

The Council Report

2004 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2006



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

Ninety Years and Counting!

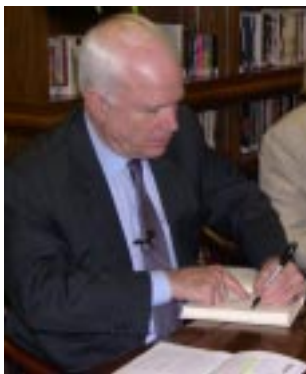
Mayor's Comments

Melanie Rose White



As our anniversary comes to an end, I invite you to count not only the decades, but also the *reasons* why Friendship Heights is one of Montgomery County's most desirable places to live and work. Inside this report you'll find updates on Village services and programs, an overview of our finances, a look at the proposed new budget, and other information.

Friendship Heights residents, circa 1914, would probably be stunned at the amount of traffic that surrounds our Village, and I often wonder if they would even recognize our streets. I do think they would



Sen. John McCain visited the Center in September.

marvel at the high number of outstanding benefits now offered to each resident—benefits that are paid for with your tax dollars. Who in 1914 could have envisioned a Village Center that attracts hundreds of participants each month to programs ranging from educational, to recreational, to health services (including flu shots!)? Our residents are offered an almost endless list of amenities from which to choose.

For a better understanding of how the Village funds these amenities, please take a moment and read Council Treasurer Dr. Alvan Morris's report. **The FY 2006 budget proposes a lowered tax rate of 5 cents per \$100, which means that your tax rate has been lowered six times in the last seven years!** The budget fully funds *all* of the outstanding, high-quality services that you expect *and* projects a surplus of \$69,500.

How many residents from 1914 could have imagined such a vibrant community housed entirely in high-rise buildings? Living in a high-rise presents spe-

cial opportunities along with added responsibilities, particularly when it comes to safety. My thanks to Councilman Robert Schwarzbart for his comprehensive work with Montgomery County on the Village Fire Safety Resolution, an entirely voluntary measure designed to increase education and awareness among residents on this critical topic.

For many residents, especially those with disabilities, the fact that we live entirely in high-rise buildings is what initially attracted them to Friendship Heights. Our efforts to make the Village more accessible were recognized in December in a national competition sponsored by the National Organization on Disability.

One of the services that the Village provides to make life easier for *all* residents is the shuttle bus. As I was riding on it the other night to the Westwood Giant, I started counting the months left until the Chevy Chase Center is completed and we can again take advantage of a neighborhood grocery store. As much as I enjoy the Westwood Center, I miss being able to dash over to the Chevy Chase Center on the spur of the moment. I'm sure many of you feel the same way, and we appreciate your patience during these months of construction.

In the meantime, I hope you will continue to give us your feedback on Village services and programs and that you will take advantage of the amenities that make Friendship Heights a jewel in the county.

As we look ahead, let me offer the thanks of the entire Village Council to the hardworking Village staff and volunteers. Your ongoing efforts make all of our lives easier. On behalf of the Council, I wish everyone a very healthy and rewarding 2005.



Our new bus shelter was a generous gift from the family of Ilse Hess.

2004 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

The Friendship Heights Village Council includes seven unpaid members elected by the community to serve two-year terms.

Our staff was stable throughout the year. Assisting us in keeping the Center open on its seven-day-a-week schedule was our much appreciated group of volunteers. My special thanks to them and to our terrific staff.

This past year we turned our attention to some much-needed repairs at the Village Center. The back patio was replaced and waterproofed, numerous leaks were fixed, and the entire exterior will be sealed. The project should be completed this spring. Our front desk was also fully refinished.

VILLAGE IS LAUDED FOR DISABILITY ACCESS

The Village was one of six finalists in the National Organization on Disability's 2004 Accessible America competition. The award recognizes communities that have made special efforts to create an accessible environment for persons with disabilities. The winner, the city of Pasadena, California, received a \$25,000 award. The other finalists in this nationwide contest included Highland Park, NJ; Indianapolis, IN; Miami Beach, FL; and West Hollywood, CA.

The Village was recognized for our efforts to improve transportation, with a disabled-accessible shuttle bus and pedestrian stop signs at every intersection, as well as the renovation of Humphrey Park to eliminate tripping hazards and upgrade lighting.

With congratulations to Pasadena, we can all feel good that our small Village was able to compete at this national level in so worthwhile an endeavor.



The Village was once again brightened with flower baskets on our streetlight poles.

Newsletter goes full color in March 2004

Adding full color to the Village News has made it more interesting to residents and more attractive to advertisers. Advertising paid for all of the cost of producing the News in FY2004!



Morris Louis, "Where," 1960

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our participation in various organizations affecting our community remained strong. I continued to serve as Treasurer for both the Maryland Municipal League/Montgomery County Chapter and Montgomery Municipal Cable (the station that films and broadcasts many of our events), and Mayor White, Bob Shapiro and I attended MML's annual convention. In addition, I served on the MML's Tax Duplication Committee that reviewed the formula by which the County reimburses local governments. We also are active in the Friendship Heights Task Force and the International City/County Management Association (Bob and I are corporate members).

NEW BUS SHELTERS

This year the Village added two new shelters for the convenience of the many riders of our shuttle bus.

The first shelter went up at the corner of North Park and Willard Avenues. This shelter was suggested by Councilman Bob Schwarzbart and is especially useful to residents of the Irene. The second shelter is located right in front of the Village Center. It was provided through the generosity of the family of Ilse Hess, a long-time and beloved Village resident and volunteer, and is dedicated in her memory. Besides being a nice tribute, the shelter is a welcome amenity to passengers who previously had to wait inside the Center for the bus.

We have heard many appreciative comments from residents who are enjoying the new shelters!

NEW WEBSITE

With the announcement in this *Annual Report* we introduce the Village's new, and much improved website: **www.friendshipheightsmd.gov**. We now have our own domain!

Friendship Heights first went on the web in 1998, and our site has constantly evolved since that time. The new site, however, introduces a number of new and

expanded features:

- Shuttle bus links to schedules for both the Village bus and the Montgomery County Ride-on
 - Community links to Montgomery County Department of Police and B-CC Rescue Squad
 - *Village News* current issue and archive
 - *Council Report* current issue and archive
 - MVA on Wheels information and link to Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration schedule
 - Links to developers of major area projects (Chevy Chase Land and New England Development)
 - Village parking policy and ability to pay parking tickets online through Montgomery County link
 - Village Center rental information
 - Volunteer application
 - Village Regulations
 - Application for Public Use Permit
 - Flyers listing current information
- Plus more! If you haven't checked out our website recently, please take a look.

B-CC RESCUE SQUAD IN FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS



The B-CC Rescue Squad facility at 4602 North Park Avenue continues to provide quick response rescue to Village residents and those in the nearby area. The Village provides the space which is equipped and staffed by the Squad. The "chase" car, pictured above, is a first-response vehicle and is followed by an ambulance to transport a patient to the hospital when necessary.



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 (as the adjacent picture shows!).



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.

MVA ON WHEELS

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Mobile Office is in its seventh 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.



MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2005: February 28, March 21, April 25, May 23, June 20 (all Mondays)

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE—Chevy Chase Center and Wisconsin Place under construction



Construction at the **Chevy Chase Center** continued throughout the year. The finished project will feature a new office building with neighborhood retail on Wisconsin Circle, two retail buildings on Wisconsin Avenue, a new Giant grocery store/pharmacy, and public parks. The entire office building has been pre-leased to the Mills Corporation, which will be moving its headquarters from northern Virginia.

Clyde's Restaurant closed in March and is expected to reopen in the summer of 2005 with new outdoor seating to follow. The two new retail buildings on Wisconsin Avenue are scheduled to open in the Fall of 2005, with the new Giant store opening in early 2006.

The entire project is anticipated to be finished in the summer of 2006.



A rendering of the completed Chevy Chase Center project as seen from across Wisconsin Avenue, with the new office building in the foreground.



Construction at **Wisconsin Place** (the Hecht's site) began last fall. The new Hecht's store will be at the corner of Western Avenue and Friendship Boulevard. The site also will feature a high-rise residential building, a new park on the corner of Friendship Boulevard and Willard Avenue, office and retail on Wisconsin Avenue, a Whole Foods grocery store, a community center, underground parking, and pedestrian plazas throughout.

The existing Hecht's store will remain open until the completion of the new, larger Hecht's on Western Avenue. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2008.

Shuttle Bus Rerouted to Westwood Center



With the closing of the Chevy Chase Center Giant in April, our shuttle bus began a new route to the Westwood Shopping Center, featuring Giant and other stores. A complete bus schedule can be found on the Village's website. The bus will return to its former route with the opening of the new Giant at Chevy Chase Center in early 2006.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvan Morris

The proposed budget of the Friendship Heights Village Council for FY06 is included in this Annual Report for your information and review. It is based on a Village tax rate of 5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, which would lower the current tax rate by 16.7%. *This proposed tax rate would be the sixth reduction in the last seven years!*

This year we are very pleased to report that the financial picture for the Village is much brighter than we faced a year ago. Projections for income tax revenue, computed with the assistance of the State Revenue Administration Division, are expected to exceed our conservative budget estimate by approximately \$170,000. These revenues were down significantly last year. Other income categories are also up as interest rates rise, parking violation receipts increase, and some state cuts are restored.



Last year our stated objective was to maintain all Village services without raising taxes. This year, because of our greatly improved financial picture, we are able to propose a budget which includes a substantial tax reduction while still maintaining all Village services *and* allowing for a healthy surplus. The lowest tax rate allowed by our charter is 4 cents per \$100. The proposed rate of 5 cents per \$100 gets us very close to this allowable limit.

In order to make the budget presentation more informative to you, we presented a narrative last year. As this format was received very favorably, we will continue it this year. Since the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, the footnotes at the end of the report should still be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories.

The proposed FY06 Budget is to be considered at public hearings held in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY05, State Income Taxes were budgeted at \$750,000, based on receipts last year. The good news is that the estimated actual figures are now expected to

be \$920,000, an increase of \$170,000. Although Village properties are being reassessed this year, we are not projecting increases in these figures but instead are basing the FY06 Property tax revenue expectations on the FY05 assessments. The budgeted amount includes the proposed 1 cent per \$100 reduction in Village property taxes. We are anticipating an increase in Interest and Gas/Highway tax receipts. All other revenue estimates for FY06 are basically static, resulting in expected total revenues of \$1,689,000, an increase of \$199,000 over FY05 estimates.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: These estimated expenditures have been increased \$48,000 over FY05 budgeted figures. Increases have been made in several areas, including Salaries, (which includes the addition of a part-time employee on the payroll, formerly paid as a contractor), Benefits, and Center Maintenance.

Public Safety: The security vehicle continues to function well. Since we no longer have a maintenance contract, however, we continue to budget for additional maintenance costs.

Public Works: Although a new bus contract is being negotiated, a portion of the shuttle bus cost will continue to be offset by a contribution from the Chevy Chase Land Company. This will allow the total bus expenditure to remain at less than the full cost of running the bus. The Land Company is obligated to subsidize bus service to the Westwood Giant until the Chevy Chase Center Giant is up and running. It is anticipated that the Giant will reopen in early 2006, but there is no guarantee that the construction will be on schedule. Last year we budgeted for a full year of subsidy. This year we are only including subsidy for the first six months. This may be more or less than the amount we will receive and is dependent entirely on the construction schedule.

Health/Education/Social Services and Recreation and Parks: These categories all remain basically similar to the FY05 budget.

HIGHLIGHTS

The FY06 budget represents a property tax cut of over 16% and yet still provides for an FY06 surplus of \$69,500. It allows the Village to remain in excellent financial condition, capable of providing the multitude of programs and services that we consider to be so important to our community.

I personally wish to thank all those who helped in the preparation of this draft.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2006

| REVENUES: | Actual FY04 | Budget FY05 | Est.ActualFY05 | Budget FY06 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Property tax ¹ | \$426,954 | \$413,000 | \$430,000 | \$361,000 |
| Income tax ² | 702,556 | 750,000 | 920,000 | 925,000 |
| Municipal Revenue Sharing ³ | 82,856 | 82,000 | 85,000 | 85,000 |
| Gas/highway tax ⁴ | 65,456 | 55,000 | 65,000 | 70,000 |
| Parking violation income ⁵ | 158,326 | 100,000 | 130,000 | 135,000 |
| 4602 N. Park Ave. rental | 16,800 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| Interest income ⁶ | 32,468 | 22,000 | 30,000 | 40,000 |
| Village Center rental income | 15,358 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Permit and License fees ⁷ | 13,335 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Newsletter ad income | 30,391 | 20,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Village Center program/misc income ⁸ | 13,702 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | <u>\$1,558,202</u> | <u>\$1,490,000</u> | <u>\$1,733,000</u> | <u>\$1,689,000</u> |
| EXPENDITURES: | Actual FY04 | Budget FY05 | Est.ActualFY05 | Budget FY06 |
| General Government | | | | |
| 1 Elections | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$0 |
| 2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹ | 8,354 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| 2B Administrative costs ¹⁰ | 12,005 | 12,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹ | 15,860 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 25,000 |
| 2D Legal counsel and consultants | 16,725 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 15,000 |
| 2F Village Council reports | 6,279 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| 3A Salaries ¹² | 379,011 | 410,000 | 415,000 | 448,000 |
| 3B Health/Life/Family Benefits ¹³ | 61,128 | 70,000 | 70,000 | 75,000 |
| 3C F.I.C.A. | 31,439 | 34,500 | 34,500 | 36,000 |
| 3D Worker's Comp Insurance | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 3E Retirement Contribution ¹⁴ | 28,751 | 31,000 | 31,500 | 34,500 |
| 4A Xerox copiers | (71) | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 4B Aquarium | 1,800 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| 4C Heating and cooling maintenance | 4,984 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 4D Bldg. security system maintenance | 2,321 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| 5A Public officials liability insurance | 2,060 | 2,500 | 2,100 | 2,500 |
| 5B Treasurer's bond | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| 5C Bldg/General liability insurance | 16,495 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| 6 Telephone and utilities | 25,231 | 30,000 | 31,000 | 32,000 |
| 7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁵ | 15,729 | 17,000 | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| 8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁶ | 11,508 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 8B Office and building furniture | 0 | 5,000 | 7,000 | 5,000 |
| 8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance | 510 | 5,000 | 2,000 | 5,000 |
| 8E Computer equip/supplies | 1,374 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 8F Center maintenance - repairs | 8,009 | 20,000 | 30,000 | 25,000 |
| 8G Maintenance service ¹⁷ | 78,650 | 85,000 | 80,000 | 85,000 |
| Total General Government | <u>\$731,652</u> | <u>\$839,900</u> | <u>\$838,000</u> | <u>\$887,900</u> |
| Public Safety | | | | |
| 9A Security Patrol contract | \$89,673 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$105,000 |
| 9B Police Field Office ¹⁸ | 2,358 | 5,000 | 2,500 | 5,000 |
| 9C Security vehicle maintenance | 3,301 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 6,000 |
| Total Public Safety | <u>\$95,332</u> | <u>\$111,000</u> | <u>\$106,500</u> | <u>\$116,000</u> |

| Public Works | Actual FY04 | Budget FY05 | Est.ActualFY05 | Budget FY06 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 10 Bus contract ¹⁹ | \$216,725 | \$155,000 | \$155,000 | \$225,000 |
| 11A Street maintenance | 4,867 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 11B Sidewalk maintenance | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 |
| 11C Snow removal | 31,448 | 35,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 |
| 11D Storm drain maintenance | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| 12A Waste collection ²⁰ | 13,578 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 15,000 |
| 12B Recycling | 1,023 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 13 Street lighting | 12,687 | 10,000 | 12,000 | 14,000 |
| 14 Street signs | 1,400 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 5,000 |
| 15 Trees | 0 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 16 Villagescape ²¹ | 4,649 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Total Public Works | \$286,377 | \$246,000 | \$248,000 | \$320,000 |
| Health/Education/Social Serv. | | | | |
| 17B Health/Social services ²² | 10,525 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 17C Housing Program ²³ | 4,920 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 17D Scholarship Program ²⁴ | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Total Health/Education/Social Serv. | \$15,445 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Recreation and Parks | | | | |
| 18C Lecture fees | 728 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 18D Musicians' fees | 21,474 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 28,000 |
| 18E Instructors' fees | (4,979) | 4,000 | 0 | 4,000 |
| 18F Trip fees | (5,289) | 8,000 | 5,000 | 8,000 |
| 18G Art/theme shows | 1,501 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 18H Equipment purchases | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 18I Consumable supplies | 4,046 | 8,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 |
| 18J Art supplies | 136 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| 18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners | 9,718 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| 18L Hospitality | 263 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 18M Center special events ²⁵ | 22,386 | 22,000 | 25,000 | 28,000 |
| 18O Bamberger Current Events Series ²⁶ | 1,500 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 10,000 |
| 19 Reading Room Materials | 2,573 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 20B Flyers | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| 20C Village newsletter | 30,163 | 37,000 | 40,000 | 42,000 |
| 21A Village Parks: Electricity ²⁷ | 59 | 3,000 | 500 | 2,000 |
| 21B Village Parks: Water | 361 | 4,300 | 4,000 | 4,300 |
| 21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint. | 6,225 | 12,000 | 10,000 | 12,000 |
| 21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint. | 786 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 21E Village Parks: Furniture | 465 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 21F Village Parks: Walkway maint | 0 | 3,000 | 5,000 | 3,000 |
| 21G Art fund | 625 | 5,000 | 0 | 5,000 |
| 23 Landscaping contract | 67,577 | 90,000 | 70,000 | 80,000 |
| 24 Arborist contract | 7,577 | 10,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 |
| Total Recreation and Parks | \$167,895 | \$268,100 | \$236,800 | \$270,600 |
| Total Operating Expenditures | \$1,296,701 | \$1,490,000 | \$1,454,300 | \$1,619,500 |
| General Fund Deposit ²⁸ | \$261,501 | \$0 | \$278,700 | \$69,500 |
| Capital Improvements Fund Deposit | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$1,558,202 | \$1,490,000 | \$1,733,000 | \$1,689,000 |
| GENERAL FUND BALANCE | \$2,176,948 | \$2,176,948 | \$2,455,648 | \$2,525,148 |
| CAP. IMPROV. FUND BAL. ²⁹ | \$880,368 | \$656,828 | \$656,828 | \$656,828 |

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 6¢/\$100 in FY2005, and is proposed to be 5¢/\$100 for FY2006, which begins July 1, 2005. FY2006 revenue is computed on an assessable base of \$732,000,000.
- 2 Estimate reflects the portion of the county tax rate returned to the Village from state filings.
- 3 Montgomery County reimburses municipalities (and 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 Pool. Interest on the Capital Improvements Fund, included in the audit figure, is not included in the budget.
- 7 Permit fees are paid to occupy public rights-of-way (streets and sidewalks), which defray 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 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and holiday decorations.
- 16 Includes general cleaning products, restroom paper supplies, copier paper, and office supplies.
- 17 Contract for maintenance staff at Village Center. Includes cleaning, minor repairs, setups and takedowns of equipment, streetcleaning, and 4602 North Park cleaning.
- 18 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 19 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance. Cost will continue to be reduced in FY2006 by a subsidy from Chevy Chase Land Company for bus service to Westwood Giant until Chevy Chase Center Giant store reopens. Existing bus contract expires in February 2005 and will be renegotiated.
- 20 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week.
- 21 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on 30 streetlight poles.
- 22 Includes cost of 4-part program with Suburban Hospital and other health related services.
- 23 Cooperative program with county and Village landlord for transitional housing for one needy family.
- 24 To fund educational scholarship. Recipient(s) selected by the Council.
- 25 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 26 Continuing current events series originally established by donation.
- 27 Expenditures for all three parks (Willoughby, Humphrey, Page) are consolidated in items 21A-21F.
- 28 An increase in the general fund of \$69,500 is budgeted for FY2006.
- 29 The FY2005 figures reflect expenses expected to be incurred for the Center renovation and utility undergrounding projects. Neither the Estimated Actual FY2005 nor the FY2006 estimates include any future Capital Improvement projects. Potential projects may include, but are not limited to, additional streetlights.

2004 Program Report

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

The Friendship Heights Village Center is home to the Village government offices, but since its opening in 1986, it has served as much more to the residents of Friendship Heights who gather daily for classes, concerts, lectures, trips, and special events.

Ongoing programs offered at the Center in 2004 included YMCA exercise classes, Great Books discussion groups, Italian and Yiddish classes, Tai Chi, Yoga, art classes, Thursday night movies, Tuesday teas, Wednesday night concerts, Suburban Hospital blood pressure checks, on-site nurse specialist, monthly art exhibits, University of Maryland's health insurance assistance, tax assistance from February to April, Coffee and Current Events, RSVP Knitters, Walking Club, the MVA's Mobile Office, and Twin Springs Produce Market from May to November. Two new groups began in 2004: Vision Transitions, a support group sponsored by the Prevention of Blindness Society, and the Red Hat Society, a purely social organization for women. Both groups plan to meet monthly.

CLASSES

A variety of exercise and movement classes were offered at the Center in 2004: Mat Pilates taught by Ginger Russell; Bones for Life taught by Hedy Ohringer; Fit Forever and Dance N'Tone taught by YMCA instructors; Strength Training taught twice a week by physical therapists from the National Rehab. 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



Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd came to speak at the Village Center in May.

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, a new class taught by Marianne Winter. Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, continued and were well attended. Rosa Weinstein, of the Himmelfarb Mobile University, led a five-part series entitled "American Culture Over the Centuries."

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:

- Joel Achenbach
- Anne Applebaum
- Matthew Brzezinski
- Steve Coll
- Maureen Dowd
- Sarah Erdman
- Thomas Hargrave
- Kitty Kelley
- Jim Lehrer
- Kate Lehrer
- James Mann
- John McCain
- John McCaslin
- Walter Mears
- Anthony Pitch
- Cokie Roberts
- Walter Shapiro
- Sally Bedell Smith
- Lila Snow
- Abigail Trafford
- Russell Train
- Evelyn Vuko

In addition to our monthly lectures on health, speakers included Michael Taft, head of the Archive of Folk Culture at the Library of Congress; Rev. Melinda Reed, who discussed the theological and historical questions raised in *The Da Vinci Code*; James Thurber, who discussed 2004's elections; performers Vivienne Shub



Kitty Kelley was one of many prominent authors to visit the Center.

and Naomi Greenberg-Slovin, who gave a talk on Tennessee Williams; Village resident Sam Solovey, who appeared on "The Apprentice;" Wendy True Gasch, an expert on the gargoyles and grotesques at the National Cathedral; and, Jim Gallagher, a former Se-



We saw the World War II Memorial in September.

cret Service Agent and currently a Federal Air Marshal with the Dept. of Homeland Security. Two programs on Medicare changes were presented, as well as several seminars on long-term care and estate planning.

ON THE GO

Overnight trips included one to Philadelphia, and a five-night trip to Jekyll Island and Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC. Villagers also enjoyed visiting the new American Indian Museum, Charlottesville, Chestertown, Annapolis, Longwood Gardens, Atlantic City, the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, the Walters Gallery, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. In December, 50 people enjoyed a visit to the White House to see the holiday decorations.

Other outings included tours of the Corcoran, the Library of Congress, the World War II Memorial, the Folger Library and Sewall-Belmont House, the Clara Barton House and Glen Echo Park, the Steven Udvar-Hazy Center, Hillwood, and two one-day trips to New York City. Villagers enjoyed the Orioles and performances at The National Theatre, Ford's Theatre, Olney Theatre, West End Dinner Theater, The Kennedy Center, the Capitol Steps and the annual Hexagon show.

CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series offered a wide variety of performances. Audiences enjoyed performances ranging from klezmer to classical, folk singing to free-form dance. In the summer, the outdoor con-

certs resumed in Hubert Humphrey Park. Performances included the red-hot sounds of Dixieland one week and the soothing sounds of jazz the next. We welcomed The Orioles and welcomed back Vocal Express and The Grandsons. Musical genres ranged from Broadway show tunes to rhythm and blues to Celtic hymns and Caribbean steel-band tunes. The Village Center also featured several lunchtime concerts by the Landon Symphonette, and several talented young artists performed special recitals at the Center during 2004.

HEALTH

Issues of health and health care have always been of interest to Village residents. We felt very fortunate to be able to offer almost 500 flu shots administered by the Visiting Nurse Association in three separate clinics at the Center (with one more to come in February 2005). Suburban continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures.

A 20-week course entitled "Active for Life" was offered to sedentary adults who would like to become more active. The program was sponsored by the Jewish Council for the Aging and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The GW University Mammovan conducted screenings in March and September, and the Affiliated Santé Group held depression screenings in December. Vision Transitions, a support and educational group for people with low vision, started up in the fall. AARP presented their Driver Safety program for adults 55 and better.



Rockefeller's Indian Mound Cottage, Jekyll Island Authority

In September we journeyed to Jekyll Island, GA; Savannah, and Charleston, SC, for a five-night tour.



In March we toured the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the new Air and Space Museum.

FOR THE KIDS

Our children's programs continued to gain in popularity. Village Playtime, offered each Thursday afternoon, brought more and more children to the Center. New toys were added to the Playtime toychest, including educational games for the preschool set. The outings and events offered a wide variety of activities: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Bob Brown Puppet performances, a Scales and Tales presentation, Dreamosaurus Puppet Show at Glen Echo Park, Songs and Stories by Barbara Papendorp, a trip to a pumpkin patch and a Halloween Party in October, animal stories by Ellouise Schoettler, and a trip to see the Alexandria Ballet perform "The Nutcracker" in an especially-for-children performance. We also sponsored "Camp Friendship," a weeklong summer camp for children.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our four special community events—Community Day, July 4th, Fall Festival, and New Year's Day Open House—were fun and festive and also gave us an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have given



Joseph Manigault House, Charleston, SC

A visit to Charleston, SC, was a highlight of our trip to the South last fall.

their time to activities at the Center. Other events during the year included a crab feast, a party for new residents, and the Village's first dog show.

SOCIAL

The Scrabble group continues to meet weekly, and Tuesday Tea has had as many as 40 people attend. Monthly "special lunches" prepared by Sunrise Brighton Gardens continue to be popular.



"Garden at Sainte-Adresse," Edouard Manet, 1867

We went to the Manet exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in May.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. In July, the Center again sponsored a community juried art show, attracting many local artists who incorporated the Fourth of July theme into their works. Cash prizes were donated by local businesses and given to the winners. "A Holiday Affair" was offered again the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This artisan fair gave residents an opportunity to shop for unique handmade gifts right here at the Village Center.

THANK YOU

None of our efforts would succeed without the dedication and hard work of the Council, our committees, volunteers, and staff. Throughout the year, the thousands of hours donated by volunteers help to create our very special environment. Sincerest thanks go to all those involved in programming: the Program Advisory Committee, whose suggestions and evaluations are so important; the staff; the volunteers; and the Council who provide support and encouragement.

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 14, 2005, and Monday, March 14, 2005, 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 2006, based on an initial proposed tax rate of 5¢/\$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 FY2006 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2005, 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.



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 on March 30 and September 28, 2005.



2004 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.

Visit our new website: www.friendshipheightsmg.gov (see page 2)



The Council Report

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

2004 Annual Report and FY2006 Proposed Budget