

# The Council Report

## 2007 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009



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*

### Getting It Right

#### *Melanie Rose White, Mayor*

In this season of presidential primaries, you can hardly listen to the news without hearing the word “change.” Candidates outline what they’ll do differently if elected, and in many cases these changes are better described as major overhauls. Here in Friendship Heights, making changes in response to our residents’ concerns and wishes rarely calls for drastic measures. Our improvements are less about reinventing the wheel and more about tweaking an already excellent system.



**Melanie  
Rose White**



**Maurice  
Trebach**



**Leonard  
Mudd**



**Elizabeth  
Harris**



**Alvan  
Morris**



**Robert  
Schwarzbart**



**Leonard  
Grant**

The Village staff and Council hear suggestions from residents in a number of ways. Some folks attend Council meetings and share their views. Others write letters or stop us in Humphrey Park for informal chats. We also receive regular feedback from volunteers who serve on our two main advisory committees—one focusing on Center programs and the other addressing the community at large.

During the past year, the staff and Council have responded to a wide range of residents’ requests—all in an effort to make our Village the best place to live in Maryland. We have

- added more current events speakers, as part of the ongoing and ever-popular Bamberger Series.
- planned activities for children and young families.
- coordinated customized trips with detailed itineraries.
- provided tastier refreshments for community events.
- designed more colorful parks, with flowers in bloom all summer long.
- fostered greater cooperation with county and state organizations and government.

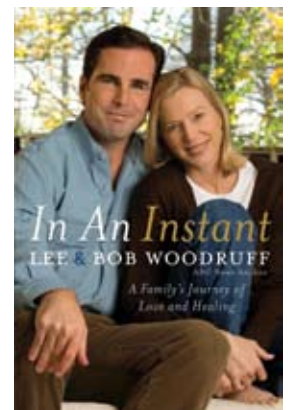
Even though our community is doing well, it doesn’t mean we stop trying to make it better. Former Councilman Martin Kuhn was quick to remind us all “to shine a lantern on a problem.” As we head into this new year, please remember to keep sharing your ideas for improvements and let us know what you think warrants a closer look. And, if you have suggestions for our county leaders, please be sure to join us on Monday, March 31, when Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett will preside at a town hall meeting at the Village Center.

Improvements such as the ones listed above and all of our programs and services are possible because of your tax dollars. To learn more about Village rev-

enues and expenditures, please review our Treasurer’s Report and FY09 Proposed Budget on pages 5 to 8. Once again, the budget proposes a tax rate of 4 cents per \$100—the lowest permitted by our charter. **The budget is balanced and funds all of the high-quality, outstanding programs and services that you expect.**

Our programs and services are also possible because of the ongoing dedication and professionalism of the Village Center staff and our enthusiastic and loyal corps of volunteers. During the past year we’ve seen younger residents step up to serve their community, and we welcome new participants in Village-sponsored activities.

On behalf of the Council, I wish each of you a healthy and rewarding 2008 and look forward to seeing you at the Center.



**An overflow crowd saw Bob and Lee Woodruff speak at the Center.**

# 2007 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. Each Council member serves as an officer: Melanie White, Mayor; Maurice Trebach, Chairman; Leonard "Chip" Mudd, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Harris, Secretary; Alvan Morris, Treasurer; Robert Schwarzbart, Parliamentarian; and Leonard Grant, Historian. All seven incumbent Council members



**More countdown pedestrian timers were installed around the Village in 2007.**

were re-elected in May for a two-year term.

Our dedicated volunteers help us keep the Village Center open seven days a week. My special thanks to them and to our wonderful staff. In December we celebrated work anniversaries for two of our staff members: Anne O'Neil, Associate

Program Director, 10 years, and Tracey Biagas, Front Desk Supervisor, 10 years. The Council also recognized our Mayor, Melanie Rose White, for 20 years of volunteer service to the community.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continued our participation in Montgomery Municipal Cable (the station that films and broadcasts many of our events) and the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League. Mayor White and Council Vice Chairman Chip Mudd attended MML's annual conference in Ocean City, and Bob Shapiro and I attended the conference of the International City/County Management Association held in Pittsburgh.

We also continued to host meetings of the Friendship Heights Task Force at our Center. Council members Bob Schwarzbart and Len Grant continued to represent the Village on the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee.

At the urging of the TMD Committee, Metro officials are modifying the

bus depot in order to accommodate larger buses. This will secure the long-term viability of the depot.

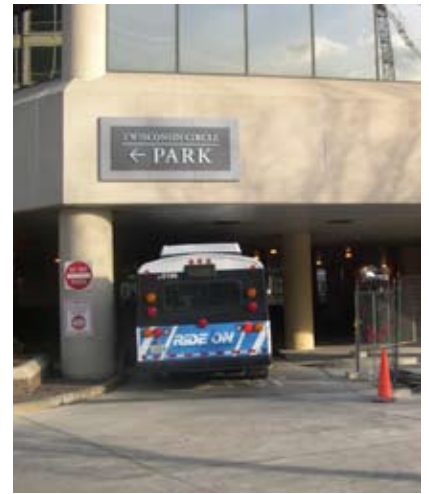
## TASTE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

In September the Village hosted the first ever Taste of Friendship Heights, a community festival featuring neighborhood restaurants providing "tastes" of their food.

About 1500 people enjoyed the beautiful weather and made the event a tremendous success. Over 8,500 food tickets were sold. Participating restaurants included Bambulé, Clyde's, Gifford's, Indique Heights, Lia's, M Café/Famoso, and Starbucks.

Our special thanks to the Friendship Heights Urban Network volunteers who worked with our staff to help plan the event, as well as to the volunteers who helped sell tickets that day. Thanks also to our two corporate sponsors, Geico and Chevy Chase Bank. The Village Council donated a portion of the proceeds to the NIH Children's Charities through Geico.

We look forward to another successful Taste of Friendship Heights in September 2008. Check *The Village News* for further details.



**Modifications are in progress to fit larger buses in the Metro depot.**



**Our first annual Taste of Friendship Heights event attracted a large crowd to the Village Center and Humphrey Park.**



Jordan Elise Webber

### ROTHSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP

The Village Council awarded the Robert & Sylvia Rothstein Educational Scholarship to Jordan Elise Webber. Ms. Webber, a resident of Highland House West, is in her freshman year at Spelman College in Atlanta. Students are encouraged to look for the scholarship announcement next summer.

### MVA ON WHEELS



The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Mobile Office is in its tenth 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. The friendly and efficient MVA staff on the bus—Sandy Bathurst, Rea Dimler, and Kathy Widerock—help make it one of the most popular and convenient services in the Village.



Red Salvia helped brighten up the Willoughby Park sundial.



Our hanging flower baskets, with wave petunias in larger pots, received many compliments throughout the summer.

**MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2008:**

- Monday, January 28
- Monday, February 25
- Monday, March 24
- Monday, April 21
- No service in May
- Monday, June 30

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE



The Field Office, in Village-owned space at 4602 North Park Avenue, is a cooperative effort between the Village Council and the County Police. The office marked its tenth anniversary in 2007 and continues to attract police presence and visibility in the Village.

### SHREDDING SERVICE COMES TO VILLAGE

The Village Council provided community shredding service for the first time in 2007. A truck from Shred-it came to the Village Center in June and November. Look for the shredding service to return in 2008. Special thanks to Council member Maurice Trebach for suggesting this service.



## IMPROVEMENTS AT VILLAGE BUILDINGS



*Several buildings in the Village underwent repairs and renovations. The Elizabeth (above) replaced the circular driveway, walkway and planters. A new roof is being installed at Highland House (left). The Carleton replaced the bricks in the circular driveway, and the South Willoughby began renovating the plaza by the main entrance. Also, after acquiring the Holiday Inn in 2007, Grosvenor is planning a substantial renovation of the hotel in 2008.*

## WISCONSIN PLACE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES



Construction of the Wisconsin Place project made steady progress throughout the year. The new Bloomingdale's store opened in September, along with a portion of the underground parking garage (about 700 spaces) accessible from Friendship Boulevard. The sidewalk on Friendship Boulevard and Western Avenue adjacent to Bloomingdale's was completed and opened to the public, along with new trees and streetlights. A covered walkway extends pedestrian accessibility on Friendship Boulevard. Meanwhile, the residential building (pictured above) continues to take shape, as does the adjacent community center and the Whole Foods. Scheduled to open in Fall 2008, the center will be run by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Also under construction is the office building on Wisconsin Avenue with groundfloor retail.

# Treasurer's Report

*Dr. Alvan Morris*

On the following pages is the proposed Village budget for FY09. Once again, it is based on a tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. **This retains the lowest property tax rate allowed by our State charter for the third consecutive year!**

The Village's solid financial condition allows us to maintain all of the services our residents have come to expect and still budget a surplus (\$51,600) for FY09. Our strong reserves allow us to continue planned infrastructure upgrades. These include completing our streetlight project and completely repaving all Village streets, including curb/gutter and sidewalk replacement as necessary.

Property assessments will be rising again in FY09. Additionally, income tax revenues seem to be back on track after a couple of volatile years. As was stated in this report last year, in FY08 we budgeted a conservative \$925,000 for income tax with hopes to do better. Based on State projections (\$1,200,000), we will. Even so, we remain wary, and are budgeting \$1,000,000 for FY09.

While we are conservative in our budget projections, we do our best each year to maximize our revenues and control our expenses. Consequently, we are projecting a surplus for FY08 of \$408,000 against a budgeted surplus of \$69,700. If you have read reports of budget woes on both the State and County levels, you can understand why it is so important not to count on income that may not materialize.

In order to make the proposed budget more meaningful to you, we continue the narrative format we began several years ago. Since the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, however, the footnotes at the end should still be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories. Public hearings will be held on the proposed FY09 Budget in February and March.

## REVENUES

For FY09, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,000,000 based on State projections. Although Village properties were reassessed this year, we are not projecting increases but instead are basing FY09 property tax revenues on FY08 assessments. While interest income is again expected to exceed the budget estimate for FY08, interest rates have been falling steadily. We

have therefore lowered our expected interest income for FY09. Parking violation income will likely be in line with our FY08 estimate and is budgeted at the same amount for FY09. All other revenue estimates for FY09 are basically static, resulting in expected revenues of \$2,052,000, \$111,000 over the FY08 budget.



## EXPENDITURES

### General Government:

This category has been increased an average of 6.2% over FY08 budgeted figures. Increases

have been made in several areas, including personnel costs. While the budgeted figure for salaries allows for increases in line with Montgomery County and federal employee raises, actual increases, if any, are subject to Village Council approval.

**Public Safety:** Our security vehicle is now provided through our security contractor. While we expect the cost of that vehicle to increase significantly, it should remain advantageous to continue this arrangement.

**Public Works:** We began shuttle bus service with RMA Transportation in February 2007, and the amount included to run the shuttle bus is based on that contract. There have been a number of equipment problems, however, and this cost may increase if a new bus is purchased.

### Health/Education/Social Services; Recreation &

**Parks:** These categories remain roughly the same, with an additional allowance for landscaping.

## FY 2009 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- **The Village property tax rate remains at the lowest level allowed by our charter.**
- **All Village services are retained.**
- **A surplus is budgeted.**
- **The Village remains financially strong.**

# Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2009

REVENUES:	Actual FY07	Budget FY08	Est. Actual FY08	Budget FY09
Property tax <sup>1</sup>	\$400,225	\$415,000	\$440,000	\$455,000
Income tax <sup>2</sup>	952,992	925,000	1,200,000	1,000,000
Municipal revenue sharing <sup>3</sup>	86,993	87,000	87,000	87,000
Gas/highway tax <sup>4</sup>	73,058	70,000	80,000	80,000
Parking violation income <sup>5</sup>	221,264	230,000	230,000	230,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	17,350	17,000	18,000	18,000
Interest income <sup>6</sup>	163,517	140,000	160,000	117,000
Village Center rental income	12,794	15,000	15,000	15,000
Permit and license fees <sup>7</sup>	13,769	10,000	10,000	10,000
Newsletter ad income	46,423	25,000	30,000	30,000
Village Center program/misc. income <sup>8</sup>	11,633	7,000	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,000,018</b>	<b>\$1,941,000</b>	<b>\$2,280,000</b>	<b>\$2,052,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>Actual FY07</b>	<b>Budget FY08</b>	<b>Est. Actual FY08</b>	<b>Budget FY09</b>
<b>General Government</b>				
1 Elections	\$4,356	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting <sup>9</sup>	8,442	12,000	10,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs <sup>10</sup>	6,287	10,000	10,000	10,000
2C Memberships and conferences <sup>11</sup>	20,691	27,000	27,000	27,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	8,771	15,000	15,000	15,000
2F Village Council reports	3,160	8,000	6,000	8,000
3A Salaries <sup>12</sup>	472,903	506,000	506,000	546,000
3B Health/life/family benefits <sup>13</sup>	78,645	85,000	82,000	90,000
3C F.I.C.A.	37,814	41,000	41,000	45,000
3E Retirement contribution <sup>14</sup>	36,060	38,400	38,400	42,000
4A Xerox copiers	644	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	11,695	10,000	11,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	2,465	3,000	3,000	3,000
5C Bldg./general liability insurance <sup>15</sup>	12,930	11,000	11,000	8,500
6 Telephone and utilities	50,964	50,000	50,000	50,000
7 Hospitality and special events <sup>16</sup>	20,590	20,000	20,000	20,000
8A Equipment and supplies <sup>17</sup>	11,879	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	3,574	10,000	10,000	10,000
8E Computer equip./supplies	3,981	5,000	5,000	5,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	14,937	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service <sup>18</sup>	90,926	95,000	95,000	100,000
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>\$903,514</b>	<b>\$999,300</b>	<b>\$993,300</b>	<b>\$1,061,400</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>				
9A Security patrol contract	\$88,243	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$107,000
9B Police Field Office <sup>19</sup>	2,339	5,000	5,000	5,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance <sup>20</sup>	4,800	10,000	8,000	10,000
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>\$95,382</b>	<b>\$122,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$122,000</b>

<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Actual FY07</b>	<b>Budget FY08</b>	<b>Est. Actual FY08</b>	<b>Budget FY09</b>
10 Bus contract <sup>21</sup>	\$282,686	\$330,000	\$322,000	\$337,000
11A Street maintenance	5,750	10,000	10,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	0	5,000	10,000	10,000
11C Snow removal	42,212	35,000	42,000	45,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	2,500	2,500	2,500
12A Waste collection <sup>22</sup>	13,863	15,000	15,000	16,000
12B Recycling	3,522	1,500	4,000	5,000
13 Street lighting	19,745	18,000	18,000	20,000
14 Street signs	1,288	5,000	5,000	5,000
15 Trees	3,500	6,000	6,000	6,000
16 Villagescape <sup>23</sup>	16,632	21,000	21,000	21,000
<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>\$389,198</b>	<b>\$449,000</b>	<b>\$455,500</b>	<b>\$477,500</b>
<b>Health/Education/Social Serv.</b>				
17B Health/social services <sup>24</sup>	9,584	10,000	12,000	12,000
17C Housing program <sup>25</sup>	4,920	5,000	5,000	5,000
17D Scholarship program <sup>26</sup>	7,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Health/Education/Social Serv.</b>	<b>\$21,504</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>
<b>Recreation and Parks</b>				
18C Lecture fees	3,375	5,000	5,000	7,500
18D Musicians' fees	23,615	28,000	28,000	30,000
18E Instructors' fees	(4,976)	4,000	0	4,000
18F Trip fees	(15,864)	8,000	8,000	8,000
18G Art/theme shows	2,794	2,000	2,500	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	3,167	8,000	6,000	8,000
18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners	8,857	13,000	13,000	13,000
18L Hospitality	99	0	0	0
18M Center special events <sup>27</sup>	26,688	30,000	30,000	35,000
18O Bamberger Current Events Series <sup>28</sup>	6,250	10,000	15,000	15,000
19 Reading Room materials	3,225	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	40,570	42,000	42,000	45,000
21A Village parks: Electricity <sup>29</sup>	1,114	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village parks: Water	8,546	4,000	5,000	5,000
21C Village parks: Fountain maint.	9,229	12,000	15,000	15,000
21D Village parks: Lighting maint.	16,953	4,000	7,000	7,000
21E Village parks: Furniture	1,758	1,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village parks: Walkway maint.	0	4,000	1,000	4,000
21G Art fund	683	5,000	5,000	5,000
23 Landscaping contract	68,732	80,000	80,000	90,000
24 Arborist contract	1,800	10,000	5,000	10,000
<b>Total Recreation and Parks</b>	<b>\$206,615</b>	<b>\$276,000</b>	<b>\$275,500</b>	<b>\$312,500</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,616,213</b>	<b>\$1,871,300</b>	<b>\$1,871,300</b>	<b>\$2,000,400</b>
General Fund Deposit <sup>30</sup>	\$383,805	\$69,700	\$408,700	\$51,600
Capital Improvements Fund Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,000,018</b>	<b>\$1,941,000</b>	<b>\$2,280,000</b>	<b>\$2,052,000</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$3,289,758</b>	<b>\$3,359,458</b>	<b>\$3,698,458</b>	<b>\$3,750,058</b>
<b>CAP. IMPROV. FUND BAL.</b> <sup>31</sup>	<b>\$1,016,348</b>	<b>\$1,101,329</b>	<b>\$1,050,000</b>	<b>\$1,084,000</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 4¢/\$100 in FY2008, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2009, which begins July 1, 2008. Based on Montgomery County's estimate of assessable base of \$1,156,986,083 (10/07).
- 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. In order to tie this to the audit figure, rental deposits (\$3,883) have been included. This is an error as rental deposits are not income unless forfeited.

### 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 \$14,000/year).
- 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 insurance, life insurance, and other benefits provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Includes Worker's Compensation, Public Officials Liability, Fidelity Bond, and Building/General Liability.
- 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, 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 community shredding service, twice per year, 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 An increase in the general fund of \$51,600 is budgeted for FY2009.
- 31 Neither the Estimated Actual FY08 nor the FY09 estimates include any future Capital Improvement projects. Planned projects include additional streetlights and road repaving. Bids for these projects have not yet been received. Estimated interest has been added to both figures.



## 2007 Program Report

*Jennie Fogarty, Associate Program Director*

*Anne O'Neil, Associate Program Director*

The past year was as busy as ever at the Friendship Heights Village Center with classes, concerts, lectures, trips, and special events.

Ongoing programs offered at the Center in 2007 included YMCA exercise classes; Great Books discussion groups; Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish classes; Tai Chi; yoga; art classes; Thursday night movies; book signings; poetry readings; Scrabble and bridge groups; Wednesday night concerts; Suburban Hospital blood pressure checks; on-site nurse specialist; vision support group; 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.



**Former Ambassador and Congresswoman Connie Morella spoke at the Center.**

### CLASSES

A variety of exercise and movement classes were offered at the Center in 2007: Mat Pilates taught by Ginger Russell; Bones for Life taught by Hedy Ohringer; Fit Forever taught by YMCA instructors; Strength Training taught by Tonya Walton and Cheryl Clark; Tai Chi taught by Thomas Johnson; Yoga taught by Robin Dinerman; and, Chair Yoga, a new class this year, taught by Louisa Klein. 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. We also gave some space



**"Insight—Doorways to Heaven" by Joel Hoffman was featured in a Friendship Gallery photography exhibition.**



**The G Street Doll Club displayed its creative dolls at the Friendship Gallery in April.**

to OASIS, which moved this year from Lord and Taylor to Montgomery Mall, for two exercise classes. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled, as always.

Several art classes were offered: Drawing and Painting and Acrylic or Oil Painting taught by Doris Haskel; Still Life Painting taught by Joan Samworth; Chinese Brush Painting taught by Helene McCarthy; and, Portraiture in Pencil and Pastel, taught by Marianne Winter. Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Conversational Spanish, taught by Elena Marra-Lopez, continued and were well attended. Café Muse, the monthly presentation of poetry by the Village and The Word Works, enjoyed another successful year.

### BOOK SIGNINGS AND LECTURES

In addition to our monthly Suburban Hospital lectures on health, speakers included Murray Horwitz on "summer blockbusters"; Arch Campbell on retirement; Dana Priest on Walter Reed Medical Center; David Saperstein on faith and politics; Dr. David Sacks on positive psychology; Dr. Paul Seder on weight management; Janet Dechary on global warming; Terri Rodda on balance and fall prevention; Eleanor Stoddard on WWII nurse Lt. Col. Nola Forrest; Lee Hamilton on the Iraq Study Group; Betty Bigombe on Uganda; Dr. Joann Boughman and Judith Benkendorf on genetics and disease; Candace Ridington in a one-woman



**Chef Michel Richard talked about his book at the Center.**



*We spent two days in charming Cape May last May.*

show on Emily Dickinson; Joan Hart on Renoir; Connie Morella on Europe-U.S. relations; and, Ed Fritz on Alexander Hamilton. "Talk and Tea," a new Friday afternoon activity, began in the fall. Invited speakers lecture on various subjects, and tea and cookies are served afterward.

Authors who appeared at the Center included:

- Laura Cohen Apelbaum
- David Brooks
- Bob Deans
- Tom DeFrank
- Saidiya Hartman
- Sanford Horwitt
- David Ignatius
- Barbara Kantrowitz
- Pat Wingert Kelly
- Walter Isaacson
- Edward P. Jones
- Andrea Mitchell
- Martha Raddatz
- Michel Richard
- Bob and Lee Woodruff

*Photo by Ken Barnhart*



*Our annual July 4 celebration featured the always popular train ride around Humphrey Park.*

## ON THE GO

Overnight trips included visits to Philadelphia in March and Cape May and Atlantic City in May, a five-night

trip to Newport, Rhode Island, and Mystic, Conn., in October, and the annual December trip to New York City for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Other outings included day trips to Charles Town, Philadelphia, and Rehoboth Beach; a shopping trip to Wegmans; a dinner out at the Washington Club; visits to the National Gallery of Art, the Marine Museum, the National Aquarium, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the National Arboretum, Mount Vernon, the Koshland Science Museum, and the Kreeger and Katzen Museums.

Villagers enjoyed the Nationals and performances at Strathmore Music Center, Toby's Dinner Theatre, Wolf Trap, the National Theatre, the Kennedy Center, and Olney Theatre.



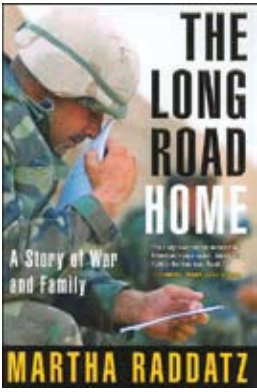
*In June we spent a day visiting Mount Vernon.*

## CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series offered a wide variety of performances.

Audiences enjoyed performances ranging from jazz from Greg Harrison, Project Natale, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz Ensemble, and Susan Jones, to classical music from Li-Ly Chang, the Silver Strings, Frederick Moyer, Guity Adjoonani, and the Friday Morning Music Club, to Dixieland from the Dixie Power Trio, to choral performances from the Capital Accord Chorus. Nostalgic tunes came from Emery Davis, Spice of Life, Barrie Goodman, and Vocal Express, while opera fans were treated to two different operatic performances. Special instrumental concerts were performed by Flutar, the Beltway Brass, William Wright and Larry Eanet, Barbara Martin and Mac Walter, bluegrass artists





David McLaughlin and Springfield Exit, and the Martin Family Band brought folk music and bluegrass to the concerts in the park, while Spanish guitarist Richard Miller and Sephardic performer Flory Jacoda offered an international flair. The Landon Symphonette continued to draw crowds for their three performances at the Village Center.

**FOR THE KIDS**

Children in Friendship Heights enjoyed events in and around the Village Center. Kid-friendly activities during the annual Fourth of July event included an inflatable play yard, face-painting and balloon art from Bows the Clown, a mini-train and a roving magician. The summer also brought Hawaiian dance and music and a special performance by a balloon sculptor. Later in the year, our younger neighbors dressed up in their Halloween best for a fun-filled party at the Village Center, followed by trick-or-treating at Sunrise Brighton Gardens.

**HEALTH**

Issues of health and health care have always been important at the Center. Flu shots were given by the Visiting Nurse Association to nearly 400 people in October and November. Suburban continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures. Low Vision Support Group, a partnership between the Prevention of Blindness Society and the Village began last year, continued with good speakers and fellowship.



*“Blue Gate” by Ruth Neubauer was part of her exhibit at the Center.*

**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 their time to activities at



*Our annual holiday visit to New York featured the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and a stop at Winterthur.*

the Center. At the October Fall Festival, three Village centenarians were honored. In September the Center and the Friendship Heights Urban Network teamed up to create “Taste of Friendship Heights.” Clyde’s, Lia’s, M Café/Famoso, Bambulé, Indique Heights, Starbucks and Gifford’s brought delicious food, and volunteers sold tickets for small dishes. The day was a huge success enjoyed by 1,500 people.



*Arch Campbell discussed his career and retirement.*

**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 in November. 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 the very special environment that is the Village Center. Our sincerest thanks go to all those involved in programming: the Program Advisory Committee, whose suggestions and evaluations are so important; the staff members; the volunteers; and, the Council and Mayor who provide support and encouragement.



*Face painting is popular at the annual July 4 celebration, one of many Village programs. Photo by Ken Barnhart*

**2007 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.



**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 Tuesday, February 19, 2008, and Monday, March 10, 2008, 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 2009, based on a 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 FY2009 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2008, 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.

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

**2007 Annual Report and FY2009 Proposed Budget**



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