

# The Council Report

## 2005 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2007



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
MAURICE J. TREBACH, *Chairman*  
LEONARD E. MUDD, *Vice Chairman*  
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*  
ALVAN M. MORRIS, *Treasurer*  
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Parliamentarian*  
FRANCIS R. VALEO, *Historian*

## Serving Our Residents

### Mayor's Comments

*Melanie Rose White*

In just about three months, our community will celebrate the 20th year of operation for the Village Center. From the worldly wisdom of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, to the culinary critiques of TV chef Christopher Kimball, our Center housed a whirlwind of speakers, classes, and lectures this past year. And, in 2006, you can count on even more activities in the Center—more presentations, more discussions, and more special events.

In May, the residents of Friendship Heights re-elected all seven Village Council members who ran with a campaign promise to continue the outstanding level of programs, trips, services, and amenities that have become synonymous with our community. Working hand-in-hand with our talented and industrious Village staff, the Council has responded to many of our residents' needs and requests as we strive to improve the Village and to serve our diverse population.

Here are just a few examples—

- Bumping out sidewalks at the South Park Avenue/Hills Plaza intersection to improve pedestrian safety.
- Enhancing the safety and comfort of users of our free shuttle service with a new, more accessible bus.
- Getting the County to restore parking spaces on Willard Avenue.
- Preventing construction trucks from cutting through Village streets.
- Stopping a proposed condominium building at

South Park and Wisconsin Avenues.

- Developing more activities to appeal to younger Village residents.
- Subsidizing lifesaving CPR/defibrillator classes at the Center.

In the months ahead, you'll see even more improvements as we re-landscape Hubert Humphrey Park back to its award-winning form.

As we've often said, no Village programs, activities, or projects would be possible without your tax dollar.

Inside this report is the proposed budget for FY2007. Please be sure to read the "Treasurer's Report" prepared by Council Treasurer Dr. Alvan Morris on page 5. The budget proposes a tax rate of 4 cents per \$100, which is the lowest tax rate allowed by our charter! **The FY07 budget is balanced and fully funds all of the outstanding, high-quality services that you expect from your community.**

Many of you are probably familiar with the African proverb,

"It takes a village to raise a child . . ." As I attend meetings, listen to residents, and interact with staff throughout the year, I often think to myself how it *does* take a village . . . to make our Village *great*. On behalf of the entire Council, I thank each of the Village staff and every Village volunteer who works tirelessly on our community's behalf. We hope that all of our residents will continue to participate in Center events and will share their ideas and concerns with us during the coming months as we continue to serve.

I wish each of you a happy, safe, and peaceful year ahead.



***Our new intersection bumpout at South Park/Hills Plaza improved pedestrian safety.***



***Madeleine Albright spoke at the Center***

# 2005 Village Report

*Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager*

The Friendship Heights Village Council consists of seven volunteer residents elected by the community to serve two-year terms. All seven Council incumbents were re-elected in May 2005. Following the election, the Council selected its officers: Mayor, Melanie White; Chairman, Maurice Trebach; Vice Chairman, Leonard "Chip" Mudd; Treasurer, Al Morris; Secretary, Elizabeth Harris; Parliamentarian, Robert Schwarzbart; and Historian, Frank Valeo.

Assisting us in keeping the Center open seven days a week was our much appreciated group of volunteers. My special thanks to them and to our terrific staff (Annie Natali celebrated her 20th year of service in 2005!).

This past year we continued to work on repairs at the Village Center. A major waterproofing project was completed, including sealing the entire exterior of the building.



*Klara Dobrev (whitehouse.gov)*

## INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISITS CENTER

In June we were visited by the First Lady of Hungary, Ms. Klara Dobrev. Along with a delegation from the Hungarian Embassy, Ms. Dobrev was in Washington for the Race for the Cure (she was an honorary co-chair), but she also wanted to learn more about local government services.

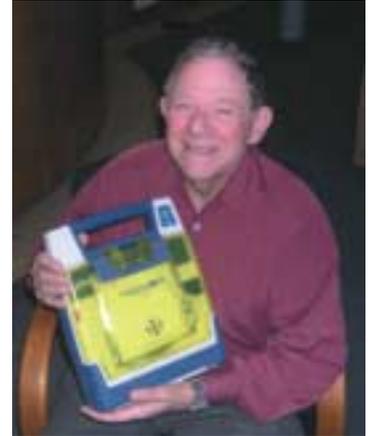
We held a special reception for her at the Center to provide an overview of how the Village government is structured and what services we provide. She told us that local governments in her country are not nearly as well established, but reforms have begun to decentralize government services.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continued our participation in various organizations of concern to our community, including the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Muni-

pal League and Montgomery Municipal Cable (the station that films and broadcasts many of our events). Mayor White, Bob Shapiro and I attended MML's annual conference, and Bob and I also attended the conference of the International City/County Management Association.

We also continued our involvement with the Friendship Heights Task Force (our Center hosts the meetings for the group) and the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (Len Grant and Capt. Pete Goldman, both residents of 4620 North Park, represent the Village on this Committee).



*Councilmember Alvan Morris initiated our successful CPR/AED classes at the Center.*

## "PROJECT HEART BEAT"

This year, an initiative by Councilman Morris created "Project Heart Beat." Through this program 140 people received training in CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator. The classes were offered at a very attractive price to everyone, but Village residents were able to take advantage of them for just \$5. This was made possible by a subsidy from the Rothstein educational scholarship fund. Rather than awarding money from the fund to just one or two winners this year, it was used to provide "scholarships" to the community at large to become certified in skills that are proven lifesavers. The Council intends to continue this program in future years.

## COUNCIL OPPOSES PLAN FOR CONDOMINIUMS

In October, after a presentation by Grosvenor USA Limited, the Council opposed a plan to build 90 condominium apartments above the one-story retail portion of the Holiday Inn property at 5500 Wisconsin Avenue. Concerns included the lack of a coordinated plan for the entire site (including the Holiday Inn), confusion over the construction timeline, disruption and traffic impact, and the inadequacy of the proposed public amenity. After receiving a letter the Council sent to the County Planning Board, Board staff decided to oppose the plan also. The developer then withdrew it from further consideration.



## NEW SHUTTLE BUS

In August, a brand new shuttle bus was put into service in the Village. A low-floor kneeling bus, it is fully accessible without having to lower an elevator lift. Our former bus (only a few years old) is still used on the route as a backup.

Our shuttle bus service, now 26 years old, continues to provide in excess of 10,000 passenger rides per month. It has been doing extra duty ferrying passengers to the Westwood Center Giant while the new Giant in Chevy Chase Center is being built.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE



The Field Office, also in Village-owned space at 4602 North Park Avenue, is a cooperative effort between the Village Council and the Department of Police. An experiment when it began in 1997, it has attracted increased police presence and visibility in the Village ever since.

## B-CC RESCUE SQUAD FACILITY

Since 2001 the B-CC Rescue Squad has operated a satellite facility at 4602 North Park Avenue. The Village is in contact with Rescue Squad officials to possibly expand the facility in order to provide additional response capability. Stay tuned for more information in the coming year.



## VILLAGE COUNCIL CORNER

In addition to the *Council Report*, which is issued periodically, the "Village Council Corner" debuted in the June 2005 *Village News*. This monthly feature helps to keep residents up to date on both Council actions and important issues affecting the community.

## "OFFICER MCAULIFFE" RETURNS

### AFTER PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CONSTRUCTION

The sidewalk and curb at each corner of the South Park Avenue/Hills Plaza intersection have been extended to reduce the length of each crosswalk and increase visibility. The crossings are now 12 feet shorter, and it is much easier to see around parked cars to check for oncoming traffic. Staff got this idea at an AARP conference, and learned that versions of it are being applied elsewhere in Montgomery County. Feedback from Village walkers has been very positive. Residents were also glad to see our police statue re-installed. He had been removed for safekeeping during construction.



**MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2006 (all Mondays): January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22; no service in June**

## MVA ON WHEELS

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Mobile Office is in its eighth year of service to the Village. Once a month the MVA bus parks on Friendship Boulevard next to the Village Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It provides all the services that are available at the MVA Express Offices, such as renewing driver's licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing MD photo identifications, obtaining disability placards, and returning tags.



***Pictured above (left to right) are Kathy Wiederock, Rea Dimler, and Sandy Bathurst of the MVA staff, who help to make the MVA bus one of the most popular and convenient services in the Village. Stop in and see them the next time you need to visit the MVA.***

## Chevy Chase Center nears completion

Construction at the **Chevy Chase Center** entered its final phase by year's end. Clyde's (below left) reopened last year and will have a new outdoor seating area this summer. The Collection at Chevy Chase (below right) features two buildings with luxury retailers on Wisconsin Avenue, separated by a small park. Most of the stores are now open, with a few more coming this spring. The finished project will also feature:

- A new 30,000 square foot Giant grocery store with pharmacy
- New neighborhood retail on Wisconsin Circle, including Chevy Chase Bank, Eagle Bank, Papyrus, Potomac Pizza, Galaxie Drycleaners, Gifford's Ice Cream & Candy Co., Perez Salon and Day Spa, a Montgomery County Liquor Store and Sushi-Ko
- An office building to be fully occupied by the Mills Corporation



Source: Chevy Chase Land Company ([www.cclandco.com](http://www.cclandco.com))

## Wisconsin Place under construction



Source: New England Development ([www.nedevdevelopment.com](http://www.nedevdevelopment.com))

**A rendering showing the new Bloomingdale's with office and retail buildings at Wisconsin Place. The Bloomingdale's is now under construction at the corner of Western Avenue and Friendship Boulevard (the existing Hecht's will remain open until the new store is finished). The site will also include a Whole Foods grocery store, a community center, underground parking, and pedestrian plazas throughout. A public park will be in front of the residential building (see rendering at right).**



Source: Archstone Smith ([www.archstonesmith.com](http://www.archstonesmith.com))

**A rendering of the new apartment building as seen from Willard Avenue and Friendship Boulevard.**

# Treasurer's Report

*Dr. Alvan Morris*

The proposed budget of the Friendship Heights Village Council for FY07 is included in this Annual Report for your information and review. It is based on a Village tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, which would lower the current tax rate by 20%. This proposed tax rate would be the seventh reduction in the last eight years. ***It is the lowest property tax rate allowed by our State charter!***

The Village remains on a very solid financial base with property valuations rising and strong reserves. One unexpected bump is that income tax revenue, computed with the assistance of the State Revenue Administration Division, is expected to be approximately \$40,000 below budget this year. The State mistakenly distributed \$83,000 to us last year that was not Village revenue. While they have apologized profusely for their error, the over-distribution still needs to be repaid this fiscal year. For FY07 we are using the revenue we were projected to receive for FY06 if this



over-distribution had not occurred. In keeping with the Council's "don't spend it until we get it" policy, we are not including the 5% increase projected by the State.

As I explained last year when the budget was introduced, we always try to budget conservatively. As a result of this, surpluses in other income categories are expected to more than make up for the money that the State will be taking back. Our FY06 revenues are still projected to exceed the budget estimate by \$120,800. Additional savings are expected on the expense side of the budget, leaving us with a projected surplus of \$229,100 for the year.

It is our very strong financial condition that allows us to reduce the Village property tax, one final time, to the very lowest rate allowed by our charter.

In order to make this presentation more informative to you, we continue the narrative we began two years ago. Since the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, the footnotes at the end should still be

consulted for more complete explanations. Public hearings on the proposed budget will be held on February 13 and March 13, 2006.



**REVENUES:** For FY06, State income taxes were budgeted at \$925,000 based on State projections. Due to the recapture of the mistaken allocation of income tax discussed above, revenues will be reduced to an estimated \$885,000. Although the phase-in of Village property assessments continues this year, we are not projecting increases but instead are basing the FY07 property tax revenue expectations on the FY06 assessments. This reduced figure includes the proposed 1 cent per \$100 reduction in Village property taxes. Due to increases in interest rates, our interest income is projected to substantially exceed the budget estimate for FY06. We do not expect interest rates to continue to grow as fast and are basing FY07 income on the actual amount projected to be received in FY06. All other revenue estimates for FY07 are basically static, resulting in expected total revenues of \$1,785,000, an increase of \$96,000 over the FY06 budget.

## **EXPENDITURES:**

**General Government:** This category has been increased an average of 6.4% over FY06 budgeted figures. Increases have been made in several areas, including salaries, benefits, and maintenance service.

**Public Safety:** The security vehicle is showing its age, and we continue to budget for increased maintenance costs. The vehicle will likely need replacement in the next year or two.

**Public Works:** It is anticipated that prior to the beginning of FY07, we will once again be paying the full cost of running our shuttle bus. During the period in which the Giant at Chevy Chase Center has been closed, this cost has been subsidized by the Chevy Chase Land Company. The projected increase in this cost accounts for substantially all of the increase in Public Works.

**Health/Education/Social Services & Recreation & Parks:** These categories all remain basically similar to the FY06 budget.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The FY07 budget represents a 20% property tax cut and brings our rate to the lowest allowable in our charter. We are very proud of this accomplishment! Even with the tax cut, we are budgeting a small surplus for FY07. We are pleased that once again, we can continue to provide our expected excellent programs and services while remaining financially strong.

# Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2007

REVENUES:	Actual FY05	Budget FY06	Est.ActualFY06	Budget FY07
Property tax <sup>1</sup>	\$447,216	\$361,000	\$415,000	\$333,000
Income tax <sup>2</sup>	1,046,863	925,000	885,000	968,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing <sup>3</sup>	85,171	85,000	86,800	85,000
Gas/highway tax <sup>4</sup>	56,209	70,000	70,000	70,000
Parking violation income <sup>5</sup>	176,522	135,000	200,000	175,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	16,800	16,000	16,000	17,000
Interest income <sup>6</sup>	46,492	40,000	80,000	80,000
Village Center rental income	17,002	15,000	15,000	15,000
Permit and License fees <sup>7</sup>	16,990	10,000	10,000	10,000
Newsletter ad income	35,745	25,000	25,000	25,000
Village Center program/misc income <sup>8</sup>	8,946	7,000	7,000	7,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b><u>\$1,953,956</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,689,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,809,800</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,785,000</u></b>
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY05	Budget FY06	Est.ActualFY06	Budget FY07
<b>General Government</b>				
1 Elections	\$4,464	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting <sup>9</sup>	13,662	12,000	8,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs <sup>10</sup>	6,832	10,000	10,000	10,000
2C Memberships and conferences <sup>11</sup>	21,239	25,000	25,000	25,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	13,325	15,000	15,000	15,000
2F Village Council reports	5,779	8,000	8,000	8,000
3A Salaries <sup>12</sup>	420,111	448,000	440,000	475,000
3B Health/Life/Family Benefits <sup>13</sup>	66,785	75,000	80,000	85,000
3C F.I.C.A.	32,434	36,000	35,000	39,000
3D Worker's Comp Insurance <sup>14</sup>	1,017	1,000	0	0
3E Retirement Contribution <sup>15</sup>	29,814	34,500	33,500	36,200
4A Xerox copiers	525	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	7,958	7,000	7,500	8,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	2,311	2,500	2,500	2,500
5A Public officials liability insurance <sup>14</sup>	2,095	2,500	0	0
5B Treasurer's bond <sup>14</sup>	2,543	2,500	0	0
5C Bldg/General liability insurance <sup>14</sup>	16,775	17,000	18,000	13,000
6 Telephone and utilities	38,381	32,000	35,000	36,000
7 Hospitality and special events <sup>16</sup>	17,473	17,000	18,000	19,000
8A Equipment and supplies <sup>17</sup>	10,534	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	2,195	5,000	5,000	10,000
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	2,478	5,000	7,000	8,000
8E Computer equip/supplies	2,156	5,000	5,000	5,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	26,638	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service <sup>18</sup>	73,979	85,000	85,000	90,000
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b><u>\$823,303</u></b>	<b><u>\$887,900</u></b>	<b><u>\$880,400</u></b>	<b><u>\$944,600</u></b>
<b>Public Safety</b>				
9A Security Patrol contract	\$96,836	\$105,000	\$102,000	\$107,000
9B Police Field Office <sup>19</sup>	2,020	5,000	5,000	5,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance	4,298	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b><u>\$103,154</u></b>	<b><u>\$116,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$113,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$118,000</u></b>



<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Budget FY06</b>	<b>Est.ActualFY06</b>	<b>Budget FY07</b>
10 Bus contract <sup>20</sup>	\$133,155	\$225,000	\$202,000	\$307,000
11A Street maintenance	0	5,000	10,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	0	5,000	10,000	5,000
11C Snow removal	34,291	35,000	35,000	35,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	2,500	2,500	2,500
12A Waste collection <sup>21</sup>	11,883	15,000	15,000	15,000
12B Recycling	865	1,500	1,500	1,500
13 Street lighting	9,652	14,000	14,000	14,000
14 Street signs	728	5,000	5,000	5,000
15 Trees	1,787	6,000	6,000	6,000
16 Villagescape <sup>22</sup>	8,738	6,000	10,000	15,000
<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>\$201,099</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	<b>\$311,000</b>	<b>\$416,000</b>
<b>Health/Education/Social Serv.</b>				
17B Health/Social services <sup>23</sup>	7,226	10,000	10,000	10,000
17C Housing Program <sup>24</sup>	5,330	5,000	5,000	5,000
17D Scholarship Program <sup>25</sup>	9,940	10,000	5,000	10,000
<b>Total Health/Education/Social Serv.</b>	<b>\$22,496</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Recreation and Parks</b>				
18C Lecture fees	1,876	2,000	2,500	2,500
18D Musicians' fees	25,293	28,000	28,000	28,000
18E Instructors' fees	(3,110)	4,000	2,000	4,000
18F Trip fees	15,539	8,000	8,000	8,000
18G Art/theme shows	2,628	2,000	2,000	2,000
18H Equipment purchases	0	2,000	0	0
18I Consumable supplies	4,066	8,000	6,000	8,000
18J Art supplies	111	300	300	300
18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners	11,318	13,000	13,000	13,000
18L Hospitality	0	1,000	0	0
18M Center special events <sup>26</sup>	23,316	28,000	28,000	28,000
18O Bamberger Current Events Series <sup>27</sup>	4,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
19 Reading Room Materials	3,417	3,000	3,500	4,000
20C Village newsletter	41,432	42,000	42,000	42,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity <sup>28</sup>	67	2,000	1,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	2,323	4,300	4,000	4,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint.	9,214	12,000	12,000	12,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint.	718	2,000	4,000	4,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	1,821	1,000	1,000	1,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint	0	3,000	4,000	4,000
21G Art fund	0	5,000	0	5,000
23 Landscaping contract	59,695	80,000	75,000	80,000
24 Arborist contract	14,929	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Recreation and Parks</b>	<b>\$219,153</b>	<b>\$270,600</b>	<b>\$256,300</b>	<b>\$271,800</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,369,205</b>	<b>\$1,619,500</b>	<b>\$1,580,700</b>	<b>\$1,775,400</b>
General Fund Deposit <sup>29</sup>	\$584,751	\$69,500	\$229,100	\$9,600
Capital Improvements Fund Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,959,956</b>	<b>\$1,689,000</b>	<b>\$1,809,800</b>	<b>\$1,785,000</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2,457,865</b>	<b>\$2,527,365</b>	<b>\$2,686,965</b>	<b>\$2,701,565</b>
<b>CAP. IMPROV. FUND BAL.<sup>30</sup></b>	<b>\$980,066</b>	<b>\$980,066</b>	<b>\$813,700</b>	<b>\$846,300</b>



## FOOTNOTES

### Revenues

- 1 The special tax rate for the Village of Friendship Heights (not less than 4¢/\$100 nor more than 20¢/\$100 on assessments based on 100% of value), set by the Friendship Heights Village Council, was 5¢/\$100 in FY2006, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2007, which begins July 1, 2006. Based on Montgomery County's estimate of assessable base of \$844,126,500.
- 2 Estimate reflects the portion of the county tax rate returned to the Village from state filings.
- 3 An agreement between the county and municipalities (including special tax districts) requires the county to reimburse special tax districts for a portion of certain expenditures, which currently include park maintenance, health services, and road maintenance.
- 4 This amount is derived from a state formula based on the number of registered vehicles at Village addresses.
- 5 Parking violation income is collected by Montgomery County. The Village revenue share is 75%.
- 6 Interest is from Village funds placed in a state-regulated fund established for local Maryland governments—the Local Government Investment Trust. Interest on the Capital Improvements Fund, included in the audit figure, is not included in the budget.
- 7 Permit fees are paid by contractors who occupy public rights-of-way (streets and sidewalks). By law, the fees defray only the reasonable administrative costs of maintaining the permit system and are currently \$250. Certain license fees are also received from the state.
- 8 Includes a percentage of art sales and commission from produce market sales.

### Expenditures

- 9 Includes the annual audit and financial statements required by law.
- 10 Includes taking of the minutes for the monthly public Council meetings, postage, and stationery.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues (approximately \$11,000/year).
- 12 Salaries of 5 full-time and 6 part-time employees. (The Center is open seven days a week and four evenings until 9 p.m.) Volunteers provide additional support to staff.
- 13 Covers costs of health insurance, life insurance, and other benefits provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Categories 3D, 5A, 5B, and 5C have been combined under category 5C. All are part of a package.
- 15 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 16 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and holiday decorations.
- 17 Includes general cleaning products, restroom paper supplies, copier paper, and office supplies.
- 18 Contract for maintenance staff at Village Center. Includes cleaning, minor repairs, setups and takedowns of equipment, streetcleaning, and 4602 North Park cleaning.
- 19 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 20 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance. Assumes cost will no longer be reduced by a subsidy from Chevy Chase Land Company as the Chevy Chase Center Giant store is expected to be open.
- 21 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week.
- 22 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on 30 streetlight poles.
- 23 Includes cost of 4-part program with Suburban Hospital and other health related services.
- 24 Cooperative program with county and Village landlord for transitional housing for one needy family.
- 25 To fund educational scholarship(s). Recipient(s) selected by the Council.
- 26 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 27 Continuing current events series originally established by donation.
- 28 Expenditures for all three parks (Willoughby, Humphrey, Page) are consolidated in items 21A-21F.
- 29 An increase in the general fund of \$14,600 is budgeted for FY2007.
- 30 The FY06 figure reflects expenses expected to be incurred for the Center waterproofing, sidewalk bumpout, and crosswalk Thermoplast projects. Neither the Estimated Actual FY06 nor the FY07 estimates include any future Capital Improvement projects. Potential projects may include, but are not limited to, additional streetlights. Estimated interest has been added to both figures.

# 2005 Program Report

*Jennie Fogarty, Associate Program Director*  
*Anne O'Neil, Associate Program Director*

Once again, in 2005, the Village Center was a hive of activity as residents gathered for classes, concerts, lectures, trips, and special events.

Ongoing programs included YMCA exercise classes, Great Books discussion groups, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish classes, Tai Chi, Yoga, art classes, Thursday night movies and Scrabble games, Wednesday night concerts, Suburban Hospital blood pressure checks, on-site nurse specialist, Vision Transitions, monthly art exhibits, University of Maryland's health insurance assistance, tax assistance from February to April, Coffee and Current Events, Walking Club, the MVA's Mobile Office and Twin Springs Produce Market from May to November. Monthly "special lunches" prepared by Jelena Koprivica of Brighton Gardens continue to be popular.



*The Bamberger Series featured Julian Bond in December.*

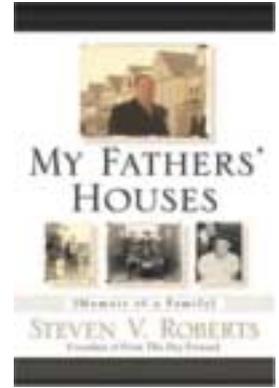
## CLASSES

A variety of exercise and movement classes were offered at the Center in 2005: Mat Pilates taught by Ginger Russell; Bones for Life taught by Hedy Ohringer; Fit Forever taught by YMCA instructors; Strength Training taught twice a week by physical therapists from the

National Rehabilitation Hospital; Tai Chi taught twice a week by Thomas Johnson; and, Yoga taught by Robin Dinerman twice a week. A "drop-in" Tai Chi class led by students was held once a week and the Walking Club continued to meet three times a week. In addition, Robin Dinerman held several "drop-in" Yoga classes, taking donations to the B-CC Rescue Squad in lieu of payment.

Several art classes were offered: Drawing and Painting taught by Doris Haskel, Still Life Painting taught by Joan Samworth, and, Portraiture in Pencil and Pastel, taught by Marianne Winter. Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, continued and were well

attended. A class in Conversational Spanish was added to the schedule this year. The instructor, Elena Marra-Lopez, is a Village resident and has taught teenagers and adults at Sidwell Friends School, Washington International School, Montgomery College and the USDA Graduate School. Café Muse, the monthly presentation of poetry by the Village and The Word Works, enjoyed another successful year.

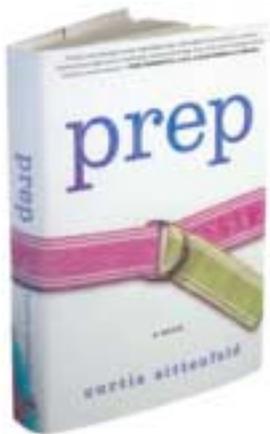


## BOOKSIGNINGS AND LECTURES

Authors who appeared at the Center during the year included:

- Veneeta Acson
- Madeleine Albright
- Maurice Atkin
- Susan Coll
- Betty Friedan
- Warren Getler
- Georgie Anne Geyer
- Linda Greenhouse
- Nancy Greenspan
- Henry Haller
- John Harris
- Christopher Kimball
- Bob Kinkead
- Malcolm Lawrence
- Margit Meissner
- Roland Mesnier
- Charlie Peters
- Robert Poole
- Steve Roberts
- Jill Scharff  
and Jaedene Levy
- Roy Sewall
- Curtis Sittenfeld
- Katherine Skiba
- Bruce Sklarew
- Jim Wallis
- Kenneth Walsh
- Jules Witcover

In addition to our monthly lectures on health, speakers included Baltimore's Mayor Martin O'Malley on the state of the State; Dr. Anthony Fauci on Avian flu and a possible pandemic; Marc Fisher on the media; Lesley Lee Francis on her grandfather Robert Frost; Susan Stamberg on her career in radio; John Prendergast and Taylor Seybolt on Darfur; economist Heidi Hartmann on privatizing Social Security; Nancy Roman on her career at NASA where she was the first Chief of Astronomy; Ron Shaffer (aka Dr. Gridlock); Kathy Ward on improving the quality of life; Kay Chernush on human trafficking; John Jay Daly on



**Curtis Sittenfeld came to the Center in July to discuss her bestseller.**

“Wacky Washington;” Rocco Porreco on the afterlife, as well as several seminars on identity theft, end of life choices, long term care and estate planning. Our Bamberger Current Events Series featured Julian Bond on the history of rock and roll as the history of American race relations.

### ON THE GO

Overnight trips included a journey to Pennsylvania to visit two homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Fort Necessity Battlefield, and two trips to New York City. In April we visited the MoMA and Tenement Museum and attended “La Cage aux Folles” and in December we rode the ferry to Ellis Island, enjoyed dinner at the magical Tavern on the Green and attended the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

Other outings included a day trip to New York to see “Spamalot;” a tour at the National Gallery followed by tea at the Mandarin Oriental; a visit to the Spy Museum after lunch at Zaytinya; a snowy afternoon at Ford’s Theatre with Mark Russell and lunch at Bistro D’Oc; an excursion to Alexandria’s Old Town; guided tours of the Pentagon, the BMA, and the National Museum of Women; lunch at the National Press Club where Sen. Barack Obama spoke on Social Security; a luncheon cruise on the Odyssey; a lecture-on-wheels with Anthony Pitch; a trip to the Leesburg outlets followed by an elegant dinner at Chez Francois; a shopping trip to Wegmans; a day in Atlantic City and another at the races at Charles Town; a day trip to Rehoboth Beach; a visit to the Museum of the Shenandoah with lunch at the Wayside Inn; and, a day in Annapolis with tours of the State House and



**Local artist David Daniels was one of the judges at our juried exhibition in July.**

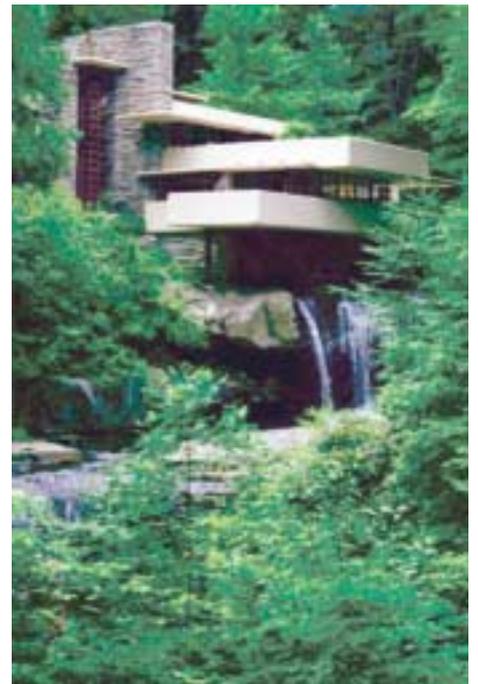
the Hammon-Harwood House and lunch at the beautiful Carrol’s Creek Café.

Villagers enjoyed watching our brand new team, the Nationals, and performances at the Strathmore Music Hall, the French Embassy, The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Wolf Trap; the Hippodrome in Baltimore, and the annual Hexagon show.

### CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series offered a wide variety of performances. Audiences enjoyed performances ranging from classical to Celtic to Cajun to klezmer, from big band to blues, from mariachi to new age, and the harp to the hula.

Outdoor evening concerts in Hubert Humphrey Park continued to draw crowds to hear music ranging from jazz from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz band to the USA Canteen’s swingband. The London Symphonette presented Saturday afternoon concerts in the winter, spring and fall, furthering a partnership with the Village to bring still more musical performances to the Center.



**In June we took a trip to see Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.**

### HEALTH

Issues of health and health care have always been of interest to Village residents. We felt very fortunate to be able to offer nearly 600 flu shots in the fall as well as 100 at the beginning of the year. Shots were administered by the Visiting Nurse Association. The Village Council instituted a series of CPR and AED classes called “Project HeartBeat” at a very low cost for residents. Suburban continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures. Vision Transitions, a support and edu-

cational group for people with low vision, changed its meeting time to evening and has attracted a loyal following. Murray West led a five-week course (for free) entitled "Improve Your Memory." AARP presented their Driver Safety program for adults over 55 in April and October.

### FOR THE KIDS

Our children's programs continued to gain in popularity. Our Village Playtime, offered each Thursday afternoon, brought more and more children to the Village Center. The year 2005 saw the introduction of Saturday Storytime, an hour-long program featuring songs, stories, crafts and snacks, led by local actress and singer Barbara Papendorp. This year, we also welcomed Flumpa to the Center, for an afternoon of environmental awareness. In addition, McCoy, the lovable Bernese Mountain Dog appeared to help tell the story of the "Angel in the Dog Suit."

This summer Camp Friendship brought Village children together for a week's worth of fun and games, including a puppet show, pool party, magic show and arts and crafts. In October, we held our annual Halloween Bash, bringing almost 100 children to the Center for an evening of tricks, and treats and games.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every year we host four special community events—a New Year's Day Open House, Community Day (celebrating the anniversary of the Village Center), July 4th, and Fall Festival (featuring a 1940s theme last year). These gatherings attract large crowds to the Center for a variety of food and entertainment. Part of the program also includes a special recognition for our tireless volunteers.

A few theatrical performances were mounted on Friday afternoons as well as a fashion show starring models from the Village. Two "yard sales" were held and one included a dog parade as a special feature. Village residents kicked up their heels during our evening square dance and ice cream social in June, and

new residents were treated to a welcome-to-the-neighborhood party.



*We visited Washington's popular International Spy Museum in February.*

### ART EXHIBITIONS

Millie Shott, our curator, once again coordinated a wide variety of art exhibitions each month at our Friendship Gallery. This year's exhibitors included (among others) the Washington Watercolor Association, the G Street Doll Club, the Watercolorists of Chevy Chase, a community juried art show celebrating the Fourth of July (cash prizes were donated by local businesses and given to the winners), and exhibits by Center art instructors and their students.

"A Holiday Affair" was offered again in November, which gave residents an opportunity to shop for unique hand-made gifts here at the Center.

### THANK YOU

As always, the staff wishes to recognize the support we receive from our dedicated Mayor and Council members, volunteers, and committees. Many wonderful Village residents contribute hours of their time to help create the very special environment that is the Village Center. Our special thanks to all of you, and we look forward to more success in 2006!



*"Wicker and Geraniums" by Judy Wengrovitz was featured in our March watercolor exhibit at the Friendship Gallery.*

2005 Federal income tax forms are available at the Center for Copying and Filing with the IRS. Search the index by subject or form number, and a staff member will make a copy for you. Normal copying charges apply. Call the Center in advance at 301-656-2797 to make sure the form you need is available.



**The Mammovan**, a mobile mammography unit from George Washington University Hospital, comes to the Village twice a year. The Mammovan offers on-site breast health screenings and consultation. It will return to the Village in 2006 on March 3 and September 26. Call 202-741-3252 to make an appointment.



### Notice of Public Hearings

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-2 of the Montgomery County Code (1984 Edition), notice is hereby given that the Friendship Heights Village Council will conduct public hearings on Monday, February 13, 2006, and Monday, March 13, 2006, at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Center, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, in connection with the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2007, based on an initial proposed tax rate of 4¢/\$100 assessed property value. The final tax rate will be determined after the two public hearings. The Village Council will vote to establish the tax rate for FY2007 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2006, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the initial proposed budget is available at the office of the Friendship Heights Village Council, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Any persons desiring further information may call Julian Mansfield, Village Manager, 301-656-2797, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Visit our website: [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov)



### The Council Report

The Friendship Heights Village Council  
 4433 S. Park Avenue  
 Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

## 2005 Annual Report and FY2007 Proposed Budget