

The Council Report

2017 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Harnessing the Power of “Small”

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

If someone were to ask you whether you live in a large community or a small one, how would you respond?

Considering our geographic area is just 0.06 of a square mile, you might be tempted to answer small. When it comes to population, however, we number about 4,500 residents, including the second largest concentration of senior citizens in Montgomery County (after Leisure World). Such a large number of residents living in such a small neighborhood means that the Village is reportedly the most dense community in the United States. With a tagline like that, it's hard to label Friendship Heights as either large or small.

Look around the Village and you'll see other examples of why it's not always easy to describe our community with a simple adjective. We are large enough to have a Metro stop named after our neighborhood, but small enough to attract independent businesses and even a mom-and-pop store or two. We are large enough to have three beautiful parks tucked among our streets and avenues, but small enough to offer an almost boutique-level of snow-removal service. We are small enough to recognize our loyal corps of volunteers and to personally thank them often for all they do, but large enough to donate 589 pounds of canned goods during our 2017 food drive. We are large enough to have a statewide reputation for providing outstanding programs, classes, and amenities, but small enough to respond to individual concerns, whether they be about pedestrian safety, noise, or any number of other issues.

As you read through the pages of this report, I think you'll see how this weaving of large and small works



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

together to make our community so unique. The Village is urban, bustling, dynamic, and yet we still recognize the importance of each individual and the strength and power of our community as a whole.

Looking back over the past year, we would be hard-pressed to find a better example of this collective strength than the coalition of residents who opposed the further development of 5550 Friendship Boulevard. Friendship Heights may be jewel size, but how loud our voice can become when residents are united behind an issue. During our public meetings where such a large number of you were motivated to write letters and send emails to county officials, the power of “small” became apparent to many.

On page 5, Council Treasurer Kathy Cooper explains how your taxes, at the proposed rate of 4 cents per \$100 (the lowest our charter permits), allow us to offer you such an extensive array of services. A small tax, multiplied by many residents, results in a large pool of resources.

One reason we are able to keep our Village taxes low is because of careful financial stewardship by our talented staff. State officials are surprised to learn how small our staff is (eleven in-

dividuals) considering the large number of high-quality offerings and benefits available to residents each day of the week. I appreciate the dedicated efforts of the Village staff and of the volunteers who help our community shine.

During the coming months, I hope you will continue enjoying all that Friendship Heights has to offer—amenities both large and small. If you are not in the habit of visiting the Village Center, please stop by (read our monthly calendar to see what interests you) and meet some new neighbors. On behalf of the Village Council, I wish each of you a prosperous and healthy 2018 and look forward to seeing you soon!



Kathy Cooper (seated left); Alexandra Kielty (seated right); standing left to right, John Mertens, Paula Durbin, Melanie White, Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Mike Dorsey.

2017 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

The Council election in May featured seven candidates running unopposed, including six incumbent Council members. Following a swearing-in ceremony, the Council selected its officers for the 2017–2019 term: Mayor, Melanie Rose White; Chairman, Mike Dorsey; Vice Chairman, John Mertens; Secretary, Paula Durbin; Treasurer, Kathy Cooper; Parliamentarian, Carolina

Zumaran-Jones; and Historian, David Lewis. In August, David Lewis resigned as he and his family moved out of the Village. We then welcomed Alexandra Kielty to fill the vacant seat. The Council also reappointed members of the Program Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee.



New hallway lighting made for an improved art gallery at the Center.

and was supposed to be completed in three months, finally was wrapped up in mid-2017 with the addition of new gallery lighting, acoustic paneling in the auditorium, and new treatment for the interior columns. The end result is a beautifully refurbished Center that will be enjoyed for years to come.



The lawn at 5550 Friendship Boulevard was the proposed site of a high-rise building.

POTENTIAL HIGH-RISE DEVELOPMENT AT 5550 FRIENDSHIP BOULEVARD

Much of the year was dominated by the possibility of development on the lawn in front of the 5550 Friendship Boulevard office building, known as Parcel 4. After initially discussing several possible options, the property owners filed an application with the Planning Board for a local map amendment that sought approval to build a 180-foot tall building on the site.

Meanwhile, following several well-attended Council meetings and the presentation of a petition, the Council

unanimously approved a resolution opposing the development, citing conflicts with provisions of the 1998 Sector Plan. Numerous residents then sent emails and letters to Park & Planning staff opposing the proposed development and arguing for the preservation of green space.

In late October, the owners decided to withdraw the application for a zoning amendment, effectively



The solar eclipse on August 21 as reflected on the ground in Hubert Humphrey Park.



Crepe myrtles in the center of Page Park.



New benches were installed in Page Park.

putting the issue to rest, at least for now.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PAGE PARK

The Council's effort to improve Page Park was a recurring topic throughout the year. Due to the loss of several mature trees in the park, four new trees were planted last spring, including two red oaks, one willow oak, and a copper beech. The trees were recommended by the consulting arborist because they were suited to the soil conditions in that area. Following a meeting with the arborist and residents in May, we planted three new crepe myrtles within the circular wall in the center of the park. Discussions at Council meetings about the future vision of Page Park revealed general agreement to retain the current character of the park. The Council authorized staff to get proposals to develop a plan for landscaping improvements. Three new benches were installed in November.

Meanwhile, we continued to work with WSSC on bringing a water line to the park in order to provide an irrigation system to support future plantings. After a long period of searching, WSSC located a water line under North Park Avenue and confirmed that it will route water from the source into the park at no cost to the Village (now in process). The Village will then have a plumber install equipment needed to serve an irrigation line, and we will need to bring electricity into the park as well.

COUNCIL PURSUES ACTION ON 5320 WILLARD

The Council continued to lead the push for change with the county's use of the 5320 Willard Avenue property, which has been rented to private tenants since the county bought it. In response to inquiries

from the Village and other neighboring organizations, the county removed the stockade fence at the edge of the property and replaced it with a metal fence to delineate the area maintained by the tenant.

In November, Mayor Melanie White, along with Council members Mike Dorsey and Paula Durbin, met with county staff to discuss the future of the property. Planning Board Chairman Casey Anderson agreed the house should be torn down eventually, but only as part of a larger plan to enhance the property. The planning process will take some time. There is a new program that is being developed aimed at refreshing, rather than overhauling, county parks, which may be applicable to the Willard Avenue property.



The county-owned house at 5320 Willard Avenue.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND OUTREACH

The Village joined the Citizens Coordinating Committee, a coalition of 19 neighborhood associations and towns. Melanie White and Mike Dorsey serve as Council liaisons to the CCCFH, and the organization aligned with our efforts in opposition to the proposed development at 5550 Friendship Boulevard.

The Village continued its active involvement 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. The TMD, along with Village resident Barbara Tauben and Maryland Delegate Marc Korman, led a successful effort to have the State Highway Administration remove



The bus shelter on Friendship Boulevard by the Center received a new roof thanks to an additional generous donation from the family of Ilse Hess. Ilse was a beloved Village resident and volunteer, and the shelter was donated to the Village by her family in her memory.

pedestrian obstacles and make needed improvements to the crosswalks and ramps at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Willard Avenue.

The Council 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.

COUNTY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

The county issued proposed recommendations for establishing additional bikeways throughout the area. In Friendship Heights the plan recommends dedicated bike lanes for Wisconsin Avenue, Western Avenue, Willard Avenue, Somerset Terrace, Friendship Boulevard and South Park Avenue.

David Anspacher, bicycle plan project manager with the county, gave a presentation about the proposed plan at the July 10 Council meeting, which was followed by more discussions with Council members and the community. Several concerns were identified, which will be presented to the Planning Board prior to its hearing in late January.

COUNCIL TRIBUTES

At our annual July 4 celebration, Mayor Melanie White was honored for her 30 years of volunteer service to the Village. She received certificates from our state legislators and from the County Executive and County Council. Also honored were Village residents Eleanor Nieman and Barbara Turlington for their volunteer service. The Elizabeth Scull Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to our Maryland Delegates from District 16—Bill Frick, Ariana Kelly, and Marc Korman.

VILLAGE CONTINUES PARTNERSHIPS WITH COUNTY AND STATE

The Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue, now 21 years old, continued to be a terrific partnership with the County Police Department. 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 Maryland 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 2018
(Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.):**

**January 29, February 26, March 19, April 23,
May 29 (Tuesday), June 25**

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Cooper

Financially speaking, 2017 was a quiet year for the Village. With the Center renovations finally completed, no other major projects were undertaken, so no major capital expenses were incurred. In fact, we again expect small surpluses for both FY2018 and FY2019. With the improving economy, our interest income has also seen a generous uptick.

The major project the Council will be working to complete this year is the upgrading of Page Park. WSSC has finally found a source for water and will be able to make that available to us early this year. Our plumber can then bring water to the site. Next step is to bring in electricity, followed by a sprinkler system and new plantings. These expenditures will all be charged to Capital Improvements.

The state and Montgomery County are both expecting lower income tax revenues this year, and this projection was made before the new federal tax cuts were signed into law. It is believed that this decrease is primarily due to lower capital gains income for our more affluent residents. This revenue decrease is passed on to us, of course, but we feel that it will not have a major impact on our budget. The other significant revenue source in our budget—property taxes—is expected to remain on track. 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 13th consecutive year.**

The proposed Village budget for FY2019 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 FY2019 budget in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY2019, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,171,100, which reflects the anticipated decrease in revenues statewide. Our FY2018 projection has also been scaled back to \$1,148,000, a \$38,000 decrease. In spite of this, we still expect to end both years with small surpluses of \$29,202 for FY2018 and \$36,265 for FY2019. Newsletter income continues to pay for the newsletter costs as well as producing a small amount of income from savings made by our staff doing all of the prep work

and layout inhouse. As indicated in previous years, we continue to budget gas/highway tax income based on state projections even though there have been “one time” additional grants for the last few years. Revenue sharing is still a hot topic, but we are not expecting any major changes before the county elections.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category is being increased 2.8 % over the estimated actual FY2018 numbers. Due to development issues in the Village, legal expenditures have increased.

Public Safety: No increase projected.

Public Works: Only minor increases planned. We are continuing to keep our snow removal budget at \$50,000 “just in case” with the hope that it won’t be used up.

Recreation and Parks: Our arborist and tree budgets have been raised by \$5,000 each to reflect increased tree work. All other categories remain the same.

Capital Improvements Fund: As indicated earlier, the Center renovations are complete. The major project for the coming year is the completion of the upgrades to Page 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. We hope our fellow residents remain proud to call the Village of Friendship Heights their home.



Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2019

REVENUES:	Actual FY17	Budget FY18	Est. Actual FY18	Budget FY19
Property tax ¹	\$627,801	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$630,000
Income tax ²	1,185,633	1,186,000	1,148,000	1,171,100
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	95,245	82,000	95,245	95,245
Gas/highway tax ⁴	45,601	12,000	40,000	12,000
Parking violation income ⁵	259,011	250,000	250,000	250,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	53,892	55,509	55,509	57,173
Interest income ⁶	27,617	25,000	48,000	54,000
Village Center rental income	11,074	15,000	10,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	10,549	15,000	15,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	35,488	40,000	40,000	40,000
Village Center program/misc. income ⁸	8,720	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,360,631	\$2,287,509	\$2,308,754	\$2,346,518
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY17	Budget FY18	Est. Actual FY18	Budget FY19
General Government				
1 Elections	\$3,392	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	14,719	12,000	12,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	6,364	8,000	8,000	8,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	28,163	20,000	20,000	25,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	19,622	15,000	30,000	25,000
2F Village Council reports	2,942	3,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries ¹²	655,850	705,082	705,082	726,234
3B Health and life insurance ¹³	121,909	129,000	129,000	135,000
3C F.I.C.A.	50,147	53,938	53,938	55,556
3E Retirement contribution ¹⁴	48,805	54,384	54,384	56,015
4A Xerox copiers	763	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	300	0	0	0
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	10,451	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	8,687	4,500	4,500	4,500
5C Bldg./General liability insurance ¹⁵	13,337	15,848	15,848	11,248
6 Telephone and utilities	39,743	45,000	45,000	45,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	17,939	17,000	17,000	17,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	12,649	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	0	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	5,506	10,000	10,000	10,000
8E Computer equipment/supplies	3,215	3,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance/repairs	18,035	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	137,219	130,000	130,000	135,000
Total General Government	\$1,219,757	\$1,278,752	\$1,293,752	\$1,329,553
Public Safety				
9A Security patrol contract	\$79,766	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	1,618	4,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	9,604	10,400	10,400	10,400
Total Public Safety	\$90,988	\$104,400	\$104,400	\$104,400

Public Works	Actual FY17	Budget FY18	Est. Actual FY18	Budget FY19
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$467,000	\$466,800	\$466,800	\$466,800
11A Street maintenance	5,059	5,000	20,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	1,339	5,000	10,000	10,000
11C Snow removal	27,492	50,000	50,000	50,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	0	0	0
12A Waste collection ²²	21,274	20,000	20,000	20,000
12B Recycling	2,656	3,500	3,500	3,500
13 Street lighting	26,009	20,000	25,000	25,000
14 Street signs	1,779	1,000	1,000	1,000
15 Trees	17,995	5,000	10,000	10,000
16 Villagescape ²³	12,084	14,000	14,000	14,000
Total Public Works	\$582,687	\$590,300	\$620,300	\$610,300
Health/Social Services				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	10,673	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total Health/Social Services	\$10,673	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	1,750	10,000	5,000	10,000
18D Musicians' fees	20,325	20,000	20,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	(10,837)	0	0	0
18F Trip fees	878	0	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	259	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	5,447	6,000	6,000	6,000
18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners	7,600	10,000	10,000	10,000
18M Center special events ²⁵	39,810	35,000	35,000	35,000
19 Reading Room materials	1,655	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	27,771	29,000	29,000	29,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity	1,080	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	4,061	7,000	7,000	7,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain maint.	11,313	15,000	15,000	15,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting maint.	312	3,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	0	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	79,303	90,000	90,000	90,000
24 Arborist contract	14,680	10,000	15,000	15,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$205,407	\$249,000	\$249,000	\$254,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$2,109,512	\$2,234,452	\$2,279,452	\$2,310,253
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$251,119	\$53,057	\$29,302	\$36,265
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,360,631	\$2,287,509	\$2,308,754	\$2,346,518
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$4,546,276	\$4,599,333	\$4,575,478	\$4,611,743
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCE²⁶	\$150,784	\$150,784	\$112,000	\$112,000
OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE²⁷	\$21,085	\$0	\$0	\$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 FY2018 and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2019, which begins July 1, 2018.
- 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 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 approved by the Council.

2017 Program Report

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

Village residents were busy in 2017 with art, exercise, and language classes as well as discussion groups; book, chess and bridge clubs; movies; a children's art camp; a farmers market; health programs; lectures, concerts, and storytelling; trips; a square dance in January and a swing dance in June; our annual artisan fair; and a children's Halloween party.

CLASSES

The Center offered 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 (now called All in the Eyes) continued to be popular. Residents enjoyed an origami workshop in February. In June, Village art director Millie Shott again offered a summer art camp for children.

Exercise classes are always in demand, and we offered a variety of them. They included Dance for Health, Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, Strength Training, Fall Prevention, and Chair Exercise. The Walking Club continued to meet three times a week.

Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Yiddish continued. The Village Bridge Club, Chess Group and Book Club met regularly.

ON THE GO

Day trips included visits to the Smithsonian's new Museum of African American History and Culture,

the Philadelphia Flower Show, the MGM National Harbor casino, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Center, Dumbarton Oaks, the Clarksburg outlets, and the National Gallery East Building. Villagers also enjoyed a ride on the C&O Canal barge, a trip



Author and journalist A'Leia Bundles spoke at the Center in February.

to watch the Nationals play ball, and a day in Rehoboth Beach. In October, a group traveled to New York to see a Broadway play and spent the night in Wilmington with visits to the Hagley Museum and Winterthur.

BOOK SIGNINGS AND LECTURES

In connection with our trip to the Museum of African American History, A'Leia Bundles gave a talk on her ancestor, Madam C.J. Walker, the first black female millionaire in the United States; Allan Lichtman discussed his method of predicting a Trump victory in 2016; Sheldon Hochberg examined and explained how Bernie Madoff pulled off the largest Ponzi scheme in history and returned later in the year for a presentation on Artificial Intelligence; Rima Faber spoke on the connection between movement and cognitive health.

Herman Cohen of the County Police Department's Keeping Seniors Safe told us about frauds and scams targeting older people; Susan Gluck Mezey discussed the effects of HB2, North Carolina's "bathroom law"; AARP's Kerry Hannon spoke on financial well-being in retirement; Fred Hiatt, the Post's editorial page editor, discussed the state of the presidency and the role of opinion journalism; elder lawyer Cathy Sikorski led a humorous conversation on preparing for the future; and retired County Battalion Chief Jim Resnick spoke



In July we visited the newly renovated museum at Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown.



Hagley Museum was a highlight of our trip to Delaware and New York.

on fire safety in highrises.

Village residents enjoyed several theatrical productions last year. Seniors on Stage, a group of amateur senior actors in the county, presented play-reading performances in May and October. In June, Montgomery College students performed scenes and songs from their Summer Dinner Theater productions of "Into the Woods" and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." In the fall, the Center co-sponsored with the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network two programs: a lecture in October by Dr. Eric De Jonge on home-based primary care; and, a talk titled "The Changing Landscape of Our Communities: Are We Ready?" in December by Pazit Aviv, Village Coordinator with Aging and Disability Services for Montgomery County.

Authors who appeared at the Center included:

- **Peter Baker**
- **Jim Fitzgerald**
- **Royce Hanson**
- **Kyi May Kaung**
- **Alice McDermott**
- **Joan Nathan**
- **Kurt Newman, M.D.**
- **Deborah Tannen**
- **Barbara Feinman Todd**
- **Gary Vikan**
- **John Vine**
- **Roz Warren**
- **Barry Wood**

FOR KIDS

Throughout the year, the Village Center hosted a number of activities that proved especially appealing to children. Our annual summer art camp gave children a week-long art education, with projects ranging from origami to Chinese brush to pastels and painting. We also hosted art workshops where kids got creative with

watercolor, collage, even printmaking with shaving cream. Children also had the chance to gather to watch some of the year's best animated and children's movies during our Thursday night movie series. Children added to the fun and festivity of several concerts during the year. In October, we hosted our annual Halloween Party at the Village Center, always a hit with children and their parents.

CONCERTS

Our 2017 concert series showcased some of the area's finest professional and student musicians. Performers included guitarists Steve Abshire, Steve Herberman, and Richard Miller; the Mountain Fever Band featuring Banjo Man Frank Cassel; harpists Kristin Jepperson, Jody Marshall and Ellen James; and pianists Ellen Tenenabum, Thomas Pandolfi, Maribeth Gowen, Eric Byrd, and Eunbi Kim. Antonio Guiliano, Leigh Goodwin, Pam Parker, Karen Lovejoy, and Les Diva Divine all brought their vocal talents to the Friendship Heights stage. Kokopelli, an all-recorder group, and the New Brass Quintet showcased how just one type of instrument can have power in numbers. Classical music was well represented with performances by Beau Soir and the Friday Morning Music Club. Several afternoon concerts included performances by John Eaton and Eric Abrahamson.

We continued our tribute to Hilda Siebel, with concerts by Logan Circle and String of Pearls. We also welcomed PEAR DUO, featuring Julie Ragins and Curtis Brengle, to Friendship Heights for special winter and summer concerts.



Our summer art camp, coordinated by curator and art instructor Millie Shott, is always a big hit with kids.



"Twilight Pow Wow" by Nanno G. Lee, part of the abstract art exhibit at Friendship Gallery in August.

Jazz also took the stage with concerts by Tommy Cecil and Robert Redd, Steve Hom and Karla Chisholm, and the Susan Jones Jazz Band. Ellouise Schoettler brought us stories of strong 20th century women, while Mini-Musicals on the Move brought a little bit of Edwardian England with a performance of "Mary Poppins."

The summer featured several kid-friendly concerts—complete with glow sticks. Among the favorites were Marsha Goodman Wood, and the Bele Bele Rhythm Collective, which had children and adults alike jumping and dancing to the beat of 12 African drums.

A wealth of music and dance ranging from sea shanties to tango came to Friendship Heights with performances by the World Jam Club, Machaya Klezmer, IONA, the Maritime Voices, Kinor Dance Company and the Dixie Power Trio.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health issues have always been important at the Center. Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and nurse consultations, as well as monthly health lectures. In addition, Helene Emsellem, a nationally known sleep expert, spoke on insomnia and aging. A first aid class was presented by Suburban Hospital on a Saturday in June.

Staff members from Iona Senior Services came to discuss how Iona programs help older adults and family caregivers. Free glaucoma screenings, provided by the

Prevention of Blindness Society, were held on a Saturday in March. Pneumonia and flu shots were administered by the Visiting Nurse Association in September. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled, as always. The speech, caregivers and vision support groups continued to meet; the caregivers support group ended in the summer. In the fall, 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

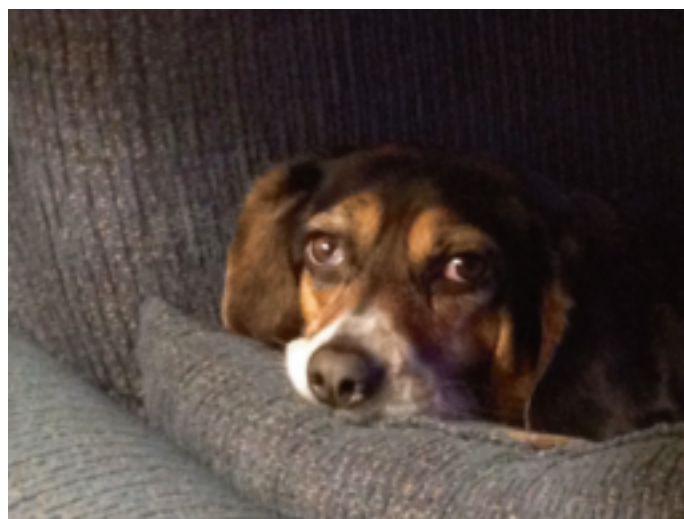
The Village Center celebrated its opening in 1986 with barbeque and bluegrass at the annual Community Day in April. Fall Festival in October featured diner food and Motown music. Our other special events — July 4th and New Year's Day Open House—were festive and provided an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have given their time to activities at the Center.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Millie Shott, our curator, coordinates monthly art exhibits at Friendship Gallery. "A Holiday Affair," the annual artisan craft fair, took place in November.

THANK YOU

Many volunteers contribute countless hours to assist with the 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.



"Le regard d'amour," a photo by Tracey Biagas, was featured in the Friendship Gallery art exhibit in July.



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.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS AT THE CENTER

Mayor Melanie White was honored by our state legislators at our July 4 celebration.



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 12, 2018, and Monday, March 12, 2018, 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 2019, 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 FY2019 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2018, 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.



The Council Report

The Friendship Heights Village Council

4433 South Park Avenue

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

www.friendshipheightsmd.gov

2017 Annual Report and FY2019 Proposed Budget