

The Council Report

FEBRUARY 2003

News from the Friendship Heights Village Council—the elected governing body of the Special Tax District of the Village of Friendship Heights



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

New Village Council Member Appointed

The Montgomery County Council has appointed Judge Robert M. Schwarzbart to the Friendship Heights Village Council to complete the term of Councilman Michael Pollard, who resigned in October.

The Village Council had voted on January 13, 2003, to nominate Mr. Schwarzbart to fill the vacancy. He and his wife, Sandra, residents of The Irene, have lived in Friendship Heights for almost 28 years.

Mr. Schwarzbart's retirement last year after 43 years of federal service, the last 27 as a National Labor Relations Board judge, has enabled him to become more actively involved in Village affairs. He has participated in the Village Council's Community Advisory Committee and in 2001 served as an elections judge for the Village Council election.

Earlier, he had taken an initiative that resulted in the placement of "NO U-TURN" signs facing northbound traffic on Wisconsin Avenue at its intersections with Willard and North Park Avenues. This reduced the potential for collisions at two heavily trafficked intersections.

Hecht's Presentation on March 10

At the Council's next public meeting on March 10, New England Development (the Hecht's developer) will present its latest revisions for the site. The developer has filed an amended preliminary plan and site plan with the

Planning Board, which will hold a public hearing April 10. Highlights of the revisions include:

- Increase of residential space to 480,000 sq. ft.;
- Decrease of office space to 310,000 sq. ft.;
- Addition of underground grocery store (about 50,000 sq. ft.).

Improvements to Hubert Humphrey Park

Also at the March 10 meeting, we plan to have presentations of proposals for the Humphrey Park work, including replacement of the fountain and pavers. Our architect, Art Robinson of Walton, Madden, Cooper, Poness, will be at the meeting to discuss the proposals and answer any questions.

There will be a number of options that the Council will consider, and the public will have an opportunity to provide input at the meeting.

County Information on Terrorism Alerts and Emergency Preparedness

Montgomery County's website has useful information on a wide range of topics relating to emergency preparedness and terrorism alerts, including bioterrorism, chemical emergencies, emergency supplies kit, family disaster plans, and much more. Go to the Montgomery County website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov, and click on "Public Health &

Emergencies." For more information or questions, contact the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management at 240-777-2300.

The County will be updating its summary guide to emergency preparedness early next month. We will be given copies of the guide for distribution at the Center.

Village presents certificates to bus drivers



Shuttle bus drivers Raymond Hall (left) and Rylander Lynch pose with certificates of appreciation that were presented to them by the Village Council. The updated bus schedule—with extended Sunday and weekday hours—is available online (see our website address on the back page). Copies of the schedule are also available at the Village Center front desk.

—Melanie Rose White
Mayor

Notice of Public Hearing

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 a final public hearing on Monday, March 10, 2003, 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 2004, based on a proposed tax rate of 6¢/\$100 assessed property value. The final tax rate will be determined after the final public hearing. The Village Council will vote to establish the tax rate for FY 2004 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2003, 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.

The Council took the following actions at the January 13, 2003, meeting:

- Reviewed Initial Proposed Budget for FY 2004; voted to authorize distribution of Initial Proposed Budget to the community in the Annual Report;
- Approved continuing additional shuttle bus service (Sunday service and extra weekday and weeknight hours) through June 30, 2003;
- Nominated Robert Schwarzbart to fill Village Council vacancy; nomination to be forwarded to Montgomery County Council for final approval.

The Council took the following actions at the February 10, 2003, meeting:

- Held a public hearing on FY 2004 Initial Proposed Budget;
- Selected Maurice Trebach as Council Vice Chairman; selected Robert Schwarzbart as Parliamentarian;
- Approved proposal from Interior Garden Designs for interior plant maintenance; approved proposal from TruGreen for Willoughby Park landscape maintenance; approved proposal from Grandiflora for exterior landscape maintenance and flower baskets;
- Approved proposal from League of Women Voters to run Village Council election on May 12, 2003.

The Friendship Heights Village Council
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