



Friendship Heights

VILLAGE NEWS

DECEMBER 2025 VOLUME 42, NO. 12 www.friendshipheightsmd.gov 301-656-2797



Make and take a holiday decoration, see page 10.

Our holiday trip celebrates gardens and Austen's birthday

Spend a December day amid the natural beauty that is Longwood Gardens, then celebrate the birth of beloved author Jane Austen when we travel north for a holiday trip to Pennsylvania and Delaware on **Tuesday, Dec. 16.**

During our first stop, all that glitters is on display as Longwood Gardens dresses up for the holidays.

The gardens will be transformed into a living jewel box, with twinkling lights in hues of emerald green, ruby red and bold sapphire. Inside, the silver garden features a living tree and luminous living wreaths, the ballroom shines with trees decorated by local arts centers, the West Conservatory enchants with cut trees that appear to float on water, and throughout,



thousands of poinsettias, paperwhites, amaryllis, and other holiday blooms bring brilliance to every scene.

Following our garden visit, we'll enjoy a festive feast at Brandywine Prime, a charming restaurant featuring American cuisine.

The menu includes soup or salad, choice of petite chicken breast with pan jus, creamy mashed potatoes, baby heirloom carrots; pumpkin butternut squash ravioli with sage cream; or Wagyu Salisbury Steak with caramelized onion and mushroom gravy, and creamy mashed potatoes. Top off your luncheon with a scrumptious dessert and coffee or tea. Please make menu choices at sign ups.

Then we're off to the charming Delaware town of Odessa as "A Jane Austen Christmas at 250" transforms the Wilson-Warner House (c.1769) into a Georgian-era holiday celebration inspired by Austen's novels.

Visitors will step into parlor games, candlelit balls, festive evergreen decorations, and scenes that reflect

Continued on page 5, see Gardens

Scammers never take holidays!

Not everyone is filled with goodwill this time of year. While you're out celebrating the season, scammers are continuing to conjure up new and devious ways to separate you from your money.

Learn how to protect yourself during the holidays and year-round when Lieutenant Cynthia Miranda of the Montgomery County Financial Crimes Division conducts a fraud presentation on **Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m.,** at the Village Center.



During this powerpoint presentation, she'll discuss some current frauds, such as phone, romance, courier, crypto and government imposter scams, and something called "pig butchering," as well as identity theft.

"I'll show you how to check your credit, and what to look for" said Lt. Miranda.

She will also have time to answer your questions.

Registration is required to ensure a seat. See page 2 for sign-up details.

Special tea features costumed carolers

Holiday spirit and the sounds of the season will fill the Village Center during our special tea on **Tuesday,**

Dec. 9. Enjoy the seasonal music from the Capitol Carolers, dressed in Victorian costumes, at 2 p.m. Hot tea and festive treats will be served following the performance.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. See page 2 for details.

Please note: we cannot guarantee seats to those who have not preregistered.



Don't let holiday stress get you down, see page 2.

Don't stress—Decompress!

Whether it's keeping up with family demands, trying not to eat every last holiday cookie, or simply not feeling like you have enough time to get everything done, this time of year can put a lot of stress on the body leaving us vulnerable to getting sick and stressed out.



Long-time yoga instructor Louisa Klein is offering an hour-long workshop to help you decompress from the holiday stress on **Friday, Dec. 12, from 3 to 4 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

Learn guided meditations using simple breathing and sound techniques to balance, calm and nourish you, to help you develop and maintain an equilibrium, simple skills and practices to overcome stress and anxiety. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude, which can have an overall positive impact on your mental health and wellbeing.

Registration is required. See page 2 for details.

MAYOR'S CORNER

The government shutdown has ended, but support is still available for those affected by recent government activities.

The Village holds a monthly discussion group for current and former federal workers, contractors, and their families on the first Monday of each month, from 6–7 pm at the Village Center. The next meeting is **Monday Dec. 1.**

Information about assistance is available at:

Montgomery County, MD
[Montgomerycountymd.gov](https://montgomerycountymd.gov)

Click on box that says: Resources for Workers Impacted by recent government actions

Maryland Department of Labor
<https://labor.maryland.gov/federalworkers/>
Resources for Maryland's Former Federal Employees and Other Workers Impacted by Federal Actions.

University System of Maryland
<https://www.usmd.edu/federalworkers/>
Opportunities and Resources for Displaced Federal Workers

Consortium of Universities of The Washington Metropolitan Area
[Consortium.org](https://consortium.org)
Under dropdown menu for Programs and Initiatives, click on: Federal Workforce: Resources for Displaced Employees

NARA – National Association for Regulatory Administration
<https://www.naralicensing.org/>
Under dropdown menu for Resources, click on: Displaced Workers Resource and Information HUB

Roy Schaeffer
rschaeffer@friendshipheightsmd.gov

How to sign up for activities at the Village Center

1) Go to our website at www.friendshipheightsmd.gov.

2) Click Sign Up for Programs.

3) Click Sign In/Up.

*New users must follow instructions for creating a new account. Go to top right-hand section that reads "To create an account." Once account is created, do the following:

4) Scroll down to desired activity and click Enroll.

5) For activities with a fee, click view fee details. Choose payment option and pay.

*Having trouble signing up online? Please call the Village Center at 301-656-2797, and the front desk staff will be happy to assist you.

*In some cases, such as trips, in-person registration is required. If so, it will be noted in the newsletter story.



Friendship Heights VILLAGE NEWS

www.friendshipheightsmd.gov

Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov

The Village News is a publication of the Village Council, the elected governing body of the Special Tax District of the Village of Friendship Heights, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, 301-656-2797. The newsletter is produced through the cooperative efforts of volunteers, Council members, and Village staff.

ADVERTISING

The deadline for reserving space in the January issue is Dec. 5. For suggestions about news items or information on advertising rates, call 301-656-2797. Acceptance of advertising does not represent endorsement by the Village of Friendship Heights for any product or service, nor is the Village of Friendship Heights responsible for representations made by advertisers.

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Julian P. Mansfield

Village Council Update

Village Council seeks input from residents regarding pergola in Page Park

Following the discussion at the November 10 Council meeting, Clark Azar prepared renderings of two options for removing the pergola and filling in the area with plantings to match the level of the adjacent patio. The third option is to keep the pergola and install concrete footings to comply with County DPS requirements. The three options are posted on the Village website's Page Park Project page at <https://bit.ly/3JY5xam>. The Village is seeking input from the community regarding the three options. You can indicate your preference by email to info@friendshipheightsmd.gov. The Council will then take a vote on the matter at its December 8 meeting.

Update on the Red House

At the November 10 Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved a change order for \$119,028 submitted by Managed Homes. The change order reflected additional work required for the commercial building permit, along with additional costs due to the expanded scope of work for several construction items. Visit <https://bit.ly/483YB3I> to view the change order. As noted previously, DPS issued a permit number (#1134095) for the commercial building permit application, and it was posted on the website. Visit <https://bit.ly/4p4Vkrt> to check the status, select "Commercial Building" under Application Type, and enter the permit number.

Village Council requests amenities in the Friendship Heights Sector Plan

On November 18, the Montgomery Planning and Montgomery Parks staff hosted a webinar to present a summary of the feedback they have received since community engagement for the Friendship Heights Sector Plan began in November 2024. In advance of the webinar, the Village Council sent the Planning Board staff a letter recommending several amenities to be included in the Sector Plan. The letter was based on recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Development and unanimously approved by the Village Council at the November 10 Council meeting. A copy of the letter was posted on the Village website at <https://bit.ly/49j875a>.

On November 20, the Planning staff briefed the Planning Board with a similar presentation summarizing engagement feedback and takeaways. Over the coming months, the Sector Plan team will then craft preliminary recommendations informed by the comments received during the past year. These recommendations will be presented to the community and the Planning Board for feedback. There should be an update in early 2026 with more details.

Village Council solicits proposals for New Initiatives budget

The Council set aside \$5,000 in the FY 2026 Village budget (line item 8i) for New Initiatives, continuing a program that began last year. Please visit <https://bit.ly/4r1qTEo> on the Village website to view the New Initiatives Project document and to learn more about how to apply. The Community Advisory Committee will evaluate the applications and make a recommendation to the Council.

Logo decals installed at Village entrances

To further promote the Village and bring awareness of

its boundaries, the Village has installed sidewalk decals at four pedestrian entrances to the Village: 1) North Park Avenue near Willard Avenue; 2) Friendship Boulevard near Willard Avenue; 3) South Park Avenue near Wisconsin Avenue; and 4) The Hills



Plaza near Willard Avenue. The decals have the Village's logo and a QR code that links to the Village's website.

Upgraded internet connection at Village Center

Following repeated internet outages at the Village Center, the staff has been working with Comcast to switch to a direct fiber connection. This work was completed in November, and we anticipate greater reliability of the service. The Village's IT vendor created a new network for public access. For all visitors to the Village Center, the new network is FH-Guest and the password is Friendship. Notices have been posted at the Village Center front desk and in the library.

Other actions taken at the November 10 meeting:

- Discussed check signing procedures and recommendations made by Council Treasurer John Conlow in advance of the Finance Committee meeting on November 18. The Council will further discuss and take a vote at its December 8 meeting.
- Discussed pedestrian safety study project. The Council agreed to create a working group to review proposals. It will further discuss and take a vote at its December 8 meeting.

The next scheduled Village Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m., and will be open to the public at the Village Center and livestreamed. Please visit our website at www.friendshipheightsmd.gov for additional details.

Make plans to meet these local authors in January

It's no secret that Friendship Heights attracts the interesting, interested and talented who reside within the boundaries of the Village. Many attend events, teach classes, give lectures or volunteer. Some have written books. We're fortunate to have two Village residents who will conduct book talks and signings in January.

On **Friday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.**, author, political consultant Bob Blaemire discusses his book, "Birch Bayh: Making a Difference," at 2:30 p.m. at the Village Center.

On **Monday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.**, National Public Radio's Roving National Correspondent Frank Langfitt will interview Noel Rubinton about his book, "Looking for a Story: A Complete Guide to the Writings of John McPhee."

Look for more information about these book signings and registration details in the January *Village News*.



The Village Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m., via Zoom**. The book selection is "Doppleganger" by Naomi Klein. The January book will be "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Sleigh hunger this holiday season



Help make the holidays a little brighter for those fighting hunger as we host a food drive to collect healthy food for Manna Food Bank in Gaithersburg.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items at the Village Center **until Wednesday, Dec. 17**. Just look for the brightly decorated collection boxes on the portico in front of the Village Center and in our lobby.

Manna is always in need of items without ingredients like added sugar, saturated/trans fats, and sodium. Some examples are canned fish packed in water, fruit canned in its own juice, low sodium vegetables and soup, brown rice and whole wheat pastas, natural nut butters and dried beans. Please check the expiration dates on items!

Seasonal sounds by AHC

The madrigals, glee choir, and musicians from the Academy of the Holy Cross School (AHC) in Kensington will present a joyful and varied program of holiday songs and vocal and instrumental solos on **Saturday, Dec. 20, at 12 p.m.**, at the Village Center. Singers perform at school events, community gatherings and venues like the Basilica of the National Shrine and the Washington National Cathedral.

Registration is required. See page 2 for details.

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Gardens, continued from page 1

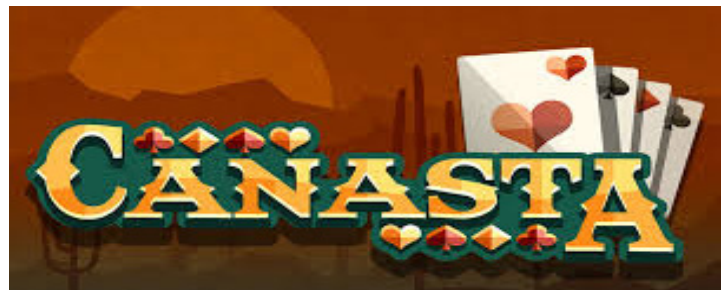
Austen's world, from Christmas Eve and Boxing Day to Twelfth Night revelry.

Austen's beloved novels with the iconic titles of "Sense and Sensibility," "Pride and Prejudice," "Mansfield Park," "Emma," "Northanger Abbey" and "Persuasion" are recognized world-wide. Austen provides brief accounts of Christmas customs and traditions celebrated in Georgian England in each of her novels which provide inspiration for each room vignette.

We'll depart from the Village Center at 7:30 a.m., and should return by 7:30 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$165, which includes round-trip transportation, three-course luncheon, admission to Longwood Gardens and Odessa houses. Residents who sign up by Dec. 6 pay \$155. Registration begins immediately at the Village Center for Village residents and one guest. Nonresidents may sign up beginning Dec. 7 and pay \$175. There are 24 spaces available.

A portion of the cost of this trip has been covered by a generous donation from the estate of Ana Gardano.



Make a fun resolution— learn to play Canasta!

It's time for your New Year's resolution—try something new! We have just the thing for you. Join us to learn the entertaining game of Canasta. The beginners' class is divided into two sessions from **1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21 and Jan. 28.** Each class is followed by a two-hour game session to practice your new skills.

The cost of the class is \$15, but no cost for the weekly games. Registration is required; see page 2 for details. For more information, call Tom Sherman at 301-275-0390. Our Canasta group meets regularly throughout the year on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Village Center. If you like to learn how to play or want to brush up on your skills, we've got a class for you!

Handouts will also be provided. A minimum of 4 is needed for the class to proceed.



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CLASSES AND CLUBS

To register, please go to our website www.friendshipheightsmd.gov and sign up through ActiveNet. Class registration will close 48 hours before the start of the session. Late registration will be permitted at the discretion of the Village Center, must be done in person and is subject to a late fee of 15 percent. A class may be canceled if the minimum number of students is not met. Participants must pay for the full series. No refunds after the class begins. All participants in fitness classes, as well as Drop-in Tai Chi and sample classes, are required to sign a liability waiver. In the event a class is canceled, a make-up class will be held following the last class of the session.

EXERCISE

BALANCE BASICS

A 6-week class, Wednesdays, 11 to 11:45 a.m., taught by Cheryl Clark, Jan. 7 to Feb. 11. This class teaches strategies for basic balance and aid in developing fall prevention techniques and improving your ability to perform daily activities safely. The class will help to build confidence while maintaining balance and strengthening key muscle groups. \$81 for residents; \$90 for nonresidents.

BEGINNER PILATES (FRIDAYS)

A 6-week class, Fridays, 12 to 1 p.m., Jan 2 to Feb. 6, taught by Dawn Maynard. Beginner Pilates is for anyone who needs strength and flexibility in the spine and joints, especially shoulders, hips, knees and ankles. Movement modifications will be provided for those who cannot put weight on knees or hands. Learn how posture affects the way we sit, stand and walk. No equipment needed except a towel and water. \$150 for residents; \$160 for nonresidents. Students may bring a mat and Pilates props.

CHAIR YOGA FOR HEALTHY AGING

Louisa Klein teaches a 2-week session, Thursdays, Dec. 11 to Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Students are seated in chairs or use chairs for support. Learn how to incorporate chair yoga practices into your life for enhanced mind/body awareness. This class teaches techniques to safely stretch, strengthen and balance your body and mind. Klein, a member of the International Yoga Teachers Association, has taught for more than 40 years. \$26 for residents; \$30 for nonresidents.

GENTLE YOGA WITH ROBIN (SUNDAYS)

A 6-week Hatha Yoga class for beginning and continuing students, taught by Robin Dinerman, host of TV's "Cherryblossom Yoga." Sundays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 15, 9:10 to 10:30 a.m. This class is especially good for seniors, with particular attention to countering the effects of aging. \$99 for residents; \$109 for nonresidents. Class will not meet Jan. 25.



PILATES FOR EVERYONE (TUESDAYS)

A 6-week class, Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., through Dec. 23, taught by Dawn Maynard. \$150 for residents; \$160 for nonresidents. Students may bring a towel, mat and Pilates props.

PILATES FOR EVERYONE (SATURDAYS)

A 6-week class, Saturdays, 9 to 10 a.m., Jan. 3 to Feb. 14, taught by Dawn Maynard. The cost is \$150 for residents; \$160 for nonresidents. Students may bring a towel, mat and Pilates props. A minimum of four students required. Class will not meet Jan. 31.

QIGONG AND TAI CHI (MONDAYS)

An 8-week session, Mondays, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Dec. 29 to Feb. 16. Taught by Master Nick Gracenin. Study the essentials of traditional tai chi and qigong, and improve balance, circulation, strength and relaxation. Beginners welcome. \$114 for residents; \$120 for nonresidents.

STRENGTH AND CORE (EVENINGS)

An 8-week class, taught by Chad Ashley, Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6 p.m., Jan. 13 to Feb. 17, \$60 residents; \$67 for nonresidents.

TAI CHI FORMS AND TRADITIONAL ROUTINES (MONDAYS)

An 8-week session, Mondays, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., Dec. 29 to Feb. 16. Taught by Master Nick

Gracenin, this class presents taolu (formal patterns) of traditional taijiquan.

Students can try the more complex combined 42 forms and tai chi fan. \$88 for residents; \$93 for nonresidents.



LANGUAGE

ENGLISH CONVERSATION (Free)

Mallory Starr leads a conversational English roundtable for adults on Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m. This class is free for Village residents. Nonresidents pay \$5. A minimum of 2; maximum of 12.

ONGOING GROUPS

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING/ SUBURBAN NURSE

A Suburban Hospital nurse offers free blood pressure screenings, Tuesdays, 12 to 4 p.m. Nurse consultations, Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

CANASTA

An informal group plays canasta on Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. Call 301-656-2797. Learn to play canasta during a two-part class in January. See page 5 for details.

CHESS

An informal group plays chess on Wednesdays, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

COFFEE AND CURRENT EVENTS

This long-running discussion group meets Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

DROP-IN BUILDING BETTER BONES (MONDAYS)

Taught by Gita Pancholy and Mimi Doane, on Mondays from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. The cost is free for Village residents; nonresidents pay \$5. Regular attendees may store small weights at the Village Center. Class will not meet Dec. 29.

DROP-IN BUILDING BETTER BONES (THURSDAYS)

Taught by Gita Pancholy and Mimi Doane, Thursdays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. The cost is free for Village residents; nonresidents pay \$5. Regular attendants may store small weights at the Center. Class will not meet Jan. 1.

DROP-IN OPEN ART STUDIO

Artists and aspiring artists are invited to bring their art and supplies and join other artists at our open arts studio on Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m. No storage space is available.



DROP-IN TAI CHI

Student-led sessions meet Fridays, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Includes stretching, tai chi warm-up exercises, tai chi (24 Yang-style), self-massage, and ends with qigong exercises. Free for Village residents; nonresidents pay \$5.

FRIDAY FIBER FRIENDS

Knitters, crocheters, and other fiber enthusiasts meet Fridays, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Call Joan Lewis at 301-452-4466.

GREAT BOOKS GROUP

Meets Mondays at 10 a.m. Call Judith Abrahams at 301-215-6950 or Jean McNelis at 301-656-6695 for details.

SING-ALONG

Join pianist Deborah Brouse for a sing-along with neighbors and friends on the Dec. 16, at 1:30 p.m. Please register. See page 2 to sign up.

SUNDAY PAPERS AND COFFEE

Village residents are welcome to relax over the Sunday newspapers while enjoying a cup of coffee. Newspapers and coffee will be set up in a classroom, Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

TEA

Village residents and guests are invited to enjoy refreshments and conversation on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Birthdays are celebrated on the first Tuesday of the month.

VILLAGE BOOK CLUB

The book club meets one Tuesday a month via Zoom. Contact Sheila Manes at manessheila@gmail.com.

WALKING CLUB

The club takes a two-mile walk in Chevy Chase Village every day at 8:15 a.m. Meets at Village Center entrance. Call Joan Lewis at 301-452-4466. **Walkers may encounter uneven surfaces and participate at their own risk.**

WOMEN'S GROUP

Village of Friendship Heights women, age 50 and older, are invited to share life experiences and transitions as they strive toward happy, productive lives as they age. Meets the first and third Thursday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Contact Martha Solt at msolt@friendshipheightsmid.gov or Patricia Canessa at pcanessam@yahoo.com.

Join our sing-along

Pianist Deborah Brouse leads a sing-along on **Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

Lyrics will be provided, and no talent or musical experience is required—only a desire to sing.

See page 2 for sign-up details.

All are invited To The
Friendship Heights Community Chanukah Celebration
Festival Of Lights
Candlelight Ceremony & Fun Activities

Super Fun Decorating Your Own Chanukah Cupcake

Sunday, December 21 @ 6:30pm

AT: The Collection (near Merrit Gallery & Amazon Fresh)

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Happy Chanukah

CONCERTS



Concerts are held every Wednesday, from 7 to 8 p.m., in Huntley Hall in the Village Center. Those arriving after the start of the performance are asked to please wait for a break to enter and close the door gently. Please turn off phones prior to entering the auditorium. If you must leave early, please wait for a break in the performance.

Wednesday, Dec. 3—Beltway Brass—The Beltway Brass Quintet has been performing in and around Washington, D.C., since 2003 when they were formed by leader Zack Smith. The group also features the talents of Chas Peterson, Kevin Grasel, Dan “Big Daddy” Haverstock, and Tom Holtz. The repertoire for the group is unusual in its emphasis on 20th-century jazz harmonies and stylings. Join the band for an evening of holiday favorites.

Wednesday, Dec. 10—Ray Apollo Allen and the Apollo One Band—An institution in the music industry, Ray Apollo Allen has shared the stage with the greatest acts of the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s, including The Drifters, The Platters, and Sam & Dave, among many others. With a wide range of influences ranging from doo wop to hip hop and R&B, the music of Ray Apollo Allen has been inspiring listeners of all ages for decades. His latest single, “Christmas Time is Here,” is an uplifting seasonal song that is finely crafted to

represent not only the holidays, but push the envelope of classic Christmas music.

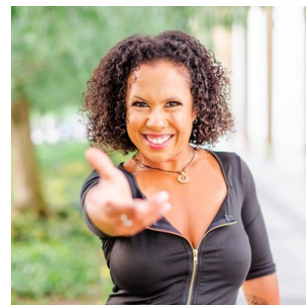
Wednesday, Dec. 17—Friday Morning Music Club Young Performers—Talented teens and young adults from across the Washington, D.C. area perform classical selections.

Wednesday, Dec. 24—No Concert

Wednesday, Dec. 31—No Concert

Discover the secret powers of songwriting

Singer, songwriter and motivational speaker Emma G teaches a one-day songwriting workshop **Sunday, Jan. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at the Village Center.



“Born with hydrocephalus, I’ve undergone 10 brain surgeries (24 surgeries in total), and faced challenges that could very well have silenced me.” said Emma G. “Instead, I turned to music. Songwriting and singing became my lifeline — a way to process trauma, reclaim my voice, and transform pain into power.”

During her performance, Emma G combines pop and rock with a soul edge for positive music with a message. She brings that same passion and expertise to her songwriting workshops.

During this 3-hour workshop, participants will learn practical songwriting techniques, tools to declutter the mind, emotional regulation through creativity, self-messaging techniques, and ways to build emotional energy, all while creating an original song.

The cost of the workshop is \$60 for residents; \$70 for nonresidents. Sign up by Jan. 12 and receive a \$10 discount. Residents may sign up beginning immediately. Nonresidents may sign up beginning Dec. 15.

Registration is required. See page 2 for details.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Jan. 10, at 12 p.m.**, when Emma G brings her powerful vocals and a captivating style to the Village Center for special afternoon concert.

Marsha puts a little holly jolly in your holidays

Sing, jump and dance when Marsha Goodman-Wood brings a holiday concert for kids to the Village Center on **Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.** Marsha’s shows are playful, educational, and entertaining for kids and grown-ups! A former cognitive neuroscientist, Goodman-Wood, plays clever original songs mixing science facts with messages about kindness and friendship. Marsha always brings her positive energy and playfulness to the stage.

Village children, friends and family are all welcome! Registration is required to reserve a seat, see page 2 for details.

BUYING

Antiques, collectibles, art, jewelry, silver, etc.

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MOVIES

All movies begin at 7 p.m. Movies that run longer than 120 minutes will begin at 6:45 p.m. as indicated, unless otherwise noted. Please note that PG-13 and R-rated movies may contain sexual situations, violence and/or offensive language. Enjoy fresh popcorn during the movies.



Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.—*Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*—In French with English subtitles; some English is spoken during the film. This smart, romantic comedy stars Camille Rutherford as a lonely Parisian bookseller, with a botched up love-life, who wins the chance to attend a Jane Austen writing retreat run by her descendants. Co-starring Charlie Anson playing as one of Austen's nephews, many times down the line. **Rated R.** **Running Time: 1 hour, 38 minutes.**

Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:30 to 8 p.m. —Art reception

Thursday, Dec. 18, 7p.m.—*Liza Minnelli: A Truly Terrible Absolutely True Story*—This documentary explores and celebrates Liza's life, before and beyond the Oscar-winning actress' turn in "Cabaret." Appearances by Micheal Feinstein, Ben Vereen, Mia Farrow, and others. Unrated, 16+. **Rated PG-13.** **Running Time: 1 hour, 43 minutes.**

Thursday, Dec. 25—Center Closed

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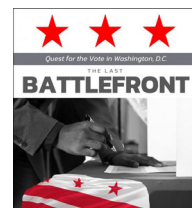
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Contact Ari to schedule an appointment

Local filmmaker captures D.C.'s battle for statehood

Join us on **Thursday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Village Center for a special screening and panel discussion of "The Last Battlefront," a one-hour historical film on the fight for self-government in Washington, D.C., as told through the lives and voices of its citizens. At a time of national struggles over voting rights, "The Last Battlefront" documents an historic struggle to secure equal access to voting and to the basic rights guaranteed in the Constitution and the values on which our nation was founded.



Village resident Anna Reid Jhirad served as the project director of The Battlefront DC Film Project.

A panel discussion will follow the screening. Look for more details in the January *Village News*. Registration is required. Go to dcbattlefront.com to register.

How to spell fun—B-I-N-G-O!

Enjoy an afternoon of fun, make new friends and have a chance to win great prizes. Join us for Bingo on **Tuesday, Dec. 30, from 1 to 2 p.m.**, at the Village Center. Registration is required to ensure a seat. See page 2 to sign up.



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ART AND CULTURE

Ch/Art finds joy in exhibit in Friendship Gallery in December

Ch/ Art (Chevy Chase Artists) is thrilled to announce the opening of its juried art exhibition "Finding Joy" on Monday, Dec. 8 in Friendship Gallery. It is especially exciting for Ch/ Art members who live and work in Chevy Chase, Maryland and Chevy Chase, D.C., and surrounding area to be exhibiting in this lovely neighborhood venue.



"Andean Trio" by Ken Bachman

Juror Jordan Bruns, a renowned local painter and teacher, has crafted an exhibition of original artwork that evokes the feeling of joy. The show features 75 pieces of abstract and traditional paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and jewelry created by talented members of Ch/

Art. "Finding Joy" runs from Dec. 8 through Jan. 31, 2026. An artists reception will be held **Thursday, Dec. 11, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**

Ch/ art is a 140- member community-based arts organization. Ch/ art was founded in 2018 by a small group of artists who wanted to create a supportive community to collaborate, grow their art, share their work and offer the community new opportunities to engage in art making.

The Village Center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Art in the auditorium is occasionally not available for viewing because of activities in that room. Please check with the front desk upon arrival. All sales are final.

Create a holiday decoration with festive greenery

Pam Maidl of Interior Garden Designs, will conduct an hour-long holiday wreath workshop on **Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**, at the Village Center. Make a beautiful 12-inch wreath that can also be used as a centerpiece. The size is perfect for apartment doors or windows. The cost is \$38 and includes instructions, greenery and decorations. Register by Dec. 6 and pay \$32. Registration is required, see page 2 for details. Space is limited.



Have you been affected by the government reductions?

On **Monday, Dec. 1 from 6 to 7 p.m.**, at the **Village Center**, Mayor Roy Schaeffer and Village resident Akriti Asthana-Brown will moderate a monthly discussion group for all those whose employment has been impacted by government reductions. This includes both current and former employees. *This group will meet on a regular basis, every first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m.*

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TO YOUR HEALTH



How to care for mature skin

Maturing skin can experience common growths and faces additional challenges during winter, primarily due to decreased lower humidity. Join Tierra Hurd, a physician assistant specializing in dermatology who will discuss the importance of a tailored winter skincare routine that can combat dryness and protect the skin barrier during this month's Suburban Lecture on **Wednesday, Dec. 10, via Zoom**. This lecture is a partnership between Suburban Hospital and the Friendship Heights Village Center. Registration is required. See page 2 to sign up.

Low Vision Support Group will not meet in December

Next Meeting:
Thursday, Jan. 15
from 11 a.m. to noon,
at the Village Center



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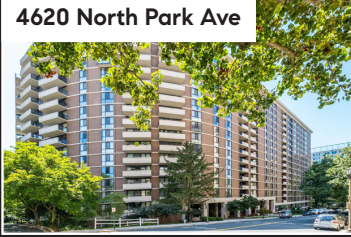
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Friendship Heights
VILLAGE NEWS

Friendship Heights Village Center
4433 South Park Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815



Visit our website:

www.friendshipheightsmd.gov

Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov

Phone: 301-656-2797

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December 2025 events calendar