

# The Council Report

## 2018 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Chairman*  
JOHN R. MERTENS, *Vice Chairman*  
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*  
KATHLEEN COOPER, *Treasurer*  
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Parliamentarian*

### Choose Your Word

*Melanie Rose White, Mayor*

January is for unwrapping calendars, buying new planners (also known as diaries), and wondering if resolutions have merit. If you've spent much time online this month, you might have seen posts encouraging you to select your "word of the year." With suggestions such as "Strength," "Wisdom," "Discipline," and "Commit," your word is supposed to clarify your focus and act as a guiding principle or mantra for the next 12 months. Trying to choose a single word is hard. To narrow your choices, there are websites with word lists, techniques and questions to help you. As I read through one list, I realized how many words are relevant to our community. Here are ten.

Thinking about our loyal and dedicated corps of volunteers, **Gratitude** comes to mind. Now numbering around 45, our volunteers help Village Staff with a range of tasks—from serving tea on Tuesdays, to advising us on programs and community issues, to leading discussion groups. We could not begin to offer as many programs and services without our volunteers. I am also grateful for every resident who does the right thing without any recognition—the one who picks up and disposes of random pieces of litter; the one who takes time to chat with a lonely neighbor; the one who regularly participates in our food drives.

As they give so freely of their time, many of our volunteers, perhaps without even realizing it, also **Teach**. I was raised with the philosophy that you have an obligation to teach what you know—whether that's helping someone master a language like Yiddish or sharing your knowledge of Western literature—and it's wonderful to find so many neighbors doing just that.

From climbing on new equipment in Huntley Hall to trying out Halloween Bingo!, it's great to see our youngest residents at **Play**—such an important aspect of their lives.

Our Program Director, Anne O'Neil, is making activities for children and families one of her priorities.

When I think of how special the Village is for residents of all ages, **Sparkle** is a good adjective. It's that extra oomph that sets our community apart, that makes you realize you're living in one of the very best neighborhoods in Maryland. With popular events such as Fall Festival and the iconic Village Shuttle Bus, it's easy to see what makes our community shine.

To continue sparkling, we need to make sure our programs and services are meeting residents' interests and needs. Our 2018 Village Survey asked residents to **Imagine** what new offerings they would like to see. Evaluating residents' comments on the Village Survey is just one way Staff and Council members **Listen**. Residents are always encouraged to express their viewpoints at meetings, through email, and in casual conversation.

Fostering good communication is part of the **Integrity**

I see in our multi-talented and principled Village Staff. It's hard to separate **Trust** from integrity, especially when it comes to being good stewards of your tax dollars. Please read Council Treasurer Kathy Cooper's report (page 5) to learn how your money is being spent and to see the good news about our tax rate!

To help connect and **Bridge** the Village with other communities, we are active members of both the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship

Heights and the Maryland Municipal League. Collaborating with these organizations is helpful when it comes to development issues and statewide legislation that impacts the Village. And, finally, as I think about this assortment of words and **Reflect** on the past year, I remember with much admiration our former Council member Alex Kielty. Alex never failed to share her calm reflection on Village matters, and we will all miss her quiet demeanor, wise counsel, and warm friendship.

On behalf of the entire Village Council and Staff, I hope 2019 will be joyful, productive, and healthy, along with whatever "word of the year" you choose.



*The kids' train is a big hit at our July 4th celebration.*

# 2018 Village Report

*Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager*

Council member Alexandra Kielty passed away in November. She had resigned from the Council in late October due to health issues. Alex served as Council Historian after being appointed to the Council in 2017. The Council announced the vacant seat in December and nominated Michael Mezey in January 2019 to fill the seat, pending Montgomery County Council approval. The other Council members remained in the same offices: Melanie White, Mayor; Mike Dorsey, Chairman; John Mertens, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathy Cooper, Treasurer; and Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Parliamentarian.



*Alexandra Kielty*

Associate Program Director Jennie Fogarty retired in April following 17 terrific years of service at the Village Center. Anne O'Neil expanded her hours to full-time and was promoted to Program Director. The part-time Assistant Program Director position was filled briefly over the summer. A new hire is anticipated in early 2019.

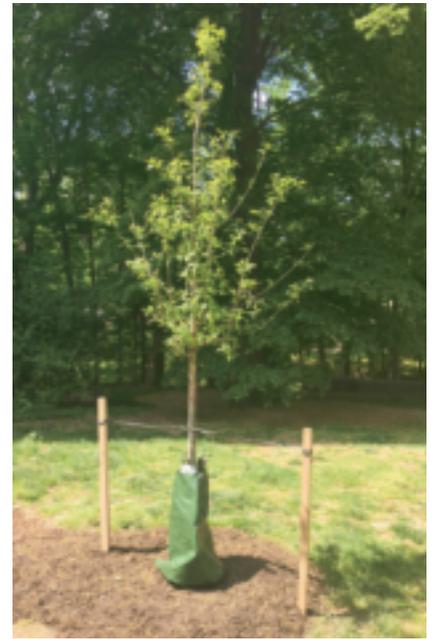
## MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO PAGE PARK

The Council continued its multi-year effort to improve Page Park. WSSC completed the long-awaited connection for a new water line from North Park Avenue into the park. Following additional work by our plumber to extend the water line and connect it to a control box, a new solar-powered irrigation system was subsequently installed, avoiding the extensive and expensive work PEPCO would have required to provide power to the park.

Two red oak trees that did not survive were replaced under warranty by swamp oak trees at the recommendation of our arborist. The Council reversed the practice of prohibiting the use of pesticides and fertilizers in the park, which will allow the Village landscape maintenance contractor to revive the turf this spring. The dead



birch tree in the southeast corner of the park was removed and replaced with three honey locust trees. The large ash tree in the back of the park was also removed. It had suffered considerable storm damage and had been attacked by an invasive pest. At the request of the Community Advisory Committee, a dog waste bag dispenser was installed in Page Park.



The Council also approved a planting design from our landscape maintenance contractor to provide flowers and shrubs.

## BICYCLES AND SCOOTERS

The County finalized its Bicycle Master Plan following extensive discussions and hearings. The original draft plan called for dedicated bike lanes on Friendship Boulevard, South Park Avenue, and Somerset Terrace, but those were removed following opposition expressed by the Village and by Somerset House residents. The final adopted plan includes a dedicated lane on Wisconsin Avenue and Willard Avenue, both outside the Village's jurisdiction.



The Village also closely followed the County's discussions on possibly expanding its pilot program for dockless electronic bicycles and electronic scooters. A County Department of Transportation representative gave a presentation to the Village in December on the possible expansion, following the County's request to local jurisdictions if they would like to opt in to the program expansion.

## OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND OUTREACH

The improvements to the Chevy Chase Center were nearly completed by the end of the year. Our shuttle bus stops were temporarily displaced from both the shopping cen-



ter and the Metro station, but the bus kept running throughout the construction. We look forward to new restaurants and shops coming to the Center this year.

The Village continued its active involvement in the Citizens Coordinating Committee—a coalition of 19 neighborhood associations and towns—with Melanie White and Mike Dorsey serving as Council

liaisons.

Council member John Mertens and Village resident Elizabeth Harris continued to represent the Village on the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee, and Mr. Mertens was named Vice Chairman of the committee. The TMD advises the county on a range of traffic and transportation issues.

The Council also remained active with the Maryland Municipal League and its Montgomery County Chapter. Council members and staff attended the annual convention in Ocean City and the annual meeting with state legislators, and I continued to serve as Treasurer of the County Chapter.

### COUNTY MOBILE COMMUTER STORE

After the County closed its commuter services store in Friendship Heights, the Village arranged for the County's TRiPS mobile commuter store to come to our community every week. The mobile store parks on Friendship Boulevard adjacent to the Village Center. Residents can buy transit passes for Metrorail, Metrobus & Ride On, including regular and senior SmarTrip cards. The store also offers information on using transit services, including biking, bikeshare and other options for getting around without driving.



The County TRiPS mobile commuter store comes to the Village every week.

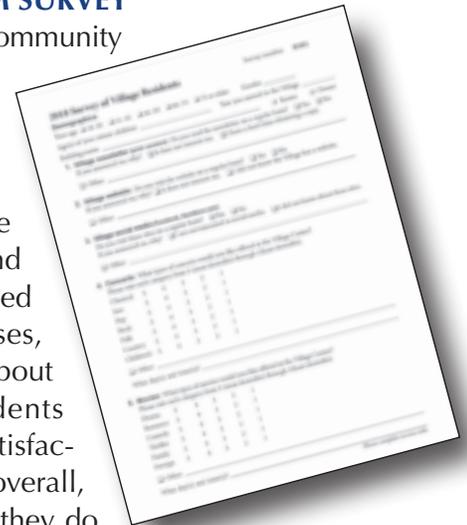
### 2018 ELECTIONS

The 2018 elections were particularly consequential at the County level. The Council sponsored forums for Montgomery County Executive candidates and for Montgomery County Council District 1 candidates in June prior to the primary election. In November, the Council sponsored another candidates forum for County Executive just before the general election. All three events were very well attended, and we had a heavy turnout for both elections at the Village Center precinct.



### VILLAGE PROGRAM SURVEY

With input from the Community Advisory Committee, the Council distributed a survey to all residents seeking feedback on a range of Village services and programs. We received nearly 400 responses, a response rate of about 12%. The respondents expressed general satisfaction and enthusiasm overall, although many said they do not regularly visit our website or social media sites, which we will continue to update and publicize.



### POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT ON PARCEL 6

Parcel 6, bordered by North Park Avenue, Shoemaker Farm Lane, and Willard Avenue, was a topic of discussion at the beginning of 2018. The site consists of five single-family houses (one of which, 4602 North Park, is owned by the Village), an office condominium building and the Moussa Moadel realtor building. The Village's house is leased to a commercial tenant and also is the site of the County Police Field Office. Chevy Chase Land Company and 1788 Holdings,

the potential developers, informed us in February that they were under contract to purchase three additional properties, having previously bought the pink house on Willard and several of the office condominium units. They indicated their intention to build two structures on the site, but as of this date they have not presented any plans to the community and there has been no further communication. Meanwhile, the Council reiterated its support of the 1998 Friendship Heights Sector Plan, which calls for a neighborhood park and the preservation of the “small scale character of existing structures” on Parcel 6.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE



The Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue, now 22 years old, continued to be a terrific partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department. The facility provides increased police presence and visibility in the community.

### COUNCIL TRIBUTES



At top, Mayor Melanie White presented the Elizabeth Scull Outstanding Community Service Award to former Congresswoman Connie Morella, and resident Barbara Tauben received a Community Service Award. We also recognized five Village Centenarians: Elizabeth Gwinn; Robert Schapiro; Helen Huntley; and Dr. Morris Krucoff. Not pictured is Dr. Amir Movahedi.



### MVA ON WHEELS

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 Maryland photo identifications, obtaining disability placards and returning tags.

**MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2019  
(Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.):  
January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22,  
May 20, June 17**

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Tuesday Tea volunteers Dorothy Hall, Ron Irion, and Elizabeth Noyes prepare and serve fresh fruit and goodies every week.

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

# Treasurer's Report

*Kathleen Cooper*

We are happy to report that 2018 was another stable year for Village finances, and we again expect respectable surpluses for both FY2019 and FY2020.

One major project the Council had hoped to complete last year was the upgrading of Page Park. We were finally successful in bringing water to the site, which allowed a sprinkler system to be installed. Additional trees were planted and a very large potentially dangerous tree was removed. More plantings are planned for the spring which will likely be Capital Improvements. The Council is also investigating replacing the bulletin board and adding signage to Humphrey Park. If approved, this would also be considered a capital improvement.

Every year in late December our Village Manager and Assistant Manager make a pilgrimage to Annapolis to get a fix on what level of income tax revenue to expect. Usually a range is given, and we budget using a figure somewhere in the middle. We are confident that we should see some increase in this important category. The second most significant revenue source in our budget—property taxes—is expected to remain on track. Most of our properties are due to be re-assessed for FY2021. Expenses continue to be in line with our estimates. **The proposed tax rate will remain 4 cents per \$100, the lowest rate allowed by our charter, for the 14th consecutive year.**

The proposed Village budget for FY2020 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 FY2020 budget in February and March.

## REVENUES

For FY2020, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,214,500, slightly less than our FY2019 projection. Interest income increased significantly in FY2019 and we have budgeted the same for FY2020. Gas/highway tax income, based on state projections, has been budgeted at \$12,000 for many years even though there have been “one time” additional grants for the last few years. These funds have now been officially allocated, allowing us to raise our FY2019 estimate to \$45,000 and our budget for FY2020 to \$65,000. Our property at 4602 North Park Avenue houses the police field office and a private tenant. The tenant recently informed us that they will be vacating

at the end of their current lease year. While we may be able to negotiate a further extension with them, we have allowed for a period of vacancy.

Based on revenue expectations, we expect, optimistically, to end both FY2019 and FY2020 with surpluses of \$127,600 for FY2019 and \$72,271 for FY2020.

## EXPENDITURES

**General Government:** This category is being increased approximately 2% over the FY2019 budget.

**Public Safety:** Reflects slight increase in our security patrol contract.

**Public Works:** Our ten-year shuttle bus contract is coming up for renewal. New bus options will be considered. As I write this, we are experiencing our first major snowstorm of the season. I anticipate a good chunk of our Snow Removal budget (\$50,000) will be used just for this storm. Fingers crossed for the rest of the season!

**Recreation and Parks:** Slight increases due to increased cost of special events and water in Page Park.

**Capital Improvements Fund:** As indicated earlier, the major projects for the coming year are the completion of the upgrades to Page Park and the possible purchase of a new bulletin board and signage in Humphrey Park. Funds already in the Capital Improvements account should be sufficient to cover these costs. However, if additional funds are needed for this or any other capital expenditure, they can be transferred 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 continue to improve Village properties such as Page Park, as well as offering a wide range of programs at the Village Center. Our Village remains a proud place to call home!**



# Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2020

<b>REVENUES:</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Est. Actual FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
Property tax <sup>1</sup>	\$627,513	\$630,000	\$630,000	\$630,000
Income tax <sup>2</sup>	1,144,549	1,171,100	1,217,801	1,214,500
Municipal Revenue Sharing <sup>3</sup>	95,245	95,245	95,245	95,245
Gas/highway tax <sup>4</sup>	46,999	12,000	45,000	65,000
Parking violation income <sup>5</sup>	249,715	250,000	250,000	250,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	55,509	57,173	57,173	39,209
Interest income <sup>6</sup>	64,150	54,000	100,000	100,000
Village Center rental income	6,412	15,000	10,000	15,000
Permit and license fees <sup>7</sup>	15,828	15,000	15,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	36,710	40,000	40,000	40,000
Village Center program/misc. income <sup>8</sup>	18,196	7,000	7,000	7,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,360,826</b>	<b>\$2,346,518</b>	<b>\$2,467,219</b>	<b>\$2,470,954</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Est. Actual FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
<b>General Government</b>				
1 Elections	\$123	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
2A Financial admin. and accounting <sup>9</sup>	8,690	12,000	12,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs <sup>10</sup>	10,342	8,000	12,000	10,000
2C Memberships and conferences <sup>11</sup>	12,189	25,000	25,000	25,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	35,927	25,000	25,000	25,000
2F Village Council reports	2,205	3,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries <sup>12</sup>	700,840	726,234	714,000	748,021
3B Health and life insurance <sup>13</sup>	125,401	135,000	135,000	141,750
3C F.I.C.A.	54,359	55,556	55,556	57,223
3E Retirement contribution <sup>14</sup>	51,891	56,015	56,015	57,695
4A Xerox copiers	763	1,000	1,000	1,000
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	10,674	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	4,281	4,500	4,500	4,500
5C Bldg./General liability insurance <sup>15</sup>	15,848	11,248	11,248	10,494
6 Telephone and utilities	39,465	45,000	45,000	45,000
7 Hospitality and special events <sup>16</sup>	18,544	17,000	17,000	17,000
8A Equipment and supplies <sup>17</sup>	12,598	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	0	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	4,104	10,000	10,000	10,000
8E Computer equipment/supplies	3,786	3,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance/repairs	5,644	25,000	30,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service <sup>18</sup>	128,451	135,000	135,000	135,000
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>\$1,246,125</b>	<b>\$1,329,553</b>	<b>\$1,326,319</b>	<b>\$1,357,683</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>				
9A Security patrol contract	\$93,425	\$90,000	\$98,000	\$100,000
9B Police Field Office <sup>19</sup>	1,473	4,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance <sup>20</sup>	11,188	10,400	11,000	11,500
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>\$106,086</b>	<b>\$104,400</b>	<b>\$113,000</b>	<b>\$115,500</b>

<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Est. Actual FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
10 Bus contract <sup>21</sup>	\$467,000	\$466,800	\$466,800	\$490,000
11A Street maintenance	11,639	10,000	10,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	10,886	10,000	20,000	20,000
11C Snow removal	29,019	50,000	50,000	50,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	0	0	0
12A Waste collection <sup>22</sup>	18,097	20,000	22,000	24,000
12B Recycling	2,506	3,500	3,500	3,500
13 Street lighting	28,208	25,000	25,000	25,000
14 Street signs	2,672	1,000	1,000	1,000
15 Trees	(2,976)	10,000	15,000	15,000
16 Villagescape <sup>23</sup>	12,084	14,000	14,000	14,000
<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>\$579,135</b>	<b>\$610,300</b>	<b>\$627,300</b>	<b>\$652,500</b>
<b>Health/Social Services</b>				
17B Health/social services <sup>24</sup>	11,179	12,000	12,000	12,000
<b>Total Health/Education/Social Serv.</b>	<b>\$11,179</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Recreation and Parks</b>				
18C Lecture fees	2,608	10,000	10,000	10,000
18D Musicians' fees	21,153	20,000	20,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	(1,541)	0	0	0
18F Trip fees	(6,299)	0	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	1,012	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	6,221	6,000	6,000	6,000
18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners	10,320	10,000	12,000	12,000
18M Center special events <sup>25</sup>	41,968	35,000	40,000	40,000
19 Reading Room materials	1,861	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	27,380	29,000	29,000	29,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity	972	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	4,081	7,000	7,000	7,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain maint.	12,726	15,000	15,000	15,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting maint.	867	3,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	8,138	2,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint.	0	0	0	0
21G Art fund	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
23 Landscaping contract	93,707	90,000	90,000	90,000
24 Arborist contract	21,035	15,000	15,000	15,000
<b>Total Recreation and Parks</b>	<b>\$246,209</b>	<b>\$254,000</b>	<b>\$261,000</b>	<b>\$261,000</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,188,734</b>	<b>\$2,310,253</b>	<b>\$2,339,619</b>	<b>\$2,398,683</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$172,092</b>	<b>\$36,265</b>	<b>\$127,600</b>	<b>\$72,271</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,360,826</b>	<b>\$2,346,518</b>	<b>\$2,467,219</b>	<b>\$2,470,954</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$4,700,953</b>	<b>\$4,737,218</b>	<b>\$4,828,553</b>	<b>\$4,900,824</b>
<b>CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCE<sup>26</sup></b>	<b>\$84,565</b>	<b>\$86,365</b>	<b>\$81,500</b>	<b>\$83,300</b>
<b>OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE<sup>27</sup></b>	<b>\$1,007</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</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 FY2019 and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2020, which begins July 1, 2019.
- 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. Due to the retirement of a staff member, the Center is not at its full staffing level, which is reflected in the estimated actual FY 2019 expense. We anticipate full staffing for all of FY 2020, which is accounted for in the budget figure.
- 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 Avenue 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 The costs of completed or committed projects have been deducted. 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. Additional money will be moved into the reserve as required.

# 2018 Program Report

Anne O'Neil, Program Director

In 2018, we offered a variety of activities designed to keep residents engaged, informed and entertained.

Among the offerings at the Village Center were classes and discussion groups; book, chess and bridge clubs; movies; a children's art camp; a farmers market; health programs; lectures, concerts, our annual artisan fair, a children's Halloween party, and many opportunities to celebrate with neighbors.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Village residents love a good party. We kicked off 2018 with our annual New Year's Day Open House. The catered event and harpist offered an elegant transition into the new year. In February, the Dixie Power Trio brought the sounds of New Orleans to our Mardi Gras party. Barbeque and bluegrass marked our Community Day celebration in April.

More than 100 people, ranging in age from 9 months to 90 years, came to the Village Center in the wee hours of the morning to watch the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on our giant screen. Our old-fashioned July 4th always attracts a crowd for hot dogs, music, children's activities and speeches from our local leaders. Our Greek-themed Fall Festival brought crowds to the Center for great food, fellowship, music and dancing!

## CLASSES

The Center offered art classes for all ages and skill



*"Big Sky" by Marianne Winter was part of the November art show featuring art instructors at the Center.*



*Dixie Power Trio performed at the Center in June.*

levels. Still Life Painting, Abstract Art, Painting for Everyone, Basic Photography for adults and children, and, All in the Eyes, a portraiture class, continued to be popular. Our children's summer art camp gave kids the opportunity to try fine arts projects tailored to them.

Always popular, exercise classes continued to bring residents to the Center. Classes included Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, Strength Training, Fall Prevention, Chair Exercise, and Seated Yoga and Meditation. The Walking Club continued to meet three times a week. Women learned techniques and tactical moves to stay safe during a workshop entitled "Fight Like A Girl."

We introduced a Spanish conversation group, while classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Yiddish continued. The Village Bridge Club, Chess Group and Book Club gathered at the Center.

## ON THE GO

Day trips included visits to Theatre J for a performance of "Everything is Illuminated;" The Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia; a twilight tour of Washington, D.C., and its monuments; the Walters Art Museum to see a special exhibition of Fabergé and Russian treasures; a tour and tea at Alexandria's Green Spring Gardens; Fallingwater and the Forest Artisan Village at Penn Alps; a double feature of plays at the American Contemporary Arts Festival in Shepherdstown, W.Va.; a trip to watch the Nationals battle the Orioles; and a day in Rehoboth Beach. In October, a group traveled to the mansions of Newport, RI, Mystic Seaport, the Mohegan Sun Casino, and the Philip Johnson Glass House in Conn. Our trips also included a performance of "Anything Goes" at Arena Stage and a visit to Winterthur's Yuletide and a special

holiday buffet and tour at Longwood Gardens.

### OUR YOUNGER RESIDENTS

Throughout the year, the Center increased its efforts to reach out to a wide range of ages, including children and teens. We revamped our Village Playtime, moving it to Tuesday mornings, and added more structured activities. Our twice-monthly concerts with Marsha Goodman-Wood have attracted an unprecedented number of children to playtime. Toddlers and preschool children tapped into the holiday spirit by decorating cookies and decorating a gingerbread house, which was prominently featured during Tuesday Tea in December.



Our annual summer art camp gave children a week-long art education. Children also had the chance to gather and watch some of the year's best animated and children's movies during our Thursday night movie series. We also offered kid-friendly concerts throughout the year. In October, we hosted our annual Halloween Party at the Village Center, always a big hit with children and their parents.

We saw more teens come to the Center for special lectures including a women's self-defense class with a special component for girls entering college. Teens also volunteered in record numbers, helping out our summer art camp, Mardi Gras, Royal Wedding Watch and Halloween Parties, and running the concessions at our annual artisan fair. Teens also used their know-how to help residents make the most of their cell phones and computers, and also to set up STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities for elementary school students. We added two high school students to our Program Advisory Committee.

### CONCERTS

Our concert series attracted talented professional and student musicians throughout the year.



*The Glass House by famed architect Philip Johnson was a highlight of our trip to New England in October.*

Performances included classical music by Beau Soir, David Chappell, Timothy Roberts and David Garlock, love songs by Bea Gilbert, and rock, folk and jazz from Rock Creek, and Irish music and dancing by Sior-Og. The Friday Morning Music Club brought their talented teen and adult musicians for several recitals throughout the year, including concerts in memory of Hilda Siebel.

The Mountain Fever Band, the Dixie Power Trio and the Washington Revels Maritime Voices played a wide selection of American music. The World Jam Club, Trans Atlantic Duo, IONA, Mariachis de Los Compadres, and Bele Bele Drum Ensemble, Machaya Klezmer, and Tango Reo brought an international flair to the concerts. Hui O Ka Pua 'Ilima and the Kinor Dance Company offered spectacular dance and music performances.



*We took a moonlight tour of the sights in Washington, D.C., in March.*



***In December, we visited Winterthur as part of our trip to the beautiful Brandywine Valley.***

Kristin Jepperson and Sue Richards provided the gentle sound of the harp to their performances, while the New Brass Quintet showcased the powerful instruments. Jazz performances included Marty Nau, the Jennie Wilson Trio, the Bill Wright Quartet, the Tommy Cecil Trio, and Eric Byrd, Steve Hom and Karla Chisholm. Christiana Drapkin offered a special tribute to Peggy Lee. Ginny Carr presented a special concert commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. PEAR DUO returned for a special concert. Vocal Express lent a cappella flair to holiday tunes.

The summer featured several kid-friendly concerts and a few bubbles. Among the favorites were Marsha Goodman-Wood, and the Bele Bele Rhythm Collective, featuring the beat of 12 African drums.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and nurse consultations, and also monthly health lectures. Free glaucoma screenings were held in March. Paula Stone presented a play-reading about the issues surrounding caring for an aging parent. Flu shots were administered by Inova in September. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring. The speech and vision support groups continued to meet. We again hosted National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Nancy Epstein led a discussion of how to handle grief during the holidays.

### **BOOK SIGNINGS AND LECTURES**

Book signings and lectures of the past year covered a wide variety of issues and interests, ranging from politics to personal safety, aging to astrophysics, music to meditation, and more.

Kyi May Kaung, a dissident from Burma, discussed

the plight of the Rohingya; Ilchi Lee addressed mindfulness and aging; David Weinstein discussed his book on Eddie Cantor and the singer's influence on American Jewish history. Jeanne Pettanati told us about women pioneers in astrophysics, and Dr. Neal Barnard examined the effects of diet on diabetes, body weight and chronic pain. State Senator Susan Lee discussed elder abuse, while the Maryland Attorney General's office offered information about scams targeting seniors. The AARP continued to offer its Safe Driver class, but also introduced a course on driving those high-tech cars. In June and October, John Eaton, a renowned pianist, humorist and musicologist brought us "Jazz, Blues and Broadway." In September, Cheryl Douglass spoke on her life-changing experience with sepsis. Karen Yaffe Lottes discussed her book on Montgomery County ghosts.

Throughout the year, the Village Council hosted a number of "Meet the Candidates" events and forums giving residents a chance to hear the views of County Council and County Executive candidates.

Residents also enjoyed several theatrical productions last year. Seniors on Stage, a group of amateur actors in the County, presented play-reading performances in May and October. In July, Montgomery College students performed scenes and songs from their Summer Dinner Theater production of "West Side Story."

### **ART EXHIBITIONS**

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. "A Holiday Affair," our annual artisan craft fair, featured perennial favorites and new artists.

### **THANK YOU**

Many volunteers contribute countless hours to assist with the programs at the Center. Our special thanks to the Village Council, our committees, volunteers and staff for their dedicated efforts all year.



***"Glass Vases" by Jeanne Ryan, was highlighted in a tribute show to the artist and teacher in June.***

**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 11, 2019, and Monday, March 11, 2019, 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 2020, 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 FY2020 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2019, 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.



**FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS AT THE CENTER**

*A new flag flies in Humphrey Park since last April.*



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.

**The Council Report**

The Friendship Heights Village Council

4433 South Park Avenue

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

[www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov)



**2018 Annual Report and FY2020 Proposed Budget**