park Ct.
- Parkwood Ln.
- Parkwood Pl.
- Penmar Dr.
- Pheasant Run Dr. - North of Ameling Rd.
- Postport Ln.
- Providence Ln.
- Renaissance Dr.
- Rose Acres Ln.
- Salem Dr.
- Sandal Tree Ct.
- Sarthe Ct.
- Sarthe Dr.
- Sheridan Dr.
- Smoke Rise Ct.
- Smoke Valley Ct.
- Smokeview Dr.
- Sologne Ct.
- Spring Place Ct.
- Sprucewood Dr.
- Sugartree Ln.
- Sungrove Dr.
- Sunnycrest Pl.
- Timberlake Dr.
- Toulouse Ct.
- Turkey Creek Ct.
- Tyra Ct.
- Village Glen Ct.
- Villager Park Ct.
- Wakefield Pl.
- Washington Ct.
- Wesbay Dr.
- Wesbriar Ct.
- Wesco Dr.
- Wescreek Dr.
- Wesford Dr.
- Wesglen Estates Dr.
- Weshill Ct.
- Weshire Pl.
- Wesington Dr.
- Wesland Dr.
- Wesmeade Dr.
- Westrick Dr.
- Wexford Place Dr.
- Woodford Ct.



NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Maryland Heights is growing! Our community has welcomed 20 new businesses to the area in the last six months.

With several additional developments on the way, the City is proud to see our community grow to offer more entertainment, delicious hot-spots, retail outlets, and corporate partners for our residents and neighbors.

We hope you are as excited as we are to welcome these newcomers and to shop local!

HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS

Show Me State Vital Care

11 Worthington Access Dr., Ste E
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

American National Red Cross

13610 Riverport Dr., Ste B,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Dorsett Foot and Body

11705 Dorsett Rd., Suite 207, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Therapy Relief at Hope

11971 Westline Industrial Dr., Ste 103,
St. Louis, MO 63146

Smile Dental (Relocated)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

STL Photography

11710 Administration Dr., Ste 42
St. Louis, MO 63146

Dubail Judge P.C.

2055 Craigshire Dr., Ste 120
St. Louis, MO 63146

HOME IMPROVEMENT/ CONSTRUCTION

Nania Construction

124 Weldon Pkwy.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Mosby Building Arts

2401 Schuetz Rd,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Kenny Construction and Remodeling

11844 Dorsett Rd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Budget Blinds of West St. Louis

2576 Metro Blvd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

SUPERMARKETS/ GROCERY STORES

Aldi

12632 Dorsett Rd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Miguelitos Mexican Store

9 Midland Ave.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

News Talk STL

11861 Westline Industrial Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

KMOV TV

77 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

DINING

Chick-fil-A

12607 Dorsett Rd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Soda Fountain Express

147 W Port Plaza Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63146

Soulard Gyro

12205 Dorsett Rd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Tony's Donuts

11525 Dorsett Rd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

360 Westport

111 W Port Plaza Dr., Ste 1200,
St. Louis, MO 63146

Thai Mama

1932 McKelvey Dr.
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

SPECIALTY RETAIL

M & O Smoke Shop

11984 Dorsett Rd.,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

COMING SOON

Westport Plaza Courtyard

Rawlings Headquarters

Lonestar Deli and Meat Counter



SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP

Maryland Heights Summer Camps are back and open for registration! The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to welcome both new and returning campers for an exciting summer of fun. This year, we have camp opportunities for ages 3-14, including our brand new Eco Camp for children who enjoy learning about nature and wildlife. See **page 19** in the Summer 2024 Guide to Parks and Recreation to learn more about these programs.

MARYLAND HEIGHTS SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 10 - AUGUST 2

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

VAGO PARK/COMMUNITY CENTER

(Ages 6-11) Register for the award winning Maryland Heights Summer Camp! Camp will meet at Vago Park on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, campers will meet at the Community Center and will spend the afternoon swimming at Aquaport! The deadline to register is the Wednesday prior by 12:00 p.m., no exceptions.

Weekly Fees: M: \$175 • R: \$190 •

NR: \$252

***Week of July 4:** M: \$105 • R: \$114 •

NR: \$151

**Campers will be at the Community Center July 1-3 for swim time. No camp July 4-5.*

EXTENDED CARE

MORNING: 7:30 - 9:00 A.M.

EVENING: 4:00 - 5:30 P.M.

Morning and evening extended care is available at an additional cost. This is a non-structured program where kids play games, craft or enjoy open play time. Fees must be paid in full at the time of registration and will not be pro-rated on day-to-day needs.

Weekly Fees: A.M. Care: \$30/child

P.M. Care: \$30/child

BUSY BEES

JUNE 3 - AUGUST 2*

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER

(Ages 3-5) Introduce your child to summer camp at the Maryland Heights Community Center! Each week will have a new theme for a summer of fun. Register in person or online at www.marylandheights.com/earlychildhood. The deadline to register is the Wednesday prior by 12:00 p.m., no exceptions.

Weekly Fees: M: \$81 • R: \$90 • NR: \$119

**No camp on the week of July 1*

ECO CAMP

AUGUST 5 - AUGUST 9

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

VAGO PARK, COMMUNITY CENTER, AND OTHER LOCATIONS

(Ages 6-14) If your child has a love for nature and our environment, they will love Eco Camp! We will spend time learning from guest speakers about plants, animals, and our role in keeping the earth healthy. This camp will spend time outside journaling, meditating, playing games, doing crafts, and even spending an afternoon at Aquaport.

This camp will be split into two age groups, ages 6-10 and ages 11-14. Extended Care will **not** be available for this camp.

Fee: M: \$175 • R: \$190 • NR: \$252



MEET OUR NEW HIRES



CAITLIN MORRISON
AQUATICS SUPERVISOR

Caitlin joins our team with more than 20 years of experience in the aquatics field and a degree in Business Administration from the University of Missouri

Outside of work, she is a mother to three who are very active in gymnastics and performing arts. Her and her husband have a passion for fitness, which includes cycling and swimming.



JOHN DAWSON
CUSTOMER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

John hails from a small town in central Missouri and joins us with many years of experience in non-profit recreation centers.

When he is not attending sporting events with his two athlete sons (ages 10 and 15), he enjoys woodworking and is a long-time Minnesota Vikings fan.



TONY VERZINO
CUSTOMER RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Tony should be a familiar face to many of our members. After two years as a part-time customer service representative, the City is pleased to share that Tony has moved to full time!

When he's not assisting our members at the Community Center, Tony enjoys watching action movies and spending time with his cat, Matcha.

WHAT TO KNOW WHEN VISITING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Are you ready to head out and enjoy some time in our local parks? Our City staff works hard to keep them nice for all to enjoy throughout the season! Please keep these tips in mind the next time you visit.

Don't forget your essentials.

Don't leave empty handed. In the summer heat, it is important to remember to bring plenty of water and sunscreen with you to the parks. Consider also bringing snacks, a first aid kit, and a cell phone just in case.

If you leave something behind...

If you leave an item in one of our parks, please contact our Parks department at (314) 738-2599 to see if the item has been found or turned in. Found items are securely stored at the parks. Valuables may be turned into the Maryland Heights Police Department.

Take your trash with you.

Do your part to keep our parks clean! Place all trash in park trash cans. These bins are emptied daily,

Don't hurt the trees.

There are many young trees growing throughout our parks. We know sticks make great toys for pets and the imagination of children. Please refrain from damaging or pulling limbs off trees. Instead, opt for sticks that are already on the ground.

Keep an eye on the kids!

Be sure to keep a close eye on your child and others to make sure they are being respectful to others and the equipment. Teach older children to help look out for the younger ones. It is also important to drive slowly in the parking lots!

Take only memories and leave only footsteps on the trails.

When you encounter animals and plants as you explore our parks and trails, let them be. Be kind to the wildlife so it can grow and so others can enjoy its beauty.

Be alert and respectful of others.

Please remember to respect everyone's enjoyment of the parks and be a kind, helpful neighbor to all. If you see one of our many staff members around the parks,

please respect their space and allow them to focus on their job.

Bathrooms have reopened.

Bathrooms located at Eise, Parkwood, and Vago Parks have reopened on **April 1**. Be respectful and help keep our bathrooms clean for all guests. If a location requires attention, please call our Parks and Recreation Department at (314) 738-2599.

Splash pads are popular!

We love our splash pads! Located at Eise and Vago Parks, these summertime attractions are fun for all ages. Help us maintain these local hot-spots by respecting our equipment and keeping all sand from the volleyball areas away from the splash zone. Splash pads will reopen on May 15.

Being outdoors is good for you!

Studies show being outdoors improves both your physical and mental well-being. Take a break from the screens and pay a visit to one of our local parks.

We can't wait to see you all enjoy our neighborhood parks this summer!

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

On **Friday, April 26** at 10:00 a.m., the City of Maryland Heights will be celebrating Arbor Day with students at Pattonville High School.

Throughout the last couple years, Maryland Heights staff have coordinated the planting of a new tree in celebration of this holiday, inviting nearby schools to observe and commemorate the new sapling. Staff are able to teach students about the importance of trees and how to properly plant and maintain them.

"With the recent opening of the Waste Connections Sustainability Campus and the involvement of Pattonville High School, we felt that this was the perfect opportunity for our annual Arbor Day tree planting," said Charlie Milligan, Superintendent of Parks. "

If you would like to join the City of Maryland Heights and Pattonville High School, the tree planting is open to the public. The Waste Connections Sustainability Campus is located at 2443 Creve Coeur Mill Rd. next door to Pattonville High School.

NEW EVENT ALERT: TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Kids ages 2 - 10 are invited to grab their favorite fluffiest friend, all their picnic essentials. and head to Eise Park on **Saturday, May 11** from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. for the very first Teddy Bear Picnic. Kids will eat lunch with their friend as they listen to stories about teddy bears. After story time, our staff will arrange for kids to create a teddy bear craft and make a yummy treat to take home.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Register in-person or online at www.marylandheights.com/webtrac. Fee is \$5/child.



TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

SATURDAY, MAY 11

10:00 - 5:00 P.M.

EISE PARK - 12103 BOURBON ST.

WORLD FEST 2024

Explore a world of cultures in your own backyard.

It seems like just yesterday when the newly formed Cultural Arts Commission was planning their very first international arts festival at the Maryland Heights Centre. This event, which is now in its 22nd year, was first held in 2002 and attracted around 2,000 visitors eager to immerse themselves in international culture and cuisine. The original title, "Celebrate the World," is still the focus of this beloved tradition.

Now in 2024, WorldFest has found a new home at the Saint Louis Music Park. This spacious venue, known for its transformation from an outdoor ice rink to a dynamic concert space, provides the perfect backdrop for our celebration. Rain or shine, you can enjoy the festivities under the shelter of the venue's roof and the open environment of the location provides a comfortable experience for all attendees.

WorldFest promises a day filled with excitement, free entertainment, and exploration into many different cultures from around the world. With ten performances scheduled throughout the day, there's something for everyone. Dance enthusiasts can look forward to captivating performances from groups representing China, India, Panama, and Ireland. Live music fans will be treated to a diverse lineup, including a Creole band, Japanese drumming, a Mexican guitar player, and a strings player showcasing traditional instruments from all around the world.

In addition to the performances, WorldFest offers interactive activities for



attendees. Kids will be able to learn about different cultures through passport stations and craft projects, where others can indulge in culinary delights and take home a souvenir featuring authentic cuisine and cultural items. Be sure to stop by the table and submit an entry to win a basket of treats from all over the globe!

WorldFest isn't just an event; it's an opportunity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, discover new cuisine, and appreciate the beauty of diversity. Whether you are a seasoned attendee or a first-time visitor, WorldFest welcomes you to join the festivities this year to celebrate all the different groups that define our community.

For more information, including the schedule and list of vendors, please visit: www.marylandheights.com/WorldFest.

WORLD FEST 2024
SUNDAY, APRIL 28
12:00 - 5:00 P.M.
SAINT LOUIS MUSIC PARK
750 CASINO CENTER DRIVE.
***FREE TO ATTEND**



DREW JOHNSON RECEIVES MARIA LUCAS MEMORIAL AWARD

The City of Maryland Heights is pleased to announce Drew Johnson as the 2024 recipient of the Maria Lucas Excellent Customer Service Award.

This award honors the life and memory of Maria Lucas, a valued Parks and Recreation employee who was tragically killed on February 24, 2020. This designation is awarded to an employee each year who demonstrates great customer service, hard work, and dedication.

Drew Johnson joined the Parks and Recreation department as a part-time Customer Relations worker in 2018. In 2021, he was promoted to a full-time Customer Relations Specialist position and is a valued Community Center employee. Drew has distinguished himself with his positive attitude and light-hearted nature. He is always going above and beyond, stepping up when others need help.

We are proud to have him on our team! If you see Drew on-duty, be sure to say hi and congratulate him on this achievement.

CULTURE ON YOUR BLOCK: GRUPO FOLKLORICO PANAMEÑO

For this edition of 'Culture on Your Block', a highlight of international culture in Maryland Heights, we'd like to introduce Ana House, a vibrant performer bringing the joy and beauty of Panama to WorldFest 2024.

Originally from Panama, Ana has been living in the United States for twenty-eight years but her roots, love, and passion for her country run deep.

In an interview for the latest episode of the MH Life Podcast, Ana was eager to share details about Panama. She is proud of the diverse population which is influenced by many nationalities: African, North American, European, American Indian, and Spanish. She noted that her most favorite dish is the Arroz Con Pollo (rice with chicken) and how she grew up with beautiful coastlines. "Panama is one place where you are able to watch the sun rise over

the Pacific and set over the Atlantic from the top of the highest point in the country, Volcán Barú," said Ana. "The Pacific side is a little colder and the Caribbean side has white sand and crystal clear waters. It's beautiful!"

Ana grew up familiar with the different regions of Panama. She spoke of the jungles near the Columbian border, the mountains, and the Volcán Barú.

"The flora and fauna are so beautiful in Panama," explained Ana. "The beauty of the nature is represented in the head pieces that we wear when we perform."

Not to be missed is the iconic Panama Canal, a source of national pride. Ana encourages everyone who visits to experience the wonder of this engineering marvel. "You are able to book tours and watch the ships raise up to pass through." She explained that it truly is a sight to see if you get to visit Panama.

It's not just about landmarks, beautiful coastline, and cuisine. Panama's festive spirit is evident in its vibrant celebrations – like Carnival, where the entire country comes alive with music, dance, and colorful parades. This holiday is celebrated four days before Ash Wednesday. People typically take off work so they can celebrate. The streets are filled with celebrities, queens, artists, and festivities.

Ana's journey to the United States began when she met her husband who was serving in the U.S. Army while she was attending college. Despite him returning to the U.S., their connection endured. They reunited four years later. "He was so close to losing me, and I, too, was close to losing him," said Ana. They ultimately settled in Illinois, where they raised their family.

"My friends and I would go to these festivals to watch several other groups perform. We turned to each other and said, 'we should do this!'"

As a Zumba instructor, Ana's love for dance and connecting with people shines through. It was this passion that led her and a group of friends to form a dance troupe after being inspired by the vibrant Spanish festivals in Missouri and Illinois.

"My friends and I would go to these festivals to watch several other groups perform," she said. "We turned to each other and said, 'we should do this!'"

Seven years later, their group has grown and performed at various venues, spreading the joy of Panamanian culture.

While they do love to support several other Hispanic associations in the St. Louis area, Grupo Folklorico Panameño in STL is the only official Panama group in the metro area. Although, they hope to grow their presence through networking, performances, and social media.

For Ana, representing Panama isn't just about performing – it's about fostering connections and celebrating diversity. Through their performances, they hope to not only entertain but also educate and inspire others to appreciate the beauty of Panama and its people.

You can catch Ana's full interview at www.marylandheights.com/MHLife. Ana's dance troupe, Grupo Folklorico Panameño is scheduled to perform at WorldFest on **Sunday, April 28** at 2:45 p.m. This will mark their first performance of the season!



BLACK HISTORY IN MARYLAND HEIGHTS

Maryland Heights has stood as both a thriving community of diversity and a destination for entertainment in the St. Louis region, long before it was an incorporated city. It is clear, as we look back, that our community has a rich history as a welcoming place for all to gather, connect, and express cultures and religion. This identity was built long ago and remains as the unifying heartbeat of our City today.

Bolton's Oak Grove and Musick Baptist Church are two prominent historic sites that each provided space for Black locals to build community. Whether it was for a few decades or centuries, these sites have seen much of our region's history unfold.

"What has been uncovered by us pales in comparison to the potential impact it has on those who love to learn history, particularly in the place they call home," said James Surgeon, City Council Member, Ward 1. "A Black man [Bolton] had the vision, but this and all other history is too rich to be regulated to one month out of the year."

We hope that this quick glimpse towards the past gives you a deeper appreciation for your City's history and ignites a passion for its future.

BOLTON'S OAK GROVE

Owned by well-known businessman and coal merchant, A.J. Bolton, Bolton's Oak Grove was a multipurpose, private park that opened in 1940. The parks spanned 25 acres southeast of Dorsett Rd. and Fee Fee Creek, near the present day Government Center.

"The site is a true grove, well-shaded and sloped," said Ina McFadden in a July 1940 opinion column of the *St. Louis Argus* newspaper.

In a time when much of the St. Louis area was still segregated, Bolton's Grove served as a highly-desired destination away from the city for the Black community to enjoy the outdoors and host events.

Bolton's Grove was only a 20 minute drive from the City. The space featured



a five-acre baseball diamond, a dance pavilion, an orchestra stand, badminton and tennis courts, a swimming pool, horseback riding, carnival rides and food vendors. It welcomed reservations for all occasions—private parties, public and private picnics, banquets, weddings, and political functions.

Bolton's Oak Grove became quite the hot spot for live music, welcoming popular musicians such as William "Count" Basie, Chuck Berry, Ike and Tina Turner, "Little Milton" Campbell, B.B. King, and Little Willie John. Cars would line Dorsett Rd. for over a mile, with attendees eager to see the renowned performers.

"It was the only place in St. Louis County where Black people could come to be entertained, and they brought [artists] in from all over..." said James "Jim" Dean Sanders in the 2010 edition of *The History of Maryland Heights* by Paul H. Thompson. "In the summertime on Friday and Saturday Nights, that place was something because it would be so busy. I used to sit on the bridge and listen to those musicians all night long. You could hear it all over town."

MUSICK BAPTIST CHURCH

Established decades before the Civil War in 1811, Musick Baptist Church began as a congregation of enslaved people.

According to oral tradition, Rev. Thomas Musick, plantation owner and founder of Fee Fee Baptist Church, was touched by the religious singing of his slaves. This moved him to gift a parcel of land for the slaves to build a church of their own at the southern end of the plantation.

There, they built a log cabin in the spot still occupied by Musick Baptist Church and its cemetery two centuries later. With this, Musick Baptist has been noted by historians as the oldest Black church west of the Mississippi River.

"The church's cemetery contains scattered graves, most of them unmarked, undoubtedly containing many remains of enslaved people," said Julie D. Nicolai in her book, title *Enslavement and the Underground Rail Road in Missouri and Illinois*.

Through most of its 213 years of existence, Musick Baptist Church served as one of the few churches where Black people in the area could worship. The congregation, to this day, is still an active community, welcoming members and visitors through its vibrant red doors.

Each year on its anniversary, the church receives a proclamation from the Mayor of Maryland Heights, declaring October 8 Music Baptist Church Day.





SENIORS ENJOY A ST. PATTY'S LUNCH

An annual tradition that has lasted over three decades, our St. Patrick's Day senior luncheon is a City of Maryland Heights signature event. Every year, our residents show up with empty bellies and decked out in green for a special corned beef and cabbage meal served by the Mayor, Council members, City staff, Pattonville High School students, and committee volunteers.

This year was no different. Over 350 residents gathered at the Community Center on Sunday, March 10 for the event. St. Louis Cardinals mascot, Fredbird, even made a special appearance to hand out door prizes and visit with residents. Thank you to our residents who joined us and everyone who helped make the day a success! We hope to see you all again next year.

YARD OF THE MONTH RETURNS

Sponsored by the Beautification Commission, the Yard of the Month Program will return for the fourth year in a row this summer. Each month, May through August, the Commission will nominate their top yards in each ward and select a winner. The homeowners of the winning yard will receive a yard sign of recognition to display for all to see.

The program provides equal opportunity of all four wards in the city, rotating the wards to a different month every year.

Do you have or know of a yard that is beautifully maintained or designed? Share your suggestion with the Commission by emailing mhlife@marylandheights.com.



SOLAR CANOPIES UPDATE

Happy one year anniversary to the Maryland Heights solar canopies! This structure completed installation in April of 2023 as a part of Ameren's Neighborhood Solar program. This program was established to help our area establish and expand renewable energy generation in underutilized locations. These sites provide clean energy to the grid and serve as a hub of renewable workforce development and solar education across Ameren's service area.

"We applied for the program because we saw the opportunity to further our stance on cleaner ways to obtain energy," states Charlie Milligan, Superintendent of Parks. "We had a whole parking lot that was underutilized and now it is collecting clean energy to go back directly into our grid to serve our community."

The Maryland Heights location, the Fee Fee Renewable Energy Center, can be seen

from Highway 270 and sits between the Maryland Heights Community Center and Aquaport. The canopies contain 1,335 solar modules and provide shade to Aquaport patrons in the summertime.

Data shows that on average, the Fee Fee Renewable Energy Center produces enough energy to provide electrical needs of sixty homes per year. From April 2023 to February 2024, this location has generated a total of 590,394 kWh.

"The solar canopies are a physical display of Maryland Heights' commitment to a sustainable future," said Economic Development Director Jim Carver. "We were very happy with the collaboration with Ameren for this project and are pleased to see the interest it has sparked from other cities. We are proud to lead the way to a cleaner future."



SPRINGTIME BIKE TUNEUPS WITH THE MARYLAND HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT

The Maryland Heights Fire District's Community Outreach spring bike tune-up program returns for its second year in 2024.

Have a child's bike that need some TLC? Fire district residents are invited to the fire house this spring for tune ups on bikes 20 inches or smaller.

Tune ups will include

- Flat tire repair
- Broken chain repair
- Chain lubrication
- Brakes repairs
- Bolts and screw tightening

Got a new bike that needs assembly? They can help with that too!

The bike tune-up program began in 2023 as an outreach idea proposed by firefighter and paramedic Jacob Cantrell. Between his interest in mechanics and

extensive experience with bikes at a previous fire district, Cantrell and the Community Outreach thought it would be a good idea to offer bike servicing to the families of Maryland Heights.

Last year, the program helped repair a total of 12 bicycles for children in the community.

"We had a lot of appreciative families come through last year," said Cantrell. "The kids definitely loved having a special visit to pick up their bike from the fire house."

This year, the Fire District has also received a limited quantity of helmets from SSM Health Cardinal Glennon to pass out to children in need.

If you are interested in making an appointment with the Fire Department for a bike tune-up or helmet fitting, please email



bikes@mhfire.org. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and a brief description of the work needed.

FUN AROUND MARYLAND HEIGHTS

We've had quite an exhilarating start to 2024 in Maryland Heights. Our families and community members have shown up in full force to join in on all the fun we've been having. Whether its bingo, Zumba, pickleball, the Royal Winter Ball, or Dr. Suess Day, we are making so many memories and a whole lot of smiles.

Its not just our Parks and Recreation team who are in on the fun. The Maryland Heights Police Department and our City staff have also been busy meeting residents at our community events and taking an icy plunge into Creve Coeur Lake.

Take a look some of the highlights from to the right. Featured events include: St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, First Responders Coffee Visit at Holy Spirit, Community Health Fair, Learn to Skate at Centene Community Ice Center, the Royal Winter Ball, Bingo Through the Decades, Dr. Suess Day at Remington Traditional School, Family Bingo, Zumba Party, 2024 Polar Plunge at Creve Coeur Lake, Frozen Pickleball Tournament, and the Women's Self Defense class.





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We will provide superior municipal services in a safe and appealing setting in order to attract and retain residents committed to our city, thriving businesses and premier hospitality venues.

GOVERNMENT CENTER

11911 Dorsett Road
 P: (314) 291-6550 • F: (314) 291-7457
 City Administrator: Tracey Anderson
 City Clerk: JoAnn Cova

Director of Finance: Danielle Oettle
 Director of Community Development: Michael Zeek
 Director of Economic Development: James Carver

PARKS & RECREATION

2300 McKelvey Road
 (314) 738-2599

POLICE

11911 Dorsett Road
 Emergency: 911
 Non-Emergency: (314) 298-8700
 Tips Hotline: (314) 209-8477
 Chief of Police: Bill Carson

PUBLIC WORKS

11911 Dorsett Road
 Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 (314) 738-2250
 After Hours/Emergency: (314) 298-8700
 Director of Public Works: Cliff Baber

MUNICIPAL COURT

11911 Dorsett Road
 (314) 291-6036
 Court Administrator: Gerald Durfee

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Find out which ward you live in by visiting www.marylandheights.com/WardMap.

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WARD 4

RECEIVE AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Another great way to stay up-to-date on everything going on in Maryland Heights is to sign up to receive our emailed newsletter. Emailed newsletters include the monthly City E-News, City Planner's Report, monthly Parks & Recreation update and bimonthly Mature Matters. Learn more or sign up by visiting www.marylandheights.com/mhlife.



Scan to sign up!