

The Council Report

2008 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010



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*

Let's Celebrate Our Community!

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

Mention that you live in the Village of Friendship Heights and you'll get a variety of responses (and sometimes even a blank look or two!)—"Oh, you're on the Red Line, right?" or "You're close to all those great stores and restaurants," or "Where is Friendship Heights exactly?"

For those of us who are lucky enough to live or work in this unique village, we know that it's more than just a convenient Metro stop or snazzy boutiques that make this such a fabulous place to call home. Without a doubt, it's the outstanding selection of upscale condos and apartments that attract the majority of our residents—many of whom are surprised to discover the broad array of services and programs available to them right here.

Whether you've lived in Friendship Heights for 20-plus years, as I have, or are a relative newcomer, please read through this Annual Report to learn more about our community and what we've accomplished during the last 12 months. From major projects—such as street repaving and auditorium sound upgrades—to small improvements, the Village Council and staff are dedicated to making our community shine. In the months ahead, you'll continue to see even more improvements and better services, such as a new, fully accessible shuttle bus—not only an amenity, but a necessity for many of us.

In addition to our Council and staff, many residents, serving as volunteers, play a vital role in our Center's operations. Many of you are familiar with the A-list speakers and popular authors who visit the Village. What you may not know is how often these

visitors comment on the strong sense of community they witness. I'm delighted to see the continued participation of many of our younger, working professionals on committees and at events such as Community Day, Taste of Friendship Heights, and family-focused activities. As we plan for the new year, we encourage all residents to continue to share their thoughts, ideas, concerns, and wish lists with us.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to speak at the Center in August.

The Village services, programs, and amenities that you enjoy—from movies to the nurse specialist to street cleanings—are financed by your tax dollars. Be sure to read the Treasurer's Report, prepared by Councilmember Dr. Alvan Morris, and the FY10 Proposed Budget starting on page 5. For the fourth year running, the budget proposes a tax rate of 4 cents per \$100—the lowest rate allowed by our charter! In a time of economic uncertainty for most of us, it's critical to note that **the budget is balanced and fully funds the excellent services and activities you rely on and anticipate.**

As you review the 2008 Village highlights, please join me in thanking our loyal, enthusiastic, and hard-working Village staff who serve us every day of the week. On behalf of the entire Council, I wish each of you a peaceful and healthy New Year. It's an exciting time for our country and especially so for those of us living in the shadow of America's capital.

Thanks to your ongoing support, Friendship Heights continues to be an ideal place to live, work, and play—a community most worthy of celebration!



Melanie Rose White



Maurice Trebach



Leonard Mudd



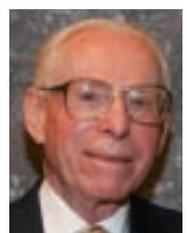
Elizabeth Harris



Alvan Morris



Robert Schwarzbart



Leonard Grant

2008 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

The all-volunteer Friendship Heights Village Council has seven members, all of whom are 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,



Delegates Bill Bronrott, Susan Lee and Bill Frick present an official citation to Mayor Melanie White on July 4th.

Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Harris, Secretary; Alvan Morris, Treasurer; Robert Schwarzbart, Parliamentarian; and Leonard Grant, Historian.

Last July 4 the Council and our community recognized the extraordinary volunteer efforts of our Mayor, Melanie White, by presenting her with the Elizabeth Scull Outstanding Community Service Award. Our state delegation also honored Melanie with a citation.

We rely on a large number of volunteers from the

TAXI STAND SUCCESSFULLY RELOCATED



The "temporary" taxi stand in front of Lia's on Willard Avenue was the source of many complaints. Thanks in part to the efforts of the TMD Committee and our representatives, Council members Bob Schwarzbart and Len Grant, the County ultimately agreed to move the taxis back to Wisconsin Circle.



Our second annual Taste of Friendship Heights event in September attracted a large and hungry crowd.

community to help us at the Village Center every day. My special thanks to them and to our wonderful staff.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We sent our largest delegation yet to the Maryland Municipal League's annual conference in Ocean City (Mayor White, Council members Maurice Trebach,



Our staff met with a delegation from China last March.

Chip Mudd, and Elizabeth Harris joined Bob Shapiro and me). Bob and I also went to Richmond for the annual conference of the International City/County Management Association.

In 2008 the Village Council continued its participation in the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee. Council members Bob Schwarzbart and Len Grant represent the Village on the TMD Committee, and last April Bob Schwarzbart was selected Chairman.

On March 4, Bob Shapiro and I met with Xie You Shu and Xie Yaing, visiting professors from the Shanghai Managerial Vocational College for Trade Union. They came to learn how the U.S. is addressing the needs of its senior citizens. China is looking for ways to create additional services for an aging population and would



South Park Avenue and all other Village streets were re-paved. The project included sidewalk replacement. Brick crosswalks will follow in the spring. Photo by Alvan Morris

like to develop and implement communities such as ours. We expect additional meetings and discussions to follow. We also remained very involved with the Montgomery Municipal Cable television station (I serve as President of the MMC Board of Directors). The station films and broadcasts a number of our events.

TASTE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

In September, the Village once again hosted the Taste of Friendship Heights. Building on the success of the first event in 2007, an even larger crowd came and enjoyed another beautiful day featuring tasty dishes from neighborhood restaurants. Nearly 10,000 tickets were sold,

with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the NIH Children's Charities. Participating restaurants included Gifford's, Indique Heights, Lia's, M Café/Famoso, Potomac Pizza, Rock Creek 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 corporate sponsors, Geico, New England Development, and Sunrise Senior Living. Mark your calendar for the next Taste of Friendship Heights on September 12, 2009.

NEW SHUTTLE BUS

Our bus service has been a valuable Village amenity since 1979. Given the difficulty in maintaining

the current bus and backup vehicle, our contractor has recommended upgrading to a heavy-duty transit bus. This month the Council approved the purchase of a new shuttle bus by our contractor and we anticipate its arrival in late 2009.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Last year we completed the final phase of streetlight installation in the Village. Ten new lights were installed on the east side of Friendship Boulevard (by Highland House West) and on both sides of The Hills Plaza near South Park Avenue.



Daffodils brighten Humphrey Park.

Photo by Alvan Morris

The lights are the same style as the others throughout the community.

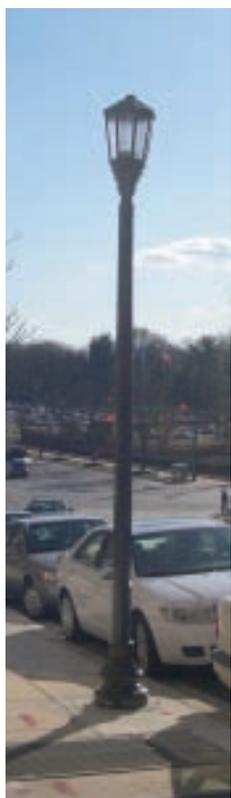
In the fall we began our largest Capital Improvements project in many years, the repaving of all Village roads along with substantial sidewalk, curb and gutter replacement. The contract was awarded to Highway and Safety Services for a cost of \$793,569. The roads were repaved according to standards adopted by the State Highway Administration. All the work was completed except for the brick paver crosswalks, which will be done in the Spring of 2009. We thank Councilmember Chip Mudd for his valuable guidance on this project.

Once this is finished we will have completed all of the capital improvement projects identified by our engineering firm in the infrastructure survey from 2002.

Under the watchful eye of Councilmember Al Morris, we continued to improve our park landscaping. Watch for more in 2009.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE

The Police Field Office, in Village-owned space at 4602 North Park Avenue, is a cooperative effort between the Village Council and the County Police. Now in its 12th year of operation, the office continues to attract police presence and visibility in the Village. We hope to complete a renovation of the space in 2009.





MVA ON WHEELS

One of the most popular and convenient services in the Village is the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Mobile Office. Once a month, for the past ten years, the MVA bus has parked on Friendship Boulevard, next to the Village Center, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The friendly and efficient MVA staff on the bus provide all of 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 2009:

- Monday, January 26
- Monday, February 23
- Monday, March 23
- Monday, April 27
- No service in May
- Monday, June 22

2008 FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS

2008 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.



Holiday lights made for an impressive display on our holly trees in Humphrey Park.

Photo by Alvan Morris

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT TO OPEN SOON



Grosvenor, the owner of the former Holiday Inn, is in the midst of a \$35 million renovation and re-branding of the property at 5520 Wisconsin Avenue. The hotel closed last summer and is expected to re-open as a Courtyard by Marriott in the Spring of 2009.

The renovation will expand the hotel from 214 to 226 rooms and create 1,500 additional square feet of retail space. We look forward to this new addition to our community.

WISCONSIN PLACE NEARS COMPLETION



Pictured above are the office building and a portion of the new retail space (as seen from Wisconsin and Western Avenues). The 432-unit residential building is expected to open for leasing in February. Bloomingdale's, Talbots, and Cole Haan are now open. Future retail will include Capital Grille and Redstone American Grill. The opening of the Whole Foods store, however, will be delayed until Spring 2010.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvan Morris

As we are all aware, 2008 has been one of the most difficult economic years our country has ever experienced. Forecasts and re-forecasts done by both business and government have become wrong the minute they were completed. While we all hope for a more stable economic environment in the near future, in reality, nobody can be sure what to expect.

Even in this difficult time, FY09 should be a very good year for us. As always we were conservative in our budget projections, and have done our best to maximize our revenues and control our expenses. Consequently, we are projecting a surplus for FY09 of \$301,300 against a budgeted surplus of \$51,600. In addition, the streetlight program has been completed, and full repaving of all Village streets, plus replacement of substantial portions of sidewalk, curb, and gutter are nearly complete. These projects were entirely funded, as planned, by the Capital Improvements Reserve fund. While we have been able to ride above the current storm thus far, however, we can not reasonably expect that we will remain unaffected. **Fortunately, the Village's solid financial condition will allow us to keep our expected level of services and programs intact without raising taxes.**

The proposed Village budget for FY10 follows. 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 fourth consecutive year! 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 FY10 Budget in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY10, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,150,000. This is a 15% reduction from expected income tax receipts in FY09. Because of our relatively small number of taxpayers, a very few people can cause our receipts to vary widely. In light of the economic climate we are being more conservative than either State or County projections would indicate. Hopefully, we are being conservative enough. This is why having adequate re-

serves is important!

Although Village property assessments will increase, we are not projecting increases but instead are basing FY10 property tax revenues on FY09 assessments. Interest rates continue to fall dramatically. We have therefore lowered our expected interest income for FY09 and are projecting an overall 2% return for FY10. Parking violation income has also dropped somewhat and projected revenue has been reduced. We have also

been told that our Municipal Revenue Sharing payment will be reduced by the County and that Gas/Highway tax income from the State will drop a bit. Other revenue estimates for FY10 are basically static, resulting in expected revenues of \$2,115,600.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category has been increased \$45,500 over expected FY09 figures. Increases have been made in several areas, including personnel, maintenance service and insurance costs.

Public Safety: Minor adjustments in this category anticipate increases in salaries for security personnel and the possibility of a new security vehicle.

Public Works: The story in this category is the shuttle bus. An allowance has been made for the purchase of a new bus by RMA Transportation plus an annual contract increase.

Health/Education/Social Services; Recreation & Parks: These categories all remain nearly the same except for an increase for upgraded landscaping.



FY 2010 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

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

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2010

REVENUES:	Actual FY08	Budget FY09	Est.Actual FY09	Budget FY10
Property tax ¹	\$460,900	\$455,000	\$455,000	\$490,000
Income tax ²	1,274,990	1,000,000	1,350,000	1,150,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	86,993	87,000	87,000	37,000
Gas/highway tax ⁴	86,462	80,000	75,000	75,000
Parking violation income ⁵	245,728	230,000	195,000	200,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	18,000	18,000	18,200	18,600
Interest income ⁶	136,708	117,000	67,000	80,000
Village Center rental income	24,387	15,000	15,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	13,819	10,000	10,000	10,000
Newsletter ad income	37,543	30,000	30,000	30,000
Village Center program/misc income ⁸	11,629	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,397,159	\$2,052,000	\$2,312,200	\$2,115,600
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY08	Budget FY09	Est.Actual FY09	Budget FY10
General Government				
1 Elections	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	9,171	12,000	12,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	8,125	10,000	10,000	10,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	23,431	27,000	32,000	27,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	23,171	15,000	15,000	15,000
2F Village Council reports	3,224	8,000	6,000	6,000
3A Salaries ¹²	511,032	546,000	546,000	581,500
3B Health/Life/Family Benefits ¹³	80,023	90,000	90,000	95,000
3C F.I.C.A.	40,295	45,000	45,000	47,500
3E Retirement Contribution ¹⁴	34,248	42,000	42,000	45,000
4A Xerox copiers	524	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	10,675	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	3,448	3,000	3,000	3,000
5C Bldg/General liability insurance ¹⁵	10,830	8,500	8,500	11,000
6 Telephone and utilities	47,476	50,000	58,000	60,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	21,999	20,000	20,000	22,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	15,609	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	233	10,000	10,000	10,000
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	6,079	10,000	10,000	10,000
8E Computer equip/supplies	2,964	5,000	10,000	8,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	25,661	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	94,311	100,000	105,000	110,000
Total General Government	\$974,329	\$1,061,400	\$1,082,400	\$1,127,900
Public Safety				
9A Security Patrol contract	\$100,248	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$112,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	2,700	5,000	5,000	5,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	5,200	10,000	10,000	12,000
Total Public Safety	\$108,148	\$122,000	\$122,000	\$129,000



Public Works	Actual FY08	Budget FY09	Est.Actual FY09	Budget FY10
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$323,225	\$337,000	\$342,000	\$393,000
11A Street maintenance	88	10,000	1,000	1,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	3,850	10,000	1,000	1,000
11C Snow removal	27,549	45,000	45,000	45,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	2,500	0	1,200
12A Waste collection ²²	13,978	16,000	16,000	16,000
12B Recycling	972	5,000	5,000	5,000
13 Street lighting	15,497	20,000	20,000	22,000
14 Street signs	954	5,000	5,000	5,000
15 Trees	4,760	6,000	6,000	6,000
16 Villagescape ²³	10,863	21,000	15,000	21,000
Total Public Works	\$401,736	\$477,500	\$456,000	\$516,200
Health/Education/Social Serv.				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	9,721	12,000	12,000	12,000
17C Housing Program ²⁵	4,920	5,000	5,000	5,000
17D Scholarship Program ²⁶	4,720	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Health/Education/Social Serv.	\$19,361	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	2,942	7,500	7,500	7,500
18D Musicians' fees	23,776	30,000	30,000	30,000
18E Instructors' fees	(4,621)	4,000	0	4,000
18F Trip fees	11,037	8,000	8,000	8,000
18G Art/theme shows	2,650	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	3,709	8,000	8,000	8,000
18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners	6,949	13,000	13,000	13,000
18M Center special events ²⁷	34,415	35,000	35,000	35,000
18O Bamberger Current Events Series ²⁸	12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
19 Reading Room Materials	3,016	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	36,536	45,000	48,000	50,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity ²⁹	989	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	4,975	5,000	5,000	5,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint.	14,921	15,000	20,000	18,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint.	5,550	7,000	7,000	7,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint	1,773	4,000	1,000	4,000
21G Art fund	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
23 Landscaping contract	81,830	90,000	100,000	90,000
24 Arborist contract	2,515	10,000	10,000	5,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$244,962	\$312,500	\$323,500	\$315,500
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,748,536	\$2,000,400	\$2,010,900	\$2,115,600
Surplus/(Deficit) ³⁰	\$648,623	\$51,600	\$301,300	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,397,159	\$2,052,000	\$2,312,200	\$2,115,600
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$3,981,450	\$4,033,050	\$4,282,750	\$4,282,750
DEDICATED FUND BALANCES³¹	\$996,091	\$1,084,000	\$485,000	\$461,000



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 FY2009, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2010, which begins July 1, 2009. Based on Montgomery County's estimate of assessable base of \$1,246,514,817 (11/08).
- 2 Estimate reflects the portion of the county tax rate returned to the Village from state filings.
- 3 An agreement between the county and municipalities (including special tax districts) requires the county to reimburse special tax districts for a portion of certain expenditures, which currently include park maintenance, health services, and road maintenance.
- 4 This amount is derived from a state formula based on the number of registered vehicles at Village addresses.
- 5 Parking violation income is collected by Montgomery County. The Village revenue share is 75%.
- 6 Interest is from Village funds placed in a state-regulated fund established for local Maryland governments—the Local Government Investment Trust. Interest on the Capital Improvements Fund, included in the audit figure, is not included in the budget.
- 7 Permit fees are paid by contractors who occupy public rights-of-way (streets and sidewalks). By law, the fees defray only the reasonable administrative costs of maintaining the permit system and are currently \$250. Certain license fees are also received from the state.
- 8 Includes a percentage of art sales and commission from produce market sales.

Expenditures

- 9 Includes the annual audit and financial statements required by law.
- 10 Includes taking of the minutes for the monthly public Council meetings, postage, and stationery.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues 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 insurance, life insurance, and other benefits 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 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. Anticipates a contract increase to amortize a new bus for nine months of the fiscal year.
- 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 Neither a surplus nor a deficit is budgeted for FY2010.
- 31 Assumes completion and full payment for all planned capital improvement projects. Also includes expected balance in OPEB Trust Fund Reserve.

2008 Program Report

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

We have had a very busy year at the Friendship Heights Village Center! Ongoing programs included YMCA exercise classes, Great Books discussion groups, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish classes, Tai Chi, Yoga, art classes, movies, book signings, poetry readings, Scrabble and Bridge groups, concerts, Suburban Hospital blood pressure checks, on-site nurse specialist, Vision Support Group, art exhibits, University of Maryland's health insurance assistance, AARP tax assistance, Coffee and Current Events, Walking Club, the MVA's Mobile Office and Twin Springs Produce Market.

CLASSES

A variety of exercise and movement classes were offered in 2008: Mat Pilates taught by Ginger Russell; 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 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.

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. Mary Phillips Quinn presented a workshop on container gardens. Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Conversational Spanish, taught by Elena Marra-Lopez, continued and were well attended. Bridge



In April we visited President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home in Washington.

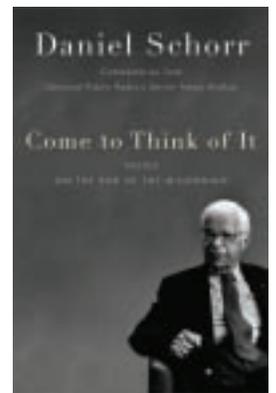


Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi came to the Center to speak in August. Pictured are front, left to right: Maurice Trebach, Speaker Pelosi, Mayor Melanie White. Back row, left to right, Alvan Morris, Leonard Grant, Leonard Mudd.

classes taught by Steve Hoglund were also offered.

BOOK SIGNINGS AND BAMBERGER LECTURES

In addition to our monthly Suburban Hospital lectures on health, speakers included Richard Ben-Veniste on the 9/11 Commission; Melissa Klein on nutrition; Ed Fritz on Presidents Polk, T. Roosevelt, and Wilson; County Exec. Ike Leggett in a town hall style meeting; Elizabeth Brownstein on Lincoln's Cottage and historic homes; Irv Nurik on Beverly Sills and Luciano Pavarotti; Bruce Kauffmann on Churchill; Sealani Weiner on changing one's behavior; IONA's Deborah Rubenstein on aging; *The Washington Post's* Ruth Marcus on politics and Michael Dirda on books; Erland Heginbotham on China; Joseph Jeffs on literary forgeries; Rosa Weinstein on comics; Laura Feldman on saving Social Security and Medicare; Bill Bodde on "1945" and foreign policy challenges for the new president; I.J. Hudson on the transition to digital TV; Denise Gallo on 19th century opera; Paul Williams on improving your memory; and Linda Greenhouse on the Supreme Court.



Veteran reporter Daniel Schorr spoke at the Center in March.

Residents also enjoyed performances by Candace Ridington in one-woman shows about Clara Schumann and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Dwane Starlin as Mark Twain, and the Martin Family in "A Christmas Carol."



“Eggplants,” by local artist and art instructor Joan Samworth, was featured in the Friendship Gallery in May.

Café Muse, the monthly presentation of poetry by the Village and The Word Works, had another good year.

Authors who appeared at the Center included:

- Eleanor Clift
- Robert Dallek
- Kimberly Dozier
- Howard Fineman
- Chuck Hagel
- Chris Kimball
- Howard Kurtz
- Charles Lane
- Louis Maier
- Roger Mudd
- Dee Dee Myers
- Nancy Pelosi
- Marc Sandalow
- Daniel Schorr
- David Stewart
- Judith Viorst
- Natalie Wexler

The Center co-sponsored two special lectures with the Norman and Florence Brody Public Policy Forum, featuring Ted Sorenson and Robert Samuelson.

ON THE GO

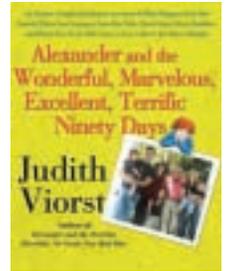
Overnight trips included a visit to New York City, and a 5-night trip to Stratford, Ontario and Niagara Falls in October. Other outings included day trips to Gettysburg, Annapolis, New York’s Broadway, the Eastern Shore, Baltimore, Charles Town, Philadelphia, Williamsburg, and Rehoboth Beach; visits to the National Gallery of Art, the Washington National Cathedral, Lincoln’s Cottage, and the Newseum. Villagers enjoyed Nationals baseball, a ride on the C&O Canal, a shopping trip to Wegmans, and performances at the Strathmore Music Hall, the Verizon Center, Montgomery College’s Parilla Performing Arts Center, Hexagon, the Capitol Steps, the Kennedy Center, and Olney Theatre.

CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series offered a wide variety of performances ranging from classical to jazz, from dance to poetry in the park, from old favorites like Machaya Klezmer and Mariachis de Los Compadres

to exciting newcomers like pianists Virginia Lum and John Touchton. The winter months brought varied performances such as music from the Emerald Isle from IONA, classic guitar from Brazilian-born Richard Miller and the melodic notes of the Silver Strings.

Among the featured concerts in the spring were performances by the Kinor Dancers and Strathmore Artist-in-Residence pianist Andrew Luse. Concerts moved into the park during the summer months with swing from Seth Kibel, classical saxophone from Timothy Roberts, jazz from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz Ensemble, poetry and jazz from Sistah Joy and Julian Hipkins, Hawaiian music and dance from Hui O Ka Pua ‘Ilima, folk tunes from Barbara Martin and Mac Walter, stirring bluegrass and country from Grammy-nominated David McLaughlin and rousing Dixieland from Greg Harrison.



Audiences in the park were also treated to old-time and Irish music from the “house band of Mt. Vernon” the Martin Family and beautiful ballet highlights from the National Ballet of Maryland.

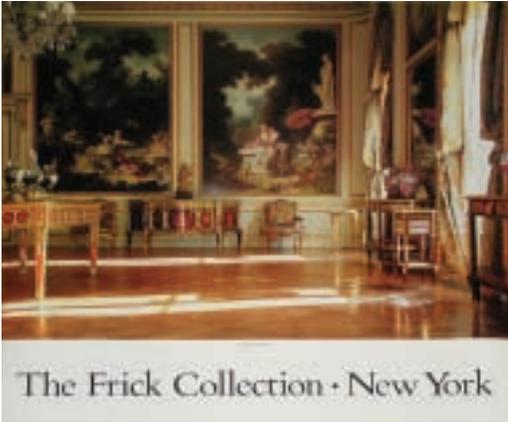
Fall concerts featured the Baltimore Mandolin Quartet, the Friday Morning Music Club, ghost stories by Ellouise Schoettler and Irish music, dance and storytelling during the holidays by Si-Or Og.

FOR THE KIDS

This year, children enjoyed a number of activities and events, ranging from Saturday Morning Stories from local actress and singer Barbara Papendorp to Splash Parties featuring a giant water slide in the park, to a Halloween Party featuring a spooky moon bounce.



Visitors to last year’s artisan fair at the Center in November could watch, shop, or even try their hand at a craft.



Our annual overnight trip to New York City in November featured a tour of the Frick Collection.

Throughout the year, entertainment featured movies such as *Enchanted*, *Ice Age* and *Monster House*, and concerts featuring Hawaiian and Irish dance. Village events such as Community Day, our July 4th Celebration and the Taste of Friendship Heights also offered fun and games for kids.

Village-sponsored trips to the beach and to local theater offered opportunities for children to travel with their parents to fun destinations. Our weekly Village Play Time gives kids, parents and neighbors a chance to play and mingle at the Center. Parents of tots and teens alike are encouraged to offer suggestions for programs. Watch upcoming newsletters for information about “Grandparents’ Packs,” which enable grandparents to borrow toys for young visitors.



“Five Clouds” by Barbara French Pace was featured in January.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Issues of health and health care have always been important at the Center. Flu shots were given by the Visiting Nurse Association in November, with an evening time slot so that more working people could get immunized. Shingles shots and skin cancer screenings were also offered by area doctors. Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures. Dr. Jason Cohen gave talks on oral health care and dental implants. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled, as always. Low Vision Support Group, a partnership between the Prevention of Blindness Society and the Village, continued with good speakers and fellowship. The Center Reading Room was the recipient in the fall of a video

magnifier generously donated by the Society and Janet Morrison. The tabletop viewer magnifies many times greater than a hand-held glass and will be of great use for people with low vision.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our special community events—Community Day, July 4th, 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 the Center. Community Day featured Famous Dave’s Barbeque, and Village centenarians Rena Hayes and Anna Rosenblum were honored. On July 4th we enjoyed hot dogs, patriotic music, and more. We rang in the New Year with an open house catered by Ridgewell’s.

In September, the Center and the Friendship Heights Urban Network teamed up again for the Taste of Friendship Heights as our major fall event (as described on page three).

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. “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

We express our sincere appreciation to the Council members, our fellow staff members, our committees, and the other tireless volunteers who contribute many hours to make the Village Center such a special place.



Our October Canada trip featured a visit to Niagara Falls.



The Council Report

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

2008 Annual Report and FY2010 Proposed Budget



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CENTENARIANS HONORED ON COMMUNITY DAY



The Council hosted its 22nd annual Community Day event (celebrating the anniversary of the Village Center opening) on May 13. On behalf of the Village Council, Mayor Melanie White gave special recognition to two Village centenarians, **Renna Hayes** (see photo top left) and **Anna Rosenblum** (see photo bottom left). This continues a tradition we began in 2007.

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 9, 2009, and Monday, March 9, 2009, 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 2010, 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 FY2010 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2009, 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.