

The Council Report

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

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 J. TREBACH, *Vice Chairman*
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*
ALVAN M. MORRIS, *Treasurer*
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Parliamentarian*
LEONARD E. MUDD, *Historian*

Council Pursues Pedestrian Safety Initiatives

The Council has been working on several pedestrian safety initiatives:

Pedestrian Safety Lights

The Council has a limited supply of flashing pedestrian safety lights that are now available for free at the Center front desk (limit one per person). The lights are designed to make pedestrians more visible, particularly at night. They come with a lanyard and batteries and can be turned on and off easily. *Please note that the lights contain small batteries that may be hazardous to children.*

Montgomery County has given out similar lights as part of a pedestrian safety promotional event earlier this year. Thanks to Councilman Maurice Trebach for suggesting that we do the same.

Willard Avenue Crosswalks

Several months ago Councilman Bob Schwarzbart requested that the County install pedestrian “paddle” signs—similar to the signs in the Village crosswalks that say “Stop for Pedestrians/State Law”—in the crosswalks on Willard Avenue at the Hills Plaza and at North Park Avenue. There are no traffic signals or stop signs at either

intersection, and crossing Willard can be dangerous for pedestrians with the high volume of traffic. Our District 16 state legislative team (Bill Bronrott, Marilyn Goldwater, Susan Lee, and Brian Frosh) also supported our request.

In response, the County Department of Public Works & Transportation did a study of pedestrian crossings on Willard. Their study concluded that the paddle signs in the middle of the crosswalk would be ineffective (since there is an existing median at both locations) but additional signs warning motorists to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks are warranted (see photo below). The signs will be installed shortly.

In addition, the County will remove about 15 parking spaces on the south side of Willard (by Geico) which they feel will improve pedestrian safety.

Friendship Heights TMD

The Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD) also focuses on pedestrian safety issues. The TMD Advisory Committee meets monthly to discuss transportation issues and provide guidance to Montgomery County staff, which administers the TMD. The Village’s two representatives on the Advisory Committee are Capt. Peter Goldman and Leonard Grant.

Rothstein Scholarship

The Council has awarded \$10,000 to **Ambjörn Elder** under the Robert & Sylvia Rothstein Educational Scholarship. Mr. Elder, a resident of The Irene, is enrolled in the London Academy of Music and



Ambjörn Elder

Dramatic Arts. He aspires to become a professional actor. Our congratulations to Mr. Elder and best wishes for his future.

Council to Consider Bus Shelter next to Village Center

At the September 13 meeting the Council was presented with a plan from the family of Ilse Hess to contribute a gazebo to Humphrey Park. Ilse was a longtime Village resident and volunteer at the Center who died last year. A memorial fund was established in her name.

After some discussion, the Council concluded that it would prefer a bus shelter for the bus stop on Friendship Boulevard adjacent to the Center. Council and staff have received requests for a shelter from residents in the past.

Ilse’s family will coordinate with our Village Manager to propose a bus shelter for Council consideration at the October 12 Council meeting.

Council Meeting Schedule Changes

The October Council meeting will be on **Tuesday the 12th** due to the Columbus Day holiday on the 11th. Also note that the Council meeting originally scheduled for Monday, November 8, will be rescheduled to **Monday, November 22**.

—Melanie Rose White
Mayor



The Council took the following actions at the September 13, 2004, meeting:

- Renewed membership in Maryland Municipal League for 2004-2005;
- Approved proposal from McFall and Berry landscape maintenance contractor for plantings around fountain in Humphrey Park;
- Discussed proposal from family of Ilse Hess to contribute gazebo to Humphrey Park; directed staff to work with family to develop proposal for a bus shelter next to Village Center.
- Authorized Councilman Al Morris to discuss possible review with landscape architect of all plantings in Humphrey Park and areas adjacent to the Village Center.

Presidential General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 2

**Polls will be open at the Village Center from
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

- Deadline for Voter Registration: Tuesday, Oct. 12
- Deadline for Receipt of Absentee Ballot Application: Tuesday, Oct. 26
- Absentee Ballot Applications are available at the Village Center front desk
- For more information, call the County Board of Elections, 240-777-VOTE (8683), or visit www.777vote.org

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**Monday, October 25
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

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