

The Council Report

2009 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011



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*
LEONARD J. GRANT, *Historian*

Keeping the sparkle; controlling our costs

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

As a young girl, I would sometimes watch my beloved grandmother look at herself in the mirror, pat her stomach and proclaim, "I've got to reduce." After hearing that statement once or twice, I realized that "reduce" was Grammy-speak for lose weight. You don't hear folks talk much about reducing anymore. It sounds so quaint nowadays—at a time when most people can rattle off their body mass index or recite the number of fat grams in an Oreo.

Just as there's more than one way to say you're dropping some pounds, there are lots of ways to say our Village budget has become leaner.

Whether you call it belt tightening, cost-cutting, economizing, or something else, it's clear that the Village budget for FY 2011 reflects the recession that has so deeply impacted our nation's finances. About a month ago, a few members of the Village Council and staff mentioned to Maryland Delegate Susan Lee that Friendship Heights was facing a deficit budget—the first in a number of years. She wasn't too surprised to hear about the deficit, but she was amazed that the Village has not only managed to keep its budget balanced for so many years running, but has usually produced a surplus. Although we do anticipate a deficit, it's easy to see that our Village remains in excellent financial shape.



A blizzard buried our statue in Humphrey Park.

Photo by Alvan Morris

As you read through this Annual Report and review the proposed budget, I think you'll find that most of what makes Friendship Heights such a jewel in Montgomery County—our programs, services, and amenities—is intact. By comparing the numbers on pages 6 and 7, you can see where we've made reductions. Despite some cut-

backs, we'll still offer a comprehensive and wide array of activities at the Village Center, and we'll continue to oversee the Village with the same diligence that has helped us create such a standout community. **All while keeping your tax rate (4 cents per \$100) at the lowest amount allowable by the Village charter.**

One of those amenities that is vital to our community is the Village shuttle bus. After waiting a year for manufacturing, residents are finally able to enjoy our new vehicle. Thank you for being so patient! If you haven't



The Friendship Heights Village Council: (Seated left to right) Maurice Trebach; Melanie Rose White; Elizabeth Demetra Harris; (standing left to right) Leonard Mudd; Leonard Grant; Robert Schwarzbart; Alvan Morris.

already done so, please take a ride and let us know what you think. And, as always, feel free to share your comments and opinions about the proposed budget or any other aspect of our Village operations with the Council and staff.

On behalf of the Council and the entire community, I thank our hardworking staff for their efforts to keep Friendship Heights financially stable. Their ongoing fiscal prudence is the major reason why the Village is able to operate so comfortably—and even to shine—as we pull in the reins a bit in these tough economic times.

I wish you all a peaceful and healthy New Year and hope that you'll stop by the Village Center soon to enjoy some of the wonderful events our community offers.

2009 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

The all-volunteer Friendship Heights Village Council was unanimously re-elected in May for a two-year term. Each Council member serves as an officer: Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Maurice Trebach, Chairman; Leonard "Chip" Mudd, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Harris, Secretary; Alvan Morris, Treasurer; Robert Schwarzbart, Parliamentarian; and Leonard Grant, Historian.

We rely on a large number of volunteers from the community to help us at the Village Center every day. My special thanks to them and to our wonderful staff.

DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

As Mayor White points out in her report, and Councilman Al Morris discusses in his Treasurer's Report, the Village has not escaped the recession that has played havoc with our economy. The Council's attitude, however, which is echoed by the staff, is to do the very best we can to mitigate any effects on our services to Village residents.

Our effort has been to work smarter wherever we can. We have analyzed each Village program and contract to find ways to cut costs without unduly affecting the benefits provided. While income is less in our control, where possible we have looked for additional income, and, as always, keep a close eye on our receipts. It often seems that government goes right for the most popular services when making cuts. Our goal is to make the necessary belt tightening as invisible as possible.

We are very fortunate that, over the years, when we have had extra money we saved it rather than looking for additional ways to spend it. When the rainy days come, and they always do, this conservative approach gives us the ability to weather the storm.



The Friendship Heights Post Office will remain open.



NEW SHUTTLE BUS

Our new shuttle bus arrived at the end of the year, as promised (see photo at top). Built in California by El Dorado National, the bus is designed for heavy-duty use and features a low floor for easy access.

ROAD REPAVING PROJECT COMPLETED



Our road repaving project was completed with the installation of brick paved crosswalks with a durable concrete base and a concrete border. Our thanks again to Councilmember Chip Mudd for his valuable guidance and oversight. We have now finished all the Capital Improvement projects identified by our engineer in a 2002 infrastructure study.

VILLAGE WINS BATTLE TO SAVE POST OFFICE

Upon learning over the summer that the United States Postal Service was considering closing the Friendship Heights Post Office, the Council initiated a comprehensive effort to save the facility. We circulated petitions to all the residential and commercial buildings, helping collect more than 3,400 signatures. We contacted our elected representatives at the federal, state and local levels for their support. After a battle that took four months, the USPS ultimately agreed that our post office is a vital facility that should remain open. We thank all those who joined in the effort.

MVA ON WHEELS

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration unveiled a new bus in September. The MVA Mobile Office continues to be a tremendously convenient and popular service in the Village. The bus arrives every month on Friendship Boulevard, next to the Village Center, from 10



a.m. to 2 p.m. All of the services provided at the MVA Express Offices are available on the bus, including renewing driver's licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing MD photo identifications, obtaining disability placards, and returning tags. The terrific MVA staff on the bus receives consistent praise from residents.

MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2010:

- Monday, January 25
- Monday, February 22
- Monday, March 29
- Monday, April 26
- Monday, May 24
- Monday, June 21

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In June, all seven Council members joined Assistant Village Manager/Finance Director Bob Shapiro and me at the Maryland Municipal League's annual conference in Ocean City. Bob and I also went to Montreal for the annual conference of the International City/County Management Association in September.



A bloodmobile from Children's National Blood Center (part of Children's Hospital) came to the Village.

The Council continues to take a leadership role in the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee. Councilmember Bob Schwarzbart was unanimously re-elected as Chairman. Councilmember Len Grant also serves on the TMD Committee.

The County's Commuter Services store, TRiPS ("Transportation Resources, Information and Places to See") opened in the summer. The store sells Metro SmarTrip® cards, Ride On and Metro bus passes and tokens, and provides maps and schedules for the transit system.

Before the store opened, we arranged for Metro officials to come to the Center twice to sell SmarTrip® cards and to provide other transportation information.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Again, 2009 saw growth and changes in the area. A new Courtyard by Marriott Chevy Chase (the site of the



former Holiday Inn) opened in the summer following an extensive renovation.

At Wisconsin Place, the new apartment building opened, as did the Capital Grille and a number of retail stores. We look forward to the arrival of Whole Foods in the spring. The Wisconsin Place Recreation Center (see photo above) opened and has quickly become a popular facility. Run by Montgomery County, it offers a well-equipped weight room, full-court gymnasium and several large classrooms.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE

Now in its 13th year of operation, the Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue continues to provide a consistent Police presence in the Village. It is a partnership between the Village and the Bethesda District, headed by Captain Russell Hamill (shown at right).



COUNCIL THANKS ALVAN MORRIS

At our annual July 4 celebration the Council recognized Councilmember Alvan Morris with a plaque for his tremendous efforts to beautify the Village parks.



(Above and right) Beautiful flowers brighten Willoughby and Humphrey Parks.

Photos by Alvan Morris

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 sidewalk on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue (adjacent to the Wisconsin Place development) reopened for pedestrians.



2009 FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS AT THE CENTER

2009 Federal income tax forms are available at the Center for copying and filing with the IRS. Search the

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvan Morris

In last year's Treasurer's Report we said that 2008 was one of the most difficult economic years that our country had ever experienced. Unfortunately, all we really have to do this year is substitute "2009" for "2008." This has been another roller-coaster year. In spite of all of that, FY09 was a good year for the Village, as we said it would be in last year's Treasurer's Report. Our audited surplus last fiscal year was \$578,279. This was largely due to much higher than expected income tax receipts (more on that later). We also mentioned last year that "while we have been able to ride above the current storm thus far, we can not reasonably expect that we will remain unaffected." Also true. This year we felt those effects, and they will remain for next year.

Over the last three fiscal years (FY07–FY09), we added more than \$1,600,000 to Village reserves. We also were able to keep taxes at the minimum allowable rate, continue all services, and complete major capital improvement projects. We are in excellent financial

shape. This year, however, for the first time in many years, we are anticipating ending the fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$184,000. Our drop in income will be far greater. We intend to moderate the effect of that drop by reducing expenses wherever possible.

For FY11, a deficit is also anticipated, although smaller than what we expect to incur in FY10. Most



reports indicate that the economy is starting to turn the corner and is slowly improving. **While expenses have been trimmed, all important services remain, and the tax rate will stay the same.** This will mark five consecutive years of property taxes at the lowest level allowed by our State charter (4¢ per hundred dollars of assessed valuation). For a condominium with a taxable

assessment of \$500,000, this amounts to \$200 per year. The Village tax for an average unit in one of the rental apartment buildings ranges from \$61 to \$92 per year. The Council feels strongly, however, that even with our healthy reserves, we cannot continue to operate with a deficit indefinitely. If things do not improve, something may have to give in FY12.

The proposed Village budget for FY11 follows. This year the narrative is expanded from our traditional format. Even so, the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, and the footnotes at the end should be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories. Public hearings will be held on the proposed FY11 budget in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY11, income taxes are budgeted at \$900,000. Our fiscal year (July 1–June 30) distributions are based on the preceding full calendar year. In FY09 this meant our estimated distributions from the State were based on calendar year 2007, which was a good year for Village taxpayers. Calendar year 2008, however, saw incomes fall. Consequently, the distributions received in FY09 were higher than they should have been, and FY10 has been adjusted accordingly. This will leave us approximately \$250,000 below our budget. If calendar year 2009 incomes stay about the same as 2008, we should see close to \$1,000,000 in income tax revenue during FY11. If incomes drop 10%, however, we may only see a bit more than \$800,000. No one knows for sure what will happen. We have taken the middle ground and budgeted \$900,000.

We have based our expected property tax revenues on the assessed valuation as of December 2009. Interest rates were expected to stabilize this year. They didn't. We are projecting an average return of just 1% next year. Let's hope we beat that. Parking violation income is about on budget and was left the same for next year. Our Municipal Revenue Sharing payment was expected to drop in FY10 but did not. We have every expectation that it will be reduced by the County in FY11 when the revised formula is approved. Gas/Highway tax income dropped unexpectedly in FY10 after being cut dramatically by the State. We are presuming that it will return to normal in FY11. Rates for rental of the Village Center have been raised for the first time since 2001. Newsletter advertising has basically paid for the newsletter for a number of years. Small raises in both of these categories have been recognized.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category has been increased \$3,500 over expected FY10 figures but decreased \$41,000 from the FY10 budget. Insurance has been increased to \$23,000 to reflect the actual expected cost. No salary increases are projected.

Public Safety: The decrease in this category reflects the Council decision to tie security contract hours more closely to the hours that the Center is operating.

Public Works: The increase reflects the new bus and a potential increase in the bus contract. This has been partially offset by decreases in street and sidewalk maintenance. The streets were entirely repaved and many sidewalks replaced as part of the FY09–10 capital improvements project. We have already had high snow removal expenses this winter, but are budgeting more normal costs for FY11.

Health/Education/Social

Services: A Rothstein scholarship will not be awarded in either FY10 or FY11. There is a Rothstein reserve set aside on our balance sheet from a previous year in which not all of the budgeted amount was spent. This may be used for a more community based education project (such as CPR and defibrillator training).

Recreation & Parks: This category has been reduced \$86,500 from last year's budget and \$37,000 from expected FY10 expense, partly due to a reallocation of landscaping costs. A number of expenses have been "zeroed out." Trips and classes are now budgeted to at least break even. Our book and author series has often provided top speakers for both lectures and the Bamberger Current Events Series at no cost. We do not intend to incur additional speaker fees for these events in FY11. Nor do we plan to add to the Village art collection this coming year. It is hoped we can do so in the future.

The Village's strong financial condition, combined with careful management, will allow us to continue to offer our wonderful array of services while keeping the tax rate at its lowest possible level during FY11. At the same time, however, the Council will need to be mindful of overall economic conditions and how they will affect Friendship Heights.



Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2011

REVENUES:	Actual FY09	Budget FY10	Est.Actual FY10	Budget FY11
Property tax ¹	\$493,325	\$490,000	\$500,000	\$515,000
Income tax ²	1,441,152	1,150,000	900,000	900,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	86,993	37,000	87,000	37,000
Gas/highway tax ⁴	71,712	75,000	15,000	75,000
Parking violation income ⁵	193,003	200,000	200,000	200,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	18,200	18,600	22,600	19,200
Interest income ⁶	68,919	80,000	28,000	40,000
Village Center rental income	20,961	15,000	15,000	20,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	16,494	10,000	10,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	41,629	30,000	35,000	40,000
Village Center program/misc income ⁸	9,751	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,462,139	\$2,115,600	\$1,822,600	\$1,871,200
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY09	Budget FY10	Est.Actual FY10	Budget FY11
General Government				
1 Elections	\$4,277	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	9,337	12,000	10,000	10,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	8,989	10,000	9,000	9,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	36,303	27,000	25,000	20,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	6,793	15,000	10,000	10,000
2F Village Council reports	3,070	6,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries ¹²	546,388	581,500	581,500	581,500
3B Health/Life/Family Benefits ¹³	87,789	95,000	95,000	95,000
3C F.I.C.A.	43,040	47,500	47,500	47,500
3E Retirement Contribution ¹⁴	41,516	45,000	45,000	45,000
4A Xerox copiers	600	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	15,181	12,000	20,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	3,894	3,000	3,000	3,000
5C Bldg/General liability insurance ¹⁵	8,160	11,000	11,000	23,000
6 Telephone and utilities	56,311	60,000	50,000	50,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	18,525	22,000	17,000	17,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	12,243	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	590	10,000	500	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	652	10,000	5,000	5,000
8E Computer equip/supplies	11,515	8,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	32,536	25,000	20,000	20,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	105,115	110,000	110,000	110,000
Total General Government	\$1,054,624	\$1,127,900	\$1,083,400	\$1,086,900
Public Safety				
9A Security Patrol contract	\$104,814	\$112,000	\$102,000	\$89,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	2,998	5,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	10,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total Public Safety	\$117,812	\$129,000	\$118,000	\$105,000

	Actual FY09	Budget FY10	Est.Actual FY10	Budget FY11
Public Works				
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$343,152	\$393,000	\$393,000	\$420,000
11A Street maintenance	0	1,000	0	0
11B Sidewalk maintenance	0	1,000	0	0
11C Snow removal	28,709	45,000	65,000	35,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	1,200	0	0
12A Waste collection ²²	13,965	16,000	16,000	16,000
12B Recycling	2,588	5,000	3,000	3,000
13 Street lighting	18,722	22,000	20,000	20,000
14 Street signs	973	5,000	1,000	2,000
15 Trees	13,772	6,000	3,000	2,000
16 Villagescape ²³	16,673	21,000	21,000	32,000
Total Public Works	\$438,554	\$516,200	\$522,000	\$530,000
Health/Education/Social Serv.				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	9,350	12,000	12,000	12,000
17C Housing Program ²⁵	4,920	5,000	5,000	5,000
17D Scholarship Program ²⁶	(846)	10,000	0	0
Total Health/Education/Social Serv.	\$13,424	\$27,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	4,726	7,500	4,000	2,000
18D Musicians' fees	24,390	30,000	25,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	(1,602)	4,000	0	0
18F Trip fees	10,983	8,000	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	2,669	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	4,683	8,000	5,000	5,000
18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners	6,569	13,000	10,000	10,000
18M Center special events ²⁷	34,881	35,000	37,000	30,000
18O Bamberger Current Events Series ²⁸	4,000	15,000	5,000	0
19 Reading Room Materials	3,904	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	40,693	50,000	45,000	45,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity ²⁹	1,226	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	5,114	5,000	5,000	5,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint.	15,341	18,000	18,000	18,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint.	2,497	7,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	514	2,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway Maint.	1,178	4,000	5,000	0
21G Art fund	1,272	5,000	3,000	0
23 Landscaping contract	90,353	90,000	85,000	75,000
24 Arborist contract	6,055	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$259,446	\$315,500	\$266,000	\$229,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,883,860	\$2,115,600	\$2,006,400	\$1,967,900
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$578,279	\$0	(\$183,800)	(\$96,700)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,462,139	\$2,115,600	\$1,822,600	\$1,871,200
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$4,235,071	\$4,235,071	\$4,051,271	\$3,954,571
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCES³⁰	\$338,334	\$92,000	\$90,500	\$91,500
OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE³¹	\$263,274	\$243,000	\$244,000	\$214,500



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 4¢/\$100 in FY2010, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2011, which begins July 1, 2010. Based on Montgomery County's estimate of assessable base of \$1,298,624,519 (12/09).
- 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 state-authorized investments. Interest on the Capital Improvements Fund and the OPEB Trust Fund Reserve, 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 and conferences attended by Council and/or staff.
- 12 Salaries of 5 full-time and 5 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 and life insurance provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Includes Worker's Comp, Public Officials Liability, Fidelity Bond, and Building/General Liability.
- 16 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and miscellaneous hospitality items.
- 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, street cleaning, and 4602 North Park cleaning.
- 19 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 20 Cost of security vehicle provided by security contractor.
- 21 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance.
- 22 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week. A periodic community shredding service is also included.
- 23 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on streetlight poles.
- 24 Includes cost of 4-part program with Suburban Hospital and other health related services.
- 25 Cooperative program with county and Village landlord for transitional housing for one needy family.
- 26 To fund educational scholarship(s). Recipient(s) selected by the Council.
- 27 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 28 Continuing current events series originally established by donation.
- 29 Expenditures for all three parks (Willoughby, Humphrey, Page) are consolidated in items 21A-21F.
- 30 Reserved for capital improvement projects approved by the Village Council. No projects are anticipated in FY11.
- 31 Reserved for payments into Montgomery County Trust for retiree health insurance.

2009 Program Report

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

Art classes, exercise classes, discussion groups, Scrabble and bridge groups, movies, a farmers market, health programs, lectures, trips—there is always something happening at the Village Center!

CLASSES

The Center continues to offer art classes for all ages and skill levels. Acrylic or Oil Painting, Still Life Painting, Portraiture in Pencil and Pastel, and even Painting is for Everyone! In addition, in 2009, for the first time, Millie Shott (the Village art curator) offered both an art class and an art camp especially designed for children.

Exercise classes remain in demand, and we offered a variety of them:

- **Chair Exercise and Balance**
- **Chair Yoga**
- **Fall Prevention**
- **Mat Pilates**
- **OASIS Resistance Training for Seniors**
- **Strength Training**
- **Tai Chi**
- **Walking Club**
- **YMCA Fit 4-Ever**
- **Yoga**



Tai Chi is a popular class at the Village Center.

Photo by Gwen Lewis

Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, Conversational Spanish, taught by Elena Marra-Lopez, and Yiddish continued and were well attended.



Residents enjoyed a trip to Chicago in October that included stops in Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

BOOK SIGNINGS AND BAMBERGER LECTURES

We celebrated President Lincoln's bicentennial with several programs: Elizabeth Brownstein on Lincoln's Life in Music; Anthony Pitch on the many plots against President Lincoln; and, William Bodde on Lincoln's Civil War diplomacy. Other speakers included Bronwyn Belling on reverse mortgages; James Thurber on President Obama's first 100 days; Ann Lewis on the 2008 campaign; Joan Hart on Frida Kahlo; William Bodde on Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs; Elizabeth Macauley Lewis on Roman gardens; Lisa Throckmorton with an introduction to Facebook and a second talk on technology; Paula Stone on first loves; Gary Walters on his career as Chief White House Usher; Robert McCartney on local issues; Capt. Victor Delano on Pearl Harbor; and, the late George Michael on his long career in broadcasting.

Residents also enjoyed afternoon entertainment by Maureen Ribble in two musical performances, Bernie Cohen as Groucho Marx, and Linda Kenyon as Julia Child. Café Muse, the monthly presentation of poetry by the Village and The Word Works, had another successful year.

The Center also co-sponsored David Frum and Susan Schwab with the Norman and Florence



The Bamberger Lecture Series featured former Defense Secretary William Cohen and Janet Langhart Cohen at the Village Center in October.



"It's a Glorious Garden" by Marina Baudoin was featured at the Friendship Gallery in April along with a group of Montgomery County quilters, Cloth & Chocolate.



We stayed at the beautiful Bedford Springs Resort, a National Historic Landmark located in Pennsylvania's scenic Cumberland Valley.

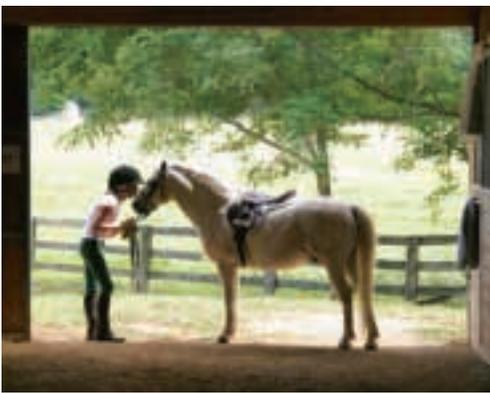
Brody Public Policy Forum.

Authors who appeared at the Center during the year included:

- Asoka Bandarage
- Richard Breitman
- Peter Carlson
- William S. Cohen and Janet Langhart Cohen
- Gail Collins
- Kirstin Downey
- Gwen Ifill
- Haynes Johnson and Dan Balz
- Ronald Kessler
- Steve Luxenberg
- Aaron David Miller
- Robert Musil
- Mark Ozer
- Tom Ricks
- Cokie Roberts
- Justice Antonin Scalia
- Mark Stein
- David O. Stewart
- Richard Wolffe

ON THE GO

Overnight trips included a visit to New York City in December and a 5-night trip to Chicago in October with stops in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Bedford Springs. Other outings included day trips to the Brandywine Valley, Montpelier in Orange, Va., Chestertown, Baltimore, the Virginia hunt country, Charles Town, and Rehoboth



We traveled to Middleburg, Virginia, in May for the 50th annual Hunt Country Stable Tour and saw a number of Virginia's premiere country estates.

Beach; visits to the Capitol and its Visitor Center, the National Gallery of Art, Hillwood, The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and, National Harbor. Villagers enjoyed Nationals baseball, dinner at L'Auberge Chez Francois, and performances at Wolf Trap, Hexagon, the John F. Kennedy Center, and the National Theatre.

FOR THE KIDS

The Village Center continued to offer a variety of programs for children, ranging from storytelling to splash parties in the park. In the spring, our Art in the Park gave children the chance to do hands-



on art projects with local artists. In addition to our Fourth of July party, the summer featured a week-long art camp for kids, led by our curator Millie Shott. In the fall, we put a twist on our annual Halloween Party. Kids dressed up and played bingo for great prizes. This winter, the National Ballet of Maryland performed highlights from the Nutcracker ballet, a perennial favorite for children.

CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series continued to feature the best of local and national performers. Audiences enjoyed



Cokie Roberts spoke at the Center in June.

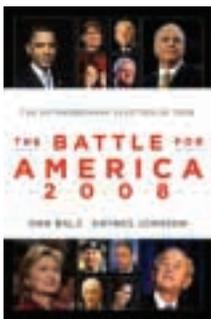


In September we visited Chertertown, one of the most historic towns on Maryland's Eastern Shore, for a sailing trip aboard the Schooner Sultana.

performances ranging from classical music by Richard Parnas, Li-Ly Chang, Robert Pandolfi, the Silver Strings and the Mendelsohn Trio, to contemporary vocal performances by Sandy Lederman, Minter and Minter, Vocal Express and Spice of Life. Jazz performances included concerts by the Robert Red Combo, Project Natale, and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Jazz Ensemble. The Dixie Power Trio, the Good Time Trio, Jack Stanton, and Ericka Ovette featured music ranging from Dixieland to Broadway to Songs from the Great American Songbook. International sounds scanning the musical globe included performances from Machaya Klezmer, QuinTango, Mariachis de Los Compadres, IONA, and Santi Budaya Indonesian Performing Arts.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Issues of health and health care have always been important at the Center. Seasonal flu shots were given by the Visiting Nurse Association in November and H1N1 shots were administered by the VNA in December. Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled, as always. The



Vision Support Group, a partnership between the Prevention of Blindness Society and the Village, continued with good speakers and fellowship. And Dr. David Sacks spoke on Positive Psychology in March. The University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service provides health insurance assistance to seniors at the Center.



Collage art by Wainwright Dawson.



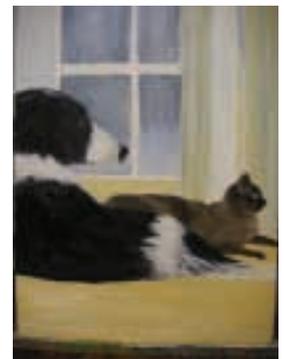
Our trip to New York in December featured a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our special community events—Community Day, July 4th, Taste of Friendship Heights, and New Year's Day Open House—were festive and provided an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have given their time to activities at the Center. In September the Center and the Friendship Heights Urban Network teamed up again for the "Taste of Friendship Heights." In November, residents enjoyed a dinner dance featuring the Emery Davis Orchestra and dinner from Geppetto.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. In July, we again sponsored a community juried art show, attracting many local artists who incorporated the Fourth of July theme into their works. "A Holiday Affair" was offered again in November and an "Art in the Park" was held in May. These artisan fairs gave residents an opportunity to shop for unique handmade gifts at the Village Center.



"Dog and Cat" by Leslie Sorg Ramsay.

THANK YOU

Many volunteers contribute countless hours to assist with the programs at the Center. Our special thanks to the Village Council, our committees (including the Program Advisory Committee, whose valuable input is always appreciated), volunteers and staff for their dedicated efforts throughout the year.



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

2009 Annual Report and FY2011 Proposed Budget



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RESIDENTS HONORED AT VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS



At our annual Community Day celebration on April 13, Mayor Melanie Rose White presented Community Service awards to Village residents Joel Schwarz and Rachael Schacher (see photo top left) for their work on the Taste of Friendship Heights events. On July 4, Village resident and centenarian **Rose Morgan** was honored (see photo below left with Congressman Chris Van Hollen).



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 8, 2010, and Monday, March 8, 2010, 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 2011, based on a proposed tax rate of 4¢/\$100 assessed after the two public hearings. The Village Council will vote to establish the tax rate for FY2011 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2010, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the 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.