

The Council Report

2016 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
JOHN R. MERTENS, *Chairman*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Vice Chairman*
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN COOPER, *Treasurer*
DAVID LEWIS, *Parliamentarian*
CLARA M. LOVETT, *Historian*

Living and Learning

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

How many times has someone looked at you, sighed, smirked and said, “Live and learn.” In my case, quite a few! Now, try tacking an “ing” onto those verbs, and watch how that smug phrase transforms into a positive, dynamic and uplifting one. Living and learning . . . in Friendship Heights, our residents give new meaning to those words every day. From six-year-olds to seniors, our neighbors are living their lives with a zest and curiosity that make our community shine.

This lifelong love of learning was one of Bob Schwarzbart’s most endearing qualities. Bob, who served on the Council from 2003 to 2015, passed away in November at age 85. He possessed an Old World charm that was warm and delightful. In our current wham-bam, chaotic world where manners and everyday courtesies are sadly lacking, Bob approached both strangers and friends alike with a grace and dignity that put others at ease. He always reminded us, through his distinguished and judge-like demeanor, to slow down and enjoy! Life is meant to be cherished. It didn’t take long for Bob and his lovely wife Sandy and I to become friends (partly because we shared a crazy love of cats!). I will miss our spirited conversations and his wise counsel.



Sandy and Bob Schwarzbart

Like many residents, Bob loved attending lectures, author presentations and concerts at the Village Center. The wide array of programs is just one way we celebrate learning in Friendship Heights. Our talented program directors write more about the offerings on pages 9 to 11. These amenities and other Village services are made possible because of your tax dollars. I encourage you to read the Treasurer’s Report by Kathy Cooper on page 5 (and the budget that follows). This is the **12th consecutive year that the proposed tax rate is 4¢ per \$100—the lowest our Charter allows!** Careful stewardship of our financial resources allows us to offer so many ways for



Reupholstered furniture, new carpeting, paint, and lighting in the Village Center lobby.

you to continue learning—right in your own backyard.

For Council members and some staff, our opportunities for learning extend beyond the Village boundaries. Each year, we attend the Maryland Municipal League Convention—a 4-day event packed with seminars and workshops. Throughout the year, Council and staff attend other MML events to both share and gather information.

Learning continues in informal ways, too. We rely heavily on a valuable corps of volunteers who share their expertise in countless ways. Our advisory committees offer advice in structured meetings, but it’s often our most-informal conversations that result in the best ideas. Council and staff encourage every resident to continue making suggestions. Tell us what you would like to see and where we need to improve.

And, speaking of improvements, I thank you for your patience as we finish up the last of the renovations to the Village Center. It’s been a long haul with many opportunities for learning! From the comments I’ve heard, residents very much appreciate the work that has been completed, especially the more accessible restrooms, brighter decor and enhanced lighting. The final touches should be done before winter ends.

On behalf of the Village Council, I wish you and your loved ones a healthy and rewarding 2017 and hope that you will take advantage of all that our community offers—for living and learning and simply enjoying our unique community. See you soon at the Center!

2016 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager



Kathy Cooper (seated); standing left to right, John Mertens, Clara Lovett, Mike Dorsey, Paula Durbin, Melanie White, David Lewis.

In March, the Council elected Melanie White to once again serve as Mayor following the resignation of Clara Lovett in February. Ms. Lovett then became Council Historian. The other Council members remained in the same offices: John Mertens, Chairman; Mike Dorsey, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathy Cooper, Treasurer; and David Lewis, Parliamentarian. All seven Council seats are up for election every two years. The next election will be May 2017.

The Council appointed nine new members to the Community Advisory Committee and revised the scope of the committee with a resolution adopted at the February 8 public session.

VILLAGE CENTER RENOVATION

The biggest project of the past year was the renovation of the Village Center, which unfortunately continues into 2017! The Council, working through the Capital Improvements Committee, retained the original architect of the building, Walton, Madden, Cooper, Robinson, Poness (WMCRP). Harry Braswell, Inc., was selected as the general contractor, at the recommendation of Art Robinson at WMCRP. The work began in early July, and the Center was closed to the public until October 1.

When fully completed, the improvements will include expanded, more accessible bathrooms; energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the building; an upgraded auditorium, with new flooring, new partition, new lighting, new sound-absorbing panels, and new shades; a new

and improved kitchen for Village events and private functions; new carpeting throughout; lighter, brighter paint colors; additional custom shelving in the library; and new and restored woodwork throughout. As this goes to press, the acoustic paneling, column treatment and replacement of light fixtures are all still awaiting completion.

Thanks to our District 16 legislators, we received a \$100,000 award from the state to assist in the costs of the renovation. Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot had told us that each year the state sets aside money that may be available to fund local projects such as ours. Staff approached our state delegates who agreed to assist us.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF PARCEL 6

Parcel 6 continued to be a topic of discussion during the year. The site consists of five single-family houses (one of which, 4602 North Park, is owned by the Village), an of-



The Center kitchen and bathrooms were fully renovated.



fice condominium building, and the Moussa Moaadel realtor building. The Village's house is leased to a commercial tenant and also houses the County Police Field Office. Purchase of this property in 1985 gave the Village a voice in any future development plans. A potential developer, 1788 Holdings, in partnership with the Chevy Chase Land Company, has acquired the pink house on Willard Avenue and nearly all of the units in the office condominium (either by direct sale or contingent contract). They have also had discussions with other owners in an attempt to assemble the various properties for development. Following discussions with the community, a petition was presented to the Council to support the objectives of the 1998 Sector Plan with regard to development on the site, including the creation of a neighborhood park and the preservation of the small scale character of existing structures. The Council adopted a resolution supporting these objectives.

1788 made an offer to purchase the Village's property, but the Council rejected the offer indicating that there needed to be full public discussion with the community prior to considering a sale of the property. As of this writing we have had no further discussions with the developer about the 4602 property.

ESTABLISHING A "VILLAGE" NETWORK

Volunteers organized the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network to create a "Village" within our Village. The Council hosted several meetings and presentations in support of this effort, and monthly updates on the group's progress were reported in our newsletter. The Village concept is a growing movement that aims to provide the support—medical, functional, emotional, and social—that



The County-owned property at 5320 Willard Avenue.

older adults may need when choosing to age in their own homes. Neighbors help neighbors by coordinating and delivering services and supports within their communities.



Neighbors help neighbors in a "village."

Services can include information referrals, home health care, help with transportation, assistance with household tasks, and social activities. Village resident Connie Row is leading the effort here to create the next "village."

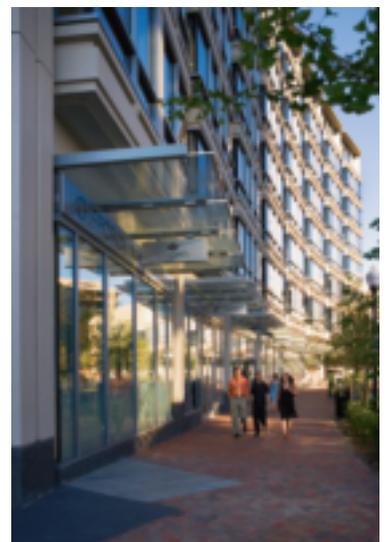
COUNCIL SEEKS EXPANSION OF COUNTY PARK

Council Vice Chairman Mike Dorsey led an inquiry into the use of the County-owned property at 5320 Willard Avenue, adjacent to Willard Avenue Park. The house on this property is rented to a private tenant, and a stockade fence encloses the grounds. Council members met with officials of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who subsequently agreed to remove the fence and incorporate a portion of the property into a new entrance to the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND OUTREACH

The Chevy Chase Land Company received approval from the County Planning Board for limited site plan amendments at Chevy Chase Center, following a presentation it gave at our Council meeting in April. The Land Company will make modifications to the public use and amenity space and on-site pedestrian and vehicular circulation. The group of luxury stores on Wisconsin Avenue, known as The Collection, will be reconfigured with a new mix of retail and restaurants. You can see the complete filing of the amendments on our website.

Following presentations about the potential redevelopment of the Bethesda Fire Station site at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Bradley Boulevard, the Council voted to oppose any



Chevy Chase Center as seen from Wisconsin Circle.



Home page of the redesigned Village website.

rezoning and redevelopment of the site. The County Council will be discussing the site this coming year.

We continued to be actively involved with the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee. The TMD advises the county on a range of traffic and transportation issues. Council member John Mertens and former Council member Elizabeth Demetra Harris represent the Village on the committee.



Mayor Melanie White presented Dorothy Hall with a Community Service Award on July 4.

The Village also stayed active with the Maryland Municipal League and its Montgomery County Chapter, attending meetings with the County Executive, County Council and Maryland legislators. Council members and staff attended the annual convention in Ocean

City, and I continued to serve as Treasurer of the County Chapter.

NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE

Following lots of discussion with the Council Communications Committee and input from residents, our redesigned website was launched in May. The web address, www.friendshipheightsmd.gov, remains the same. The new home page features a slideshow of images with pull-down menus at the top and additional links below the photos. Interior pages have been redesigned

and updated as well, and the monthly newsletter and calendar can be viewed directly as well as downloaded.

Our email alert group keeps growing. Send an email to jmansfield@friendshipheightsmd.gov and you will receive regular messages about our website updates and special event announcements.

COUNCIL TRIBUTES

At our annual July 4 celebration, the Council honored Village residents Dorothy Hall and Sheila Manes for their service to the community. Ms. Hall volunteers for our weekly Tuesday Tea, and Ms. Manes leads the monthly Village Book Club. Following a public nominating process, the Council presented the Elizabeth Scull Outstanding Community Service Award to the B-CC Rescue Squad.

VILLAGE CONTINUES PARTNERSHIPS WITH COUNTY AND STATE

Our wonderful partnership with the County Police Department, now 20 years old, continues with the Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue. The facility provides increased police presence and visibility in the community. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Mobile Office is a convenient, reliable, and popular service in the Village. The bus parks every month on Friendship Blvd., next to the Village Center, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All of the services provided at the MVA Express Offices are available on the bus, including renewing driver's licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing MD photo identifications, obtaining disability placards and returning tags.

We rely on a large number of volunteers from the community to help us at the Village Center every day. My special thanks to them and to our wonderful staff.

**MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2017
(Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.):**

**January 30, February 27, March 20, April 24,
May 22, June 19**



Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Cooper

It is nice to be able to report that 2016 was a good year for the financial health of the Village, and we are on track for a larger than anticipated surplus for FY2017. We are also anticipating a surplus in FY2018.

The big news this past year has been the renovation of the Village Center. Our award winning building is thirty years old, and it was time to freshen it up a bit. The Council approved a \$540,000 contract to totally rebuild the bathrooms, install a new kitchen, replace lighting, put new sound control panels in the auditorium and replace the moveable partition, in addition to new flooring and paint throughout. The primary emphasis was to make the Center both more accessible and more energy efficient. The project was to be totally financed with Village reserves. We were very pleased, however, when our District 16 representatives sponsored a Bond Bill on our behalf in the Maryland legislature. As a result of this, we were awarded \$100,000 to put toward the renovation.

On the operating side we are fortunate that two issues affecting our revenues (the Wynne case, and the misallocations of income revenues by the state,



both reported last year) have been resolved with minor long term effect to the Village. Income tax revenues are running above original projections, and property tax remains on track. These are our two largest revenue sources. Expenses also remain in line with our budget. **Again, for the 12th consecutive year, the proposed property tax rate will remain 4 cents per \$100, the lowest rate allowed by our charter.**

The proposed Village budget for FY2018 follows, along with an explanation of the various categories. As always, the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, and the footnotes at the end should be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories. Public hearings will be held on the proposed FY2018 budget in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY2018, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,186,000, which is based on the assumption that calendar 2016 returns will be approximately the same as calendar year 2015. Per our meeting with state officials, we are projecting \$1,212,000 for FY2017. Parking violation income reduction reflects a change in security firms and personnel. There are slight changes in other categories. We continue to budget Gas/highway tax based on state projections even though there have been "one time" additional grants for the last few years.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category is being increased 1.9% over the FY2017 budget.

Public Safety: No increase projected.

Public Works: Slight increases. There are no further increases for the bus through the end of the current contract. This will change when the bus needs to be replaced.

Health/Education/Social Services: No increase projected.

Recreation & Parks: The amount included for lecture fees has been increased to \$10,000 in order to expand the program and bring in a wider range of speakers for all age groups.

Capital Improvements Fund: It is expected that the Village Center renovation will be completed and paid for in FY2017 and the \$100,000 grant will have been received. At this point no decisions on additional capital improvements have been made by the Council. Funds will be transferred to the Capital Improvements Fund as necessary.

Once again the Village's strong financial condition, combined with careful management, has allowed us to maintain services while keeping the tax rate at the lowest possible level allowed by our charter. In addition, we have been able to make major improvements to the Village Center. We are proud of our accomplishments and will continue to strive to keep the Village a wonderful place to live and work.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2018

REVENUES:	Actual FY16	Budget FY17	Est.Actual FY17	Budget FY18
Property tax ¹	\$595,440	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$600,000
Income tax ²	1,256,706	1,100,000	1,212,000	1,186,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	92,386	82,000	95,245	82,000
Gas/highway tax ⁴	46,138	12,000	40,000	12,000
Parking violation income ⁵	236,953	300,000	200,000	250,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	52,313	52,313	53,892	55,509
Interest income ⁶	15,834	12,000	20,000	25,000
Village Center rental income	11,062	15,000	4,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	15,657	15,000	15,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	44,088	40,000	40,000	40,000
Village Center program/misc. income ⁸	20,186	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,386,763	\$2,210,313	\$2,262,137	\$2,287,509
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY16	Budget FY17	Est.Actual FY17	Budget FY18
General Government				
1 Elections	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	11,067	11,000	11,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	16,108	8,000	8,000	8,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	20,405	20,000	20,000	20,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	27,234	10,000	15,000	15,000
2F Village Council reports	2,814	3,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries ¹²	650,964	684,546	684,546	705,082
3B Health and life insurance ¹³	123,730	127,500	123,000	129,000
3C F.I.C.A.	50,351	52,367	52,367	53,938
3E Retirement contribution ¹⁴	49,474	52,880	52,800	54,384
4A Xerox copiers	773	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,950	1,900	450	0
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	10,602	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	4,615	3,000	4,500	4,500
5C Bldg./General liability insurance ¹⁵	18,087	13,337	13,337	15,848
6 Telephone and utilities	42,750	45,000	45,000	45,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	16,101	17,000	17,000	17,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	10,918	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	0	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	12,145	10,000	10,000	10,000
8E Computer equipment/supplies	4,825	3,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance/repairs	23,564	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	119,020	130,000	125,000	130,000
Total General Government	\$1,217,497	\$1,250,530	\$1,246,000	\$1,278,752
Public Safety				
9A Security patrol contract	\$73,302	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$90,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	2,507	4,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	10,000	10,400	10,400	10,400
Total Public Safety	\$85,809	\$104,400	\$94,400	\$104,400

	Actual FY16	Budget FY17	Est.Actual FY17	Budget FY18
Public Works				
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$457,936	\$466,800	\$466,800	\$466,800
11A Street maintenance	12,625	5,000	8,000	5,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	7,440	5,000	8,000	5,000
11C Snow removal	52,558	50,000	50,000	50,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	0	0	0
12A Waste collection ²²	19,686	18,000	20,000	20,000
12B Recycling	2,772	3,500	3,500	3,500
13 Street lighting	19,208	20,000	20,000	20,000
14 Street signs	1,061	1,000	1,000	1,000
15 Trees	3,358	2,000	9,000	5,000
16 Villagescape ²³	13,484	15,000	14,000	14,000
Total Public Works	\$590,128	\$586,300	\$600,300	\$590,300
Health/Education/Social Serv.				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	12,568	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total Health/Education/Social Serv.	\$12,568	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	1,850	2,000	2,000	10,000
18D Musicians' fees	16,550	20,000	20,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	(357)	0	0	0
18F Trip fees	(1,653)	0	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	138	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	6,167	6,000	6,000	6,000
18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners	8,817	10,000	10,000	10,000
18M Center special events ²⁵	29,530	35,000	35,000	35,000
19 Reading Room materials	2,599	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	32,219	29,000	29,000	29,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity	1,146	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	2,570	7,000	7,000	7,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain maint.	17,632	15,000	15,000	15,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting maint.	2,291	3,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint.	926	0	0	0
21G Art fund	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
23 Landscaping contract	88,087	90,000	90,000	90,000
24 Arborist contract	770	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$209,282	\$241,000	\$241,000	\$249,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$2,115,284	\$2,194,230	\$2,193,700	\$2,234,452
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$271,479	\$16,083	\$68,437	\$53,057
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,386,763	\$2,210,313	\$2,262,137	\$2,287,509
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$4,310,274	\$4,326,357	\$4,378,711	\$4,439,768
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCE²⁶	\$646,231	\$146,231	\$150,000	\$150,000
OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE²⁷	\$45,112	\$20,912	\$20,912	\$0



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 FY2017, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2018, which begins July 1, 2017.
- 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 state approved investments. Interest on the Capital Improvements and OPEB Funds, included in the audit figure, are 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. May also include contracted administrative support.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues and conventions attended by Council and/or staff.
- 12 Salaries of five full-time and six 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 and life insurance provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Includes Workers 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 Police Field Office 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 nurse consultation services and other health related programs.
- 25 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 26 Planned renovations to the Village Center will be completed in FY2017. Part of the costs of the \$540,000 contract were offset by a \$100,000 grant from the State of Maryland. Final costs are not known at this time. The Council may consider other capital projects. Money will be moved into the Capital Improvements Fund as required.
- 27 Reserve for payments into Montgomery County Trust for retiree health benefits. Money will be moved into the OPEB Trust Fund as required.

2016 Program Report

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

Even while the Village Center was closed for renovations, residents were busy in 2016 with art, exercise, language and computer classes as well as discussion groups, book, chess and bridge clubs, movies, a children's art camp, a farmers market, health programs, lectures, concerts, storytelling, trips, and even a square dance on a snowy night in January.

In March, a group of residents met at the Center to discuss forming a "village" in the Village to help neighbors age at home. The group has continued working on the project and sharing their progress in our newsletters (see page 3).

CLASSES

The Center continues to offer art classes for all ages and skill levels. Acrylic or Oil Painting, Still Life Painting, Abstract Art, Basic Photography for adults and children, and Portraiture in Pencil and Pastel continue to be popular. In addition, Village art director Millie Shott again offered a summer art camp for children. Music classes included John Eaton's American Songwriters class and Smriti Hakkarinen's Music Appreciation.

Exercise classes remain in demand, and we offer a variety of them. Current exercise classes at the Center include Yoga, Pilates, Strength Training, Fall Prevention, and Chair Exercise. The Walking Club continues to meet three times a week.

Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Yiddish continued. Mah Jongg and computer classes were well attended, and the Village Bridge Club, Chess



In August we soaked up the sun at Rehoboth Beach.



"We Wear Masks," by Llewellyn Berry, who curated the December art show at Friendship Gallery.

Group and Book Club met regularly.

New classes included Abstract Art, Cardio Ballet, Stress Reduction, Music Appreciation, and IT classes on Uber and the iPhone. A workshop on starting a craft business was held in May.

ON THE GO

A 6-day trip in May to Charleston and Savannah was a highlight of the year with tours of lovely gardens and historic homes, visits to museums and a Civil War fort, and rides in a trolley and a horse-drawn carriage. Day trips closer to home included visits to the newly reopened Renwick Gallery, the National Cryptologic Museum, the Marine Corps Museum, Laurel Park Racetrack, the Sackler Gallery to see the Turquoise Mountain exhibit; the Mormon Temple in December to see the Festival of Lights; lunch at L'Auberge Chez François, and a day in Rehoboth Beach. Residents enjoyed Nationals baseball, the satire of The Capitol Steps, and, "Moby Dick" at Arena Stage.



Dr. Anthony Fauci spoke at the Center in December.

BOOK SIGNINGS AND LECTURES

Ambassador (ret.) Herman J. Cohen gave a lecture titled "The African Economic Miracle: Myth or Reality"; Dana Milbank and Jonathan Weisman both spoke on the November election; Pam Holland led a discussion on staying safe online; retired actor Austin Hay reminisced about his years in Hollywood; Charlie Scott, Senior Government Relations Officer for Washington



We took a springtime trip to Charleston and Savannah.

Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, gave an update on “SafeTrack”; three US Senate candidates appeared in a forum at the end of October; tour guide Carol Bessette lectured on Pres. James Buchanan; Dr. Anthony Fauci discussed emerging infectious diseases; a docent from the Freer and Sackler Galleries presented a program on the collections’ art and even included a few treasures; and, retired political scientist Michael Mezey spoke on the origins and workings of the Electoral College.

Authors who appeared at the Center during the year included:

- **Anne Barton**
- **Don Connolly**
- **Cynthia Darling**
- **Cheryl Douglass**
- **Ann Hisle**
- **David O. Stewart**

FOR THE KIDS

The Village Center continued to offer a variety of programs throughout the year featuring art, music, movies,



We enjoyed a day at the races at Laurel Park racetrack in October.

and entertainment, designed especially for children. Among the highlights was our annual week-long summer art camp. We also offered musical kid-friendly concerts from artists such as Marsha Goodman Wood and W. James Taylor. Each week, toddlers and their parents and caregivers were invited to play with a variety of toys during Village Playtime. Children and adults alike enjoyed family-friendly movies such as “Minions,” “The Good Dinosaur,” and “Finding Dory.” In the fall, area children dressed up for our Halloween Party, featuring a Peanuts classic, a Halloween-themed bingo, and arts, crafts and pizza.

CONCERTS

Our concerts featured some of the finest local and national musical performers, from young teen artists to veterans of the entertainment scene. During the winter months,



The Frank Cassel duo performed in December.

Russian-born Vladimir Fridman offered music from his homeland and around the world, while Eric Byrd provided hot jazz on a cold winter night. Jody Marshall and Ellen James brought the serene sounds of two harps to the Village Center, while String of Pearls provided classical music. Spring welcomed Vivace, the Friday Morning Music Club, the recorder sounds of Kokopelli, an electrifying piano recital by Guity Adjooodani, as well as storytelling by Anne Sheldon, Jane Dorfman and Ellouise Schoettler. A rousing performance of “Oklahoma” by Mini-Musicals on the Move and the breathtakingly beautiful choreography of the Kinor Dancers rounded out our spring concerts.

The summer offered outdoor performances by The Sapphires, Tango Reo, Machaya Klezmer, Opera in the Park, the Pam Parker Trio, the Robert Redd Trio, Marsha and the Positrons, IONA, Music Pilgrim Trio, Bill Thomas, Steve Williams and the Dixie Stompers, Mariachis de Los Compadres and Vocal Ex-



press. When the Center reopened after renovations, Susan Jones and String of Pearls presented a classical performance in honor of Hilda Seibel, a local musician who performed a number of concerts at the Village Center prior to her death earlier in 2016. Concerts in Hilda’s honor will continue thanks to the generosity of her family and friends. Our autumn concerts continued with performances by Tom Lagano, Bill Wright and Haskell Small, Jim Vandelly, Susan Jones, Thomas Pandolfi, Frank Cassel, Logan Circle, Annie and Mac, and the Friday Morning Music Club.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health issues have always been important at the Center. A very successful program in the spring was a “low vision town hall.” It was held on a Saturday and featured a panel of specialists. The program was presented in partnership with Sibley Senior Association and the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. Free glaucoma screenings were held on a



Author Anne Barton discussed her book, “One Wild Winter’s Eve,” at the Center.

Saturday in January. On the first of each month, a recorded message listing the Center’s programs and activities is put on the main phone so that residents who have difficulty reading our fliers and newsletters can keep up to date.

Another interesting program was held in November in partnership with the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA). The topic was difficult end-of-life decisions and discussions

and included a screening of “Being Mortal” and a panel of hospice experts. Pneumonia and flu shots were administered by the Visiting Nurse Association in September. Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and nurse consultations, as well as monthly health lectures. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled, as always. The speech, caregivers and vision support groups continue to be successful. This year Brighton Gardens became the sponsor of the caregivers support group. They also housed the weekly nurse’s visit and

the flu shots when the Center was closed. In October, the Center hosted National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day when residents could drop off expired or unwanted medication for safe disposal by the County police and DEA.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

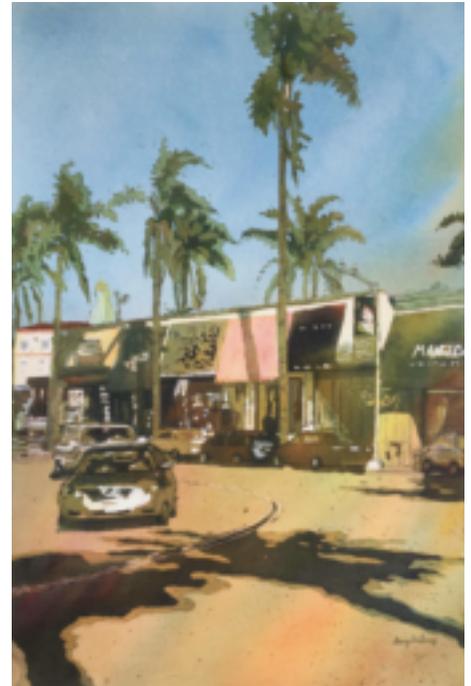
The Village Center turned thirty in April and we celebrated with barbeque and bluegrass. Fall Festival returned to the Center in October and featured food and music from Argentina. Our other special community events — July 4th and New Year’s Day Open House—were festive and provided an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have given their time to activities at the Center.

ART EXHIBITIONS

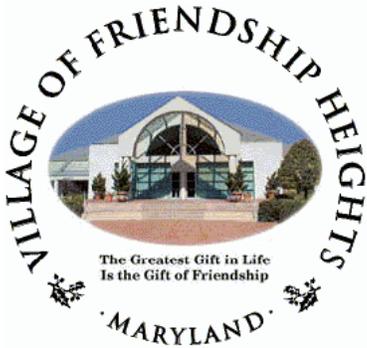
Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. “A Holiday Affair,” the annual artisan craft fair, took place in November.

THANK YOU

Many volunteers contribute countless hours to assist with programs at the Center. Our special thanks to the Village Council, our committees (including the Program Advisory Committee, whose valuable input is always appreciated), volunteers and staff for their dedicated efforts throughout the year. In addition, many of our programs moved to other buildings in the Village during the Center’s renovation. Because of the generosity of Brighton Gardens, Courtyard by Marriott, The Willoughby, 4701 Willard, The Elizabeth, and, 4620 North Park, most of our programs continued through the summer and early fall without interruption. It takes a village!



The Montgomery Art Association was featured in the June art show.



The Council Report

The Friendship Heights Village Council

4433 South Park Avenue

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

www.friendshipheightsmd.gov

2016 Annual Report and FY2018 Proposed Budget

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 13, 2017, and Monday, March 13, 2017, at 7:45 p.m. in the Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815, in connection with the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018, 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 FY2018 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2017, 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 Ave., 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.



Our police statue was removed and fully restored by the original sculptor, J. Seward Johnson, then reinstalled at its familiar location at South Park Avenue and The Hills Plaza. The statue honors James McAuliffe, former Montgomery County Chief of Police and Village resident.



FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS AT THE CENTER

Tax forms should be available at the Center shortly for copying and filing with the IRS. Normal copying charges apply. Call the Center at 301-656-2797 to make sure we have the form you need.