

The Council Report

2020 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022



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

Moving Forward

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."

—Mary Anne Radmacher

As you look back over the past year, you could probably name countless times when courage did indeed roar, and roar with a ferociousness unique to 2020. The courage demonstrated by the armies of frontline workers who continue to bravely battle this horrendous pandemic is one example. Our grocery store workers carry out their responsibilities in often uncertain conditions. And, millions of teachers struggle to educate our youngest citizens under trying circumstances. We are deeply grateful for all who show us what courage is day after day after day.

As 2020 unfolded, we also saw numerous examples of courage speaking in that "little voice,"—the one that you may not always hear. As you read through this Annual Report, I think you will see how courage always seems to find its way—even when those ways are not obvious.

During the past year, so many of the once-predictable rhythms of daily life here in the Village ended abruptly. This was most noticeable with the closing of the Village Center and the cancellation of all in-person meetings, classes, services, and celebrations. Almost immediately, though, our multi-talented Village staff jumped into action and came up with creative, workable alternatives as substitutes for the activities curtailed by COVID-19. I have always been impressed by our staff, but never more so than during these last 10 months.

Anne Hughes O'Neil and Jeanne Pettenati have become skilled in organizing online events and filling the huge void we faced in March with the shutdown. Through trial and error and perseverance, Anne and Jeanne have listened to that little voice of courage and pushed ahead with new activities each month.

Julian Mansfield and Bob Shapiro continue to oversee

Village operations, ensuring that your most-local government operates smoothly. They have worked tirelessly to stay on top of virus testing and vaccine programs and will continue to do so. Thanks to the efforts of our senior staff, Village residents were able to vote more easily in the recent historic election. Supporting Julian and Bob are a dedicated team of other Village employees who fulfill their responsibilities without pause and with the same pre-pandemic level of expertise. All of our Center personnel have changed the way they work to ensure that Village services continue without interruption.

Other examples of quiet courage are found throughout our community. Residents who were once reluctant to log on to any device now find themselves Zooming

around with the rest of the world. How gratifying it is to see residents helping each other during this pandemic, too. From being vigilant mask-wearers and social-distancers, to sharing ways of navigating stay-at-home orders—the people who live in our high-rise Village demonstrate daily how to be a good neighbor. Mirroring the courage of our residents, business owners—who are such a vital part of Friendship Heights—have had to find new ways to attract customers under a daunting array of restrictions. The Village spotlighted our neighborhood restaurants through a dining guide included in the December newsletter. During the coming months,

the Village Council will continue to work with County officials to strengthen our local retail landscape.

None of our Village services and programs would be possible without your tax dollars. The pandemic has left its mark on our budget, but as you can read in our Treasurer's Report, our finances are still in good shape.

At some point this year, I hope that we can all gather again at the Center. In the meantime, the Council and staff thank you for your cooperation, support, and dedication to our Village. Thank you, too, for the many acts of courage that you continue to demonstrate as we forge through these challenging times. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones and remember to listen for that little voice at the end of the day.



2020 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

Council members remained in their same positions this past year: Melanie White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathy Cooper, Treasurer; Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian; and Michael Dorsey, Council member. The next Council election will be held in May 2021.

We had several changes to the staff. Longtime front desk receptionist (and resident) Jacquie Koenig retired, and we welcomed Peggy Brock, also a Village resident, as our new part-time front desk receptionist. The Village Council also hired Hector Garcia and Sandra Ramos as Maintenance Supervisor and Maintenance Staff, respectively.



Hector Garcia and Sandra Ramos

Hector and Sandra have worked at the Village Center for many years as employees of our maintenance contractor, and they are well-known to many residents. We were pleased to welcome them to the staff.

COVID-19 AND THE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE

The biggest story of the year, of course, was the COVID-19 pandemic and how much it disrupted our way of life. The Village Center was closed to the public on March 13, following the Maryland Governor's announcement of a state of emergency. At the time, no one imagined we would be forced to continue the shutdown through the entire year and into 2021. We then worked to adapt to our new reality while maintaining essential services to our community. Staff continued to work with contractors, kept up with the Village's financial obligations, and responded to phone calls

and emails. Programs typically held at the Center were converted online (see Program Report on page 9). The Village Council began meeting via Zoom in April, and Council advisory committees also conducted their meetings online. The Council encouraged all residents to follow County guidelines requiring everyone to wear face coverings in public.



We requested that the County provide COVID-19 testing at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center. Following a positive response to this effort and our continued advocacy, the County began providing weekly testing at this site (Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), which continues into 2021.

NEW SHUTTLE BUSES

Two Ford Champion 550 LF Transport low-floor kneeling buses arrived in June. Having two of the same bus provides a more consistent backup vehicle when needed. The new buses are a little smaller and more maneuverable than the previous bus. They are also quieter and cleaner running. Decals with the Village's logo are displayed on both sides and on the front.

The Giant grocery store at the Chevy Chase Center closed in January. Soon after the closing, we arranged for the Village shuttle bus to go to the Giant grocery store at the Westwood Shopping Center (Westbard) on weekends. We then added a Wednesday trip to the Westbard Giant. The schedule on the other weekdays remained unchanged, including the stop at the Chevy Chase Center near the closed Giant store.

A new grocery store at the Chevy Chase Center is



expected to open in the first quarter of 2021. The official identity of the grocery store has not been released. It will reportedly be an Amazon store.

LAND COMPANY DISPUTE AND RESOLUTION

The Chevy Chase Land Company asked the County to remove the site plan requirement for shuttle service to a nearby grocery store. This was a condition of the redevelopment approval for the Chevy Chase Center in 1998, and was also part of a separate agreement with the Village. The Council opposed the removal of this condition and contended that the Land Company was not carrying out its obligations since the closure of the Giant grocery store. Residents joined the effort and contacted the County as well.

This led to a negotiated settlement with the Land Company agreeing to pay \$5,000 per month to support shuttle bus service to Westbard through March 2021 or until the new grocery store opens. The Village's prior agreement with the Land Company, requiring a bus subsidy if there is no comparable grocery store at Chevy Chase Center, remains in effect.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

The Council's Infrastructure Committee worked with staff to tackle several projects this past year. After surveying the Village's streetlight poles, the Committee determined that the older iron poles (88 total) needed to be repainted with a long-lasting polyurethane finish. Taking advantage of unseasonably warm weather in November, our contractor was able to complete the job ahead of schedule. The repainted poles match the color of the newer, aluminum poles that have been installed as replacements.



The Infrastructure Committee also worked with an arborist on a plan to plant 15 new street trees in locations where trees had been removed in the past few years. The plan included three species of trees—Nuttall oak, Swamp white oak, and Zelkova. The trees were planted in the fall.

The Council also approved a plan, recommended by the Committee, to rehabilitate grass strips (the area between the sidewalk and curb) in various locations throughout the Village. New grass will



Festive holiday lights were on display inside the Village Center and in Humphrey Park in December.

be installed in most of these areas in the spring of 2021, and a few spots will have liriopie planted.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

The County installed new HAWK pedestrian-activated signals to cross Willard Avenue near the intersection with The Hills Plaza. This was a project the Village had advocated through the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (TMD). Village residents Elizabeth Harris and John Mertens continued to represent us on the TMD, which advises the County on a range of traffic and transportation issues. Following further study, the County made plans to install similar signals on Willard Avenue at the intersection with Shoemaker Farm Lane and at Willard and North Park Avenues.

The Village also continued its active involvement in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, a coalition of 19 neighborhood associations and towns. Melanie White continued to serve as Chairman.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Toward the end of 2020, the Council began to discuss the decline of retail and commercial activity in the Friendship Heights area in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous restaurants, shops and businesses were forced to close, and a number of retail spaces remained vacant throughout the year. A committee of the whole Council was formed to examine this decline and to explore ways of revitalizing the area on both sides of the Maryland-DC border. Discussions on this topic will be ongoing in 2021.

The Village also became involved in a broader community effort to examine the County's proposed long-term plan to guide development in the area. This

will replace the 1964 General Plan, which was written when much of the County was less developed. The new plan, known as Thrive Montgomery 2050, puts forth goals for land use, zoning, housing, the economy, transportation, and more. A coalition of local municipalities and community organizations was formed to address the plan and identify concerns.



ELECTION BY MAIL

Because the Village Center had to be closed to the public for most of the year, it could not be used as a polling place for Village residents during the primary and general elections. For the general election in November, the Village arranged through the State and the County to have a ballot drop box placed

outside the Center for voters to return their completed ballots. In accordance with State guidelines, the box was under 24/7 recorded surveillance with a security camera that we installed. We also had our shuttle bus take voters to the nearest polling place on election day (the Lawton Center in Chevy Chase).

COUNTY MOBILE COMMUTER STORE

The Village continued to host the County TRIPS Commuter Store every Wednesday. Although the COVID-19 pandemic forced the County to stop the service for a while, it returned in September on its regular schedule. The mobile store parks next to the Village Center, in the same spot as the MVA bus. Residents can buy transit passes for Metrorail, Metrobus and Ride On, including Senior SmarTrip cards (good for discounted fares), regular cards and Ride On Youth Cruisers.



VILLAGE SEEKS NEW TENANT FOR 4602 N. PARK

The Village-owned house at 4602 North Park Avenue (pictured below) is still available for lease. The lower



level of the property houses the police field office, and the two upper levels are available for lease. The 1938 brick house, converted to office use, is one of the last single-family properties remaining in our high-rise community. The space is approximately 2,000 square feet and consists of 10 rooms and 3 bathrooms on two floors. Designated on-street parking for two cars and additional off-street parking is included.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE

The Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue, now 24 years old, is a wonderful partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department. The facility provides increased police presence and visibility in the community.

MVA ON WHEELS

Unfortunately, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Mobile Office was shut down due to the pandemic. We hope it will resume sometime in 2021. All of the services provided at the MVA Express Offices are available on the bus.

THANK YOU

My special thanks to our wonderful staff for all their efforts throughout a very challenging year. We look forward to welcoming residents and visitors back to the Village Center in 2021.

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Cooper

Well, we did it: we made it over the finish line of 2020! It was quite a journey. Just as COVID-19 has had an impact on us individually, it has also affected our Village finances, both positively and negatively. Overall we remain in a good fiscal position. We ended FY2020 with a surplus of just over \$300,000, and we expect a surplus for FY2021 of approximately \$250,000. ***This means that for the 16th consecutive year our proposed tax rate can remain at 4 cents per \$100, the lowest rate allowed by our charter.***

A number of our Revenue and Expense categories changed significantly due to COVID-19, and these will be explained in more detail below. For budgeting purposes, we are assuming that we will be under COVID-19 restrictions for the remainder of FY2021, but will return to "normal" in FY2022.

REVENUES

A major factor in keeping our revenues in balance is the state-projected increase of \$65,000 in our income tax receipts for FY2021 over the budgeted amount. This seems almost counter-intuitive given the economic downturn during the pandemic, but fortunately many of our residents, apparently, have remained unscathed thus far. This increase helps offset the loss of revenue from the Village's rental property (approximately \$60,000) and also the loss of rental fees at the Village Center (approximately \$15,000). Once the Village Center opens again (summer, we hope) and businesses feel more comfortable about relocating, we anticipate that this income will start to come back. The Center is a great place to host an event, and 4602 is a unique space in a top location.

Parking revenues are also down by half, but we believe a significant portion of that will be recouped once the County reactivates its enforcement procedures which were temporarily suspended during the pandemic.

EXPENDITURES

A major increase you will notice in expenditures is under Salaries and all related benefits and taxes. In late 2020 the Council decided to make our longtime maintenance personnel, Hector Garcia and Sandra Ramos, Village employees with full benefits, instead of contract hires. A significant part of this increase is offset by a reduction in our Maintenance Services budget. While we budgeted for a 3% increase in staff salaries

for FY2021, the Council did not give raises this year. We have allowed for raises in FY2022.

With the closure of the Center, we have not hosted any meetings or events, so Hospitality and Special Events costs have gone down significantly but should go back to their normal levels by summer. Another expenditure which has temporarily decreased is our Security Patrol



Contract. With the Center closed and with no nighttime or weekend activities, patrols have been cut. We expect to reinstate these once the Center is open for business again. All other categories remain pretty stable.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A major capital improvement was the repainting of all of the Village's light poles. You may have also noticed new trees planted between the sidewalk and the curb along several Village streets. The Council approved new grass and other plantings in these same areas once spring comes. All of these improvements should enhance the Village's appearance greatly.

The proposed Village budget for FY2022 follows, along with an explanation of the various categories. As always, this 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 FY2022 budget in February and March.

As we are happy to say 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, as well as offer a wide range of programs via Zoom. We hope our fellow residents remain proud to call the Village of Friendship Heights their home.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2022

REVENUES:	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Est. Actual FY21	Budget FY22
Property tax ¹	\$633,599	\$630,000	\$630,000	\$630,000
Income tax ²	1,324,292	1,421,000	1,486,000	1,406,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	95,245	95,245	95,245	95,245
Gas/highway tax ⁴	61,537	68,000	60,000	64,000
Parking violation income ⁵	248,508	250,000	125,000	250,000
4602 N. Park Avenue rental	0	60,000	0	60,000
Interest income ⁶	78,266	80,000	12,000	50,000
Village Center rental income	9,566	15,000	0	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	7,165	15,000	15,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	23,863	30,000	30,000	30,000
Village Center program/misc. income ⁸	6,511	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,488,552	\$2,671,245	\$2,460,245	\$2,622,245
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Est. Actual FY21	Budget FY22
General Government				
1 Elections	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$0
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	13,137	12,000	12,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	11,579	12,000	12,000	12,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	18,104	25,000	15,000	25,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	68,027	25,000	25,000	25,000
2F Village Council reports	2,365	3,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries ¹²	701,376	747,000	751,000	824,000
3B Health and life insurance ¹³	130,919	141,750	166,000	191,000
3C F.I.C.A.	53,848	58,500	57,500	63,500
3E Retirement contribution ¹⁴	50,252	58,000	58,000	64,000
4A Xerox copiers	827	1,000	1,000	1,000
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	12,936	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	5,423	4,500	4,500	4,500
5C Bldg./General liability insurance ¹⁵	10,494	12,583	12,583	13,752
6 Telephone and utilities	34,865	45,000	45,000	45,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	16,543	20,000	2,000	20,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	10,770	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	0	0	5,000
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	11,231	10,000	15,000	10,000
8E Computer equipment/supplies	5,030	3,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance/repairs	11,143	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	125,971	135,000	48,000	25,000
Total General Government	\$1,294,840	\$1,369,333	\$1,292,583	\$1,398,752
Public Safety				
9A Security patrol contract	\$91,874	\$120,000	53,000	\$120,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	1,178	4,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	10,984	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total Public Safety	\$104,036	\$136,000	\$69,000	\$136,000

Public Works	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Est. Actual FY21	Budget FY22
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$457,000	\$480,000	\$470,000	\$485,000
11A Street maintenance	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	5,245	20,000	20,000	20,000
11C Snow removal	983	50,000	50,000	50,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	0	0	0
12A Waste collection ²²	20,086	24,000	15,000	15,000
12B Recycling	3,125	3,500	3,500	3,500
13 Street lighting	21,551	25,000	25,000	25,000
14 Street signs	2,691	1,000	1,000	1,000
15 Trees	6,210	15,000	15,000	15,000
16 Villagescape ²³	12,809	14,000	14,000	14,000
Total Public Works	\$529,700	\$642,500	\$623,500	\$638,500
Health/Social Services				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	6,370	12,000	0	12,000
Total Health/Social Services	\$6,370	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	3,690	10,000	5,000	10,000
18D Musicians' fees	18,894	20,000	10,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	1,583	0	0	0
18F Trip fees	719	0	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	237	3,000	1,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	4,702	6,000	2,500	6,000
18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners	9,891	14,000	3,000	14,000
18M Center special events ²⁵	33,177	40,000	500	40,000
19 Reading Room materials	2,114	4,000	3,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	25,710	29,000	29,000	29,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity	1,058	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	7,244	7,000	7,500	7,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain maint.	17,850	15,000	20,000	20,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting maint.	796	3,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	9,996	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	93,781	100,000	115,000	100,000
24 Arborist contract	19,230	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$250,672	\$273,000	\$221,500	\$278,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$2,185,618	\$2,432,833	\$2,206,583	\$2,463,252
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$302,934	\$238,412	\$253,662	\$158,993
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,488,552	\$2,671,245	\$2,460,245	\$2,622,245
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$5,404,223	\$5,642,635	\$5,657,885	\$5,816,878
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCE²⁶	\$53,343	\$53,343	\$16,000	\$16,000
OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE²⁷	\$1,333	\$1,333	\$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 FY2021 and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2022, which begins July 1, 2021.
- 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, is 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 seven 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 supplies and supplemental cleaning at Village Center. Maintenance employees were added to Village staff in November 2020.
- 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.

2020 Program Report

Anne O'Neil, Program Director

Who could have foreseen when we were celebrating the start of the new decade what 2020 had in store for us?

The year kicked off not unlike others over the last 20 years. Crowds gathered for our Annual New Year's Day Open House in Huntley Hall to enjoy gourmet nibbles and soothing music.

Throughout January, February, and into March, the Village Center buzzed with residents taking exercise classes such as Tai Chi, Balance and Fall Prevention, Chair Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Pilates and Balance, Movement and Memory. Students tapped into their creative side with art classes such as portrait drawing, still life, abstract art, and a multi-media class called Painting for Everyone.

Nutritionist Sandra Danu offered a five-week course in the principals of natural health. Barbara Rosenblatt continued her memoir writing class, and Elena Marra Lopez met weekly with residents for an informal Spanish conversation class.

Members from a number of groups—Chess; Coffee and Current Events; Great Books; the Village Book Club; Express Yourself; aphasia support; Friday Fiber Friends; Canasta; Bridge; and Yiddish filled our classrooms.

Movie fans caught new releases and classics each week. Downton Abbey fans were treated to a Saturday morning tea as they watched the full-length feature.

Huntley Hall hosted music lovers with performances ranging from classical to New Age music, plus the harp and flute. Productions also celebrated the Chinese New Year, with a Tai Chi demonstration. Gospel, blues, R&B, and protest songs by Leigh Goodwin honored Black



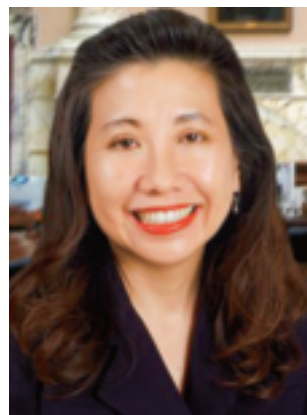
Caravaggio's "The Cardsharps" was featured on a virtual tour of Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum in November.

History Month. Novice and veteran musicians gathered monthly with banjos, upright basses, mandolins and more for Monday Mountain Music Jam. Toddlers and their parents danced and sang to the sounds of Marsha Goodman-Wood. Seniors and toddlers tossed balls and rings, cheered and laughed during an intergenerational exercise class with Tonya Walton.

Crowds gathered to hear Nick Glakas present "The Partnership that Saved the World," a look into the relationship between Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Matthew Losack, executive director of the Montgomery County Renters Alliance, addressed rental issues, while Marsha Goodman-Wood discussed how music can help the brain stay young.

In the early months of 2020, we hosted a number of talks on health and safety. Glaucoma expert Arthur Schwartz spoke in celebration of Glaucoma Awareness Month. The Society for the Prevention of Blindness (POB) conducted free glaucoma screenings. Vision Resources Lunch and Learn offered a talk on the new resources offered through the POB. Suburban Hospital offered lectures on the latest diets, self-care, and managing back pain.

Second Story Knits presented a beginning knitting weekend workshop, and Dominic Medile, a sixth grade student from Westbrook Middle School, offered a tech talk with tips designed to help seniors with phone



MD Senator Susan Lee gave an update on the state legislative session.



We visited the National Aquarium in Baltimore.



We toured the Museum of the American Revolution online.

settings, emails, Google searches and more.

In January, we visited the National Aquarium in Baltimore and enjoyed lunch in Little Italy. We returned to Baltimore to attend the American Craft Show at the Convention Center. Saturday Lunchtime Lessons from the Great Courses Collection highlighted the history and culture of Washington, D.C. Our weekly Tuesday afternoon tea remained a popular way for residents to gather and chat with friends.

Then, on Friday, March 13, the Village Center announced it would close its doors to the public due to continuing concerns surrounding a new virus known as COVID-19. At that time, we were still hopeful that we could reschedule our trip to Asheville in the near future.

"We look forward to getting through this and being able to resume our normal lives," read a line on the front page of the Village News in April.

It soon became clear that we were in a "New Normal." Our 2020 vocabulary featured words like Zoom, Social Distancing, and Personal Protective Equipment. Masks

became not only a necessity, but a fashion statement. In a matter of weeks, the Village Center programming made the transition from on-site to online.

Our Virtual Village Center has offered a variety of programs while the Center has been shuttered. To help residents make the transition to online activities, the Village Center has enlisted the help of tech professionals Ari Fisher of The Tech Mensch and Cheryl Morris of Personal Computer Coach. With free monthly classes, residents can learn a number of technical skills, such as how to Zoom, navigate our website, use registration platforms, and more. Thanks to online meeting platforms, predominantly Zoom, groups were able to continue meeting virtually. Ninety percent of our clubs now meet regularly using Zoom.

Lectures and select classes and activities have also gone online. Suburban Hospital offered lectures on arthritis pain and treatments, hearing loss, skin care, new treatments in pancreatic cancer, healthy eating to boost the immune system, tinnitus and vertigo. Dr. Michael Mintz spoke on medical uses for marijuana. The Society for the Prevention of Blindness hosted weekly Low Vision Town Hall meetings.

Dr. David Sacks, a local psychologist, conducted a series of community conversations on dealing with isolation and how to manage and remain engaged during COVID. Dr. Mark Klaiman discussed the emerging field of regenerative medicine during a talk offered in cooperation with the Friendship Heights Neighbors Network. Giant pharmacists administered 100 flu shots to Village residents during three mini clinics at the Village Center in October.

State Sen. Susan Lee was joined by State Delegate Marc Korman and Montgomery County Council member Andrew Friedson to present a review of issues the legislature tackled in its 2020 session.

Nationally acclaimed stage manager Linda Brovsky explored



"First Light" by Hubert Jackson was part of the art show at Friendship Gallery in February.



Jenny and Nathan Wilson performed in our Online Onstage concert series.

the different worlds of opera and musical theater. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the Museum of the American Revolution presented “When Women Lost the Vote.” This talk examined the political conflicts that led to the stripping away of voting rights.

Leading up to the election in November, Montgomery County Voting Coordinator Gilberto Zelaya discussed how voting would be different in 2020. Ralph Watkins of the Montgomery County League of Women Voters explained some of the County’s ballot initiatives.

Residents learned to spot and avoid holiday scams as an official from the County’s Office of Consumer Protection lectured on this seasonal problem. Fitness instructor Tonya Walton returned via Zoom to discuss her book, “100 Ways to Successfully Age Gracefully.”

Wildlife author and illustrator Kate Samworth offered online art classes for children and adults during the summer. Barbara Rosenblatt brought writers together for instruction and analysis during two-part writing workshops throughout the year. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School seniors Asha Dees and Alicia Guevara spoke about the website they created to teach children about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Many of our annual events were also held virtually, including our children’s Halloween Bingo, and our July 4th Celebration. Although our Village-sponsored trips have been suspended, we have been able to travel virtually to a number of museums across the country.

Residents continue to enjoy musical performances, accessible 24 hours a day, through our Online... OnStage concert series. This series features YouTube

concerts performed exclusively for residents. Concerts include performances by classical pianist Frederick Moyer; clarinetist James Logan; saxophone and piano duo R2Duo; holiday concerts by Music Pilgrim Trio, Janet Rutland and Susan Jones; classical and vocal performances by Tulsa Trio; a Spanish Heritage program



from Isaac Eicher and Marcella Pinilla; R&B, jazz and international music from the Silver Sounds band; western swing from Shelby Eicher; jazz from Jenny and Nathan Wilson; and a variety of vocal performances ranging from country to vintage pop to show tunes from Janet Rutland. The Online... OnStage series also features musical and performing arts lectures ranging from Native American ballerinas to the history of jazz to the stories behind songs by Duke Ellington and Glen Miller.

In addition to online programs, there were a number of activities throughout the Village that enabled residents to engage while keeping a safe social distance. Seasonal craft kits, stocked with art supplies for children and adults, sparked creativity and kept residents involved.

In May, we hosted a virtual Triple Crown contest. Taking advantage of favorable weather during the summer, we offered Maryland- and summer-themed scavenger hunts. Images of a masked Gov. Larry Hogan and giant Hungry Caterpillar characters were particularly popular. We also hosted a food truck event that brought fresh, restaurant-quality food from first generation authentic chefs to Village residents.

We ended the year with two one-day food drives to benefit the Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg. Village residents came out in force in the snow and cold weather to bring 606 pounds of food. It was a tremendous display of community spirit that warmed our hearts.

We miss hosting residents at the Center and look forward to the day when we can reopen safely. Until then, we encourage you to stay safe and to take part in our online programs and socially distanced activities.



Take-home craft kits were a big hit with the kids.



FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS
As always, we have ordered tax forms from the IRS for copying at the Village Center. However, availability will depend on when the Center reopens.

"Madelyn's Mandolin" by Annette Simmons Hodges, part of the Friendship Gallery art show in March 2020.



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 8, 2021, and Monday, March 8, 2021, 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 2022, 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 FY2022 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2021, 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



2020 Annual Report and FY2022 Proposed Budget