



Friendship Heights

# VILLAGE NEWS

MAY 2026 VOLUME 43, NO. 5 [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov) 301-656-2797



Take in an online preview of the Tony Awards, see page 5.

## Help us tell the fascinating stories of our Village residents

As the Village Center celebrates its 40th anniversary, we're looking to highlight the lives of our residents by bringing their stories to light with the help of Village residents Angali Menon and Sujay Vithal. Menon and Vithal have a passion for storytelling and community-building.

During monthly sessions, they will sit down with community members for real, open-ended conversations and then turn those stories into short written sketches



shared with the whole community to help us know each other better.

As the project grows, we hope to add audiovisual, live, and interactive elements, too.

Think StoryCorps or Humans of New York—but built by and for Friendship Heights!

For more details and information on how to nominate yourself or another Village resident, visit [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov).

## Documentary details 1960 civil rights protest at Glen Echo Park

"Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" is the untold story of the first organized interracial civil rights protest in U.S. history. Join us for a special screening of this documentary on **Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

When five Black college students sat on a segregated Maryland carousel in 1960, their arrests made headlines. When the Jewish community near Glen Echo Amusement Park joined the protest, a history-making interracial demonstration was born. The cause, and the collaboration, provoked counter protests by the American Nazi party and brought Congressmen and national leaders to the picket line.

Picketing together led to partying together, union bosses mentored student activists, and 10 1961 Freedom Riders emerged, including Stokely Carmichael. With never-before seen footage, and immersive storytelling by director Ilana



Trachtman, four living protesters rescue this untold story, revealing the price, and the power, of heeding the impulse to activism.

This screening runs 89 minutes and is not rated.

Registration is required. See page 2 for details.



## We're hosting a County Executive candidates forum on Tuesday, May 5

The Village will host a debate among the candidates for Montgomery County Executive on **Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

Lou Peck, founding editor of the National Journal's Congress Daily and a contributor to Bethesda Magazine, will moderate.

This event will also be livestreamed. Visit <http://bit.ly/4IHqrsW> to access the livestream.

Residents are invited to attend and will have an opportunity to ask questions.

**Catch a Big Train game this summer, page 2.**

# Start the summer with a trip to see Bethesda Big Train

The Boys of Summer are right in our own backyard! Join us as we take a quick trip to Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda to take in an evening baseball game by Bethesda Big Train on **Tuesday, June 30.**



We'll depart from the Village Center at 5 p.m., and arrive in time to enjoy a picnic in our own party pavillion. The menu will be a choice of two Catalyst hot dogs, hamburger, cheeseburger, Beyondburger or two slices pizza, chips, and a drink. Just before the game we'll gather on the mound for a pre-game ceremony, and then enjoy the game from our reserved seats.

We'll return to the Village Center immediately following the game.

The cost of the trip is \$40 per person, which includes a ticket in reserved seating, picnic, and round-trip transportation. Residents may sign up immediately at the Village Center. The price increases to \$50 after June 1. Nonresidents may sign up beginning June 2. The deadline to sign up is Monday, June 15. Registration is limited to 27 spaces.

## Mayor's Corner

This month marks the midpoint of the Council's term - and it's a great time to reflect on the progress we've made, including:

\*Moved Page Park closer to opening by completing required work and contracting for the remaining items.

\*Made strong headway renovating 4608 North Park (the Red House) to welcome a new Village retail space.

\*Moved key infrastructure projects ahead by approving contracts across the Village, including at the Village Center and Humphrey Park.

\*Approved a traffic study and completed data collection; next we will work with the community to implement the recommendations.

\*Launched two new Citizen Committees—the Shuttle Committee and the Development Committee—to strengthen collaboration and advance Village priorities.

\*Approved travel and ethics policies that apply to staff and Council members.

\*Increased children's programming, including expanding Village Playtime to twice per week.

Looking ahead, we'll keep building on this progress—strengthening programs and policies, investing in infrastructure, and managing Village resources responsibly.

Thank you to our staff, Councilmembers, volunteers, and residents for making the Village a wonderful place to live.

**Roy Schaeffer, Mayor**

## How to sign up for activities at the Village Center

1) Go to our website at [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://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](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov)

Email: [info@friendshipheightsmd.gov](mailto: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 June issue is May 5. For suggestions about news items or information on advertising rates, call 301-656-2797.

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# Village Council Update

## Update on Page Park

Managed Homes removed the pergola at Page Park after receiving the necessary approvals required by the County. At a special virtual Council meeting held on April 9, the Council unanimously approved the Parks and Grounds Committee's recommendation to hire SFMS to perform ADA improvements and stormwater management work for \$183,431. Video of the meeting was posted on the Village's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/4sFOfiK>. In order for Clark Azar to receive the stormwater permit from the County, the Mayor signed the required right of entry agreement with Montgomery County.

Once the County approves the stormwater permit, SFMS can begin its work. The project will include reconstructing the main pathway leading into the park for ADA compliance, including the installation of handrails. In addition, four stormwater retention facilities (rain gardens) will be installed in the park, and the pergola area will be filled in to the level of the adjacent patio and will have new plantings installed. For additional information regarding Page Park, please visit the Village website's Page Park Project page at <https://bit.ly/4b9k7XU>.

## Latest on Red House

Managed Homes completed its renovation work in April and is undergoing final inspections with the County Department of Permitting Services. As this issue goes to press, the County inspector noted several deficiencies on the main inspection, which are being addressed by the Village's contractor. Since the Village's improvements to the house are substantially completed, the space has been turned over to the tenant, Pyle's Provisions, and the company will begin the renovation of the kitchen in the basement of the house.

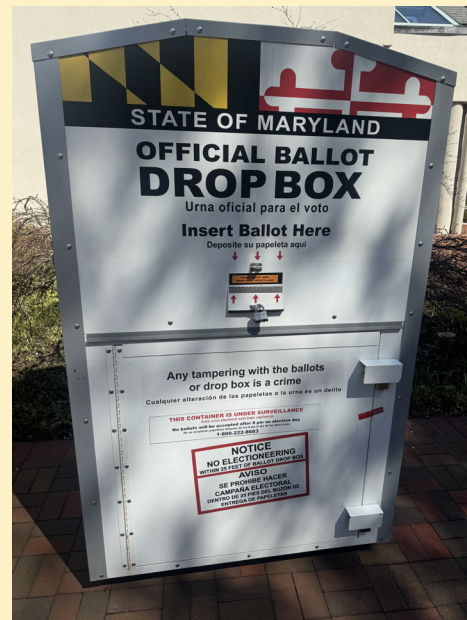
## Village Council approves FY 2027 tax rate

The Council approved maintaining the Village's current tax rate of 4¢/100 of assessed property value at its April 13 Public Hearing. This is the lowest tax rate allowed under the Village charter. The Village has notified the Montgomery County Department of Finance of our tax rate, as required by the charter.

The Finance Committee will propose its FY 2027 budget at the Village Council's May 11 meeting. The proposed budget will contain revisions to the FY 2027 operating budget that was approved last year as part of the three-year projected estimates (FY 2026–2028). The Capital Improvements budget will contain an itemized list of anticipated capital expenses for FY 2027 and future years. The final version of the FY 2027 budget will be posted on the Village website after it has been approved by the Council.

## Maryland Primary Election Day—Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Maryland Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 23, 2026. The Village Center is the polling place for all registered voters living in the Village. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters who receive a mail-in ballot from the Maryland State Board of Elections can drop it off at the drop box outside the Village Center's main entrance. The drop box will be installed on Tuesday, May 5, and residents can drop off ballots until 8 p.m. on election day, June 23.



## Village Center plaza waterproofing project

As a follow-up to the recent repairs of columns in the Village Center garage due to water leaking from the courtyard plaza above, the Village retained Thomas Downey engineers (TDL) to assess the needed repair and develop a scope of work. TDL determined that the waterproofing membrane in the plaza needed to be replaced. This work will also involve removing the bricks along with the concrete slab underneath.

TDL recommended that the bricks be replaced with pavers on pedestals, which will provide better drainage and help prevent leaking in the future. The Village issued an RFP and received 11 bids. At its monthly public meeting on April 13, the Village Council awarded the contract to Simpson Unlimited for a total cost of \$124,493, which includes an option for a different finish for the new pavers that will replace the bricks. This job requires a permit from the County Department of Permitting Services. As this issue goes to press, Village staff and the engineer are coordinating the schedule, and the contractor is applying for the permit.

Other actions taken at the April 13 meeting:

- Approved the Policies and Procedures Committee's proposed Acquisitions Policy.

*The next scheduled Village Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, 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](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov) for additional details.*

# Fred Moyer returns in May

The Village Center is pleased to welcome pianist Frederick Moyer back to Friendship Heights for a special afternoon performance on **Thursday, May 21, at 2:30 p.m.**



Equally at home with Bach, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff, as well as Ellington and Gershwin, Moyer's recitals are creative, engaging and entertaining and generally include time-honored favorites, as well as pieces that audiences may be hearing for the first time. Also featured is his MoyerCam, a projection system that allows the audience to see his hands as he plays.

Moyer has established a vital musical career that has taken him to 44 countries and to such distant venues as Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, Carnegie Recital Hall, Tanglewood, and the Kennedy Center. He has appeared as a piano soloist with world-renowned orchestras including the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras; the St. Louis, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Houston, Boston, Singapore, Netherlands Radio, Latvian, Iceland and London Symphony Orchestras; the Buffalo, Hong Kong and Japan Philharmonic Symphony Orchestras; the National Symphony Orchestra of Brazil; and the major orchestras of Australia. His many recordings on the Biddulph, GM and JRI labels reflect an affinity for a wide variety of styles.

For registration information, see page 2.

Invitation to Village at Friendship Heights Residents:  
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Join us for special Happy Hour at The Fitzgerald of Palisades. Come experience an exclusive, peek of The Fitzgerald! Guests can enjoy complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while mingling with The Fitzgerald team and discover the elegance, luxury, and innovative features that set our community apart. Don't miss an opportunity to see firsthand what The Fitzgerald has to offer!

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## Musical director offers online preview of the Tony Awards

Fresh off a successful run of *Safety Not Guaranteed* at Signature Theatre, Brooklyn-based actor, writer and director Nick Blaemire will host a preview of this year's Tony Awards on **Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.**



Blaemire brings a unique, insider's peek at the awards. At 23 years old, Nick made his Broadway debut twice over, at the same time. As an actor, he was in the original cast of *Cry-Baby*, and he also wrote the score to the Broadway one-night sensation rock musical *Glory Days*.

He has since written and co-written six other original musicals: *Safety Not Guaranteed*, *Space Dogs*, *A Little More Alive*, *Soon*, *Fallout*, *Edge of the World*, and *Quixote*. He also wrote the stage adaptation for the Disney film *The Descendants*. Top contenders for plays, musicals and revivals include: *Two Strangers*, *Schmigadoon*, *The Lost Boys*, *Titanique*, *Ragtime*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Bug*, *Oedipus* and *Giant*.

**The Tonys take place June 7.**

Registration is required. See page 2 for details.

## Toys and toddlers at the Center

Village toddlers and preschoolers are invited to Village Playtime at the Village Center. Toys ranging from tunnels to tents to play mats and sensory items to costumes will be set out for children on **Tuesdays, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Saturdays, from 9 to 10 a.m.,** in the auditorium of the Village Center.

Children must be accompanied by a parent, caregiver or adult. This is a drop-in activity.



The Village Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, May 19, at 11:30 a.m., via Zoom.** The book selection is "You Deserve to Know" by Angie Blum Thompson.

The June book will be "The Bookworms' Daughter" by Kim M. Richardson.

Book club members may check out the current selection and selections for the next two months from the Village Center front desk. This month's selection will be available to nonmembers following the monthly meeting.



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# CLASSES AND CLUBS

To register, please go to our website [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://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, June 3 to July 8. 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; \$99 for nonresidents.

### BEGINNER PILATES (FRIDAYS)

A 5-week class, Fridays, 12 to 1 p.m., May 29 to June 26, 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. \$125 for residents; \$130 for nonresidents. Students may bring a mat and Pilates props.

### CHAIR YOGA FOR HEALTHY AGING

Louisa Klein teaches a 6-week session, Thursdays, May 21 to June 25, 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. \$83 for residents; \$98 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, May 3 to June 28, 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 May 10, May 24, nor June 14.

### PILATES FOR EVERYONE (TUESDAYS)

A 5-week class, Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., May 26 to June 30, taught by Dawn Maynard. \$125 for residents; \$130 for nonresidents. Class will not meet June 23. Students may bring a towel, mat and Pilates props.

### PILATES FOR EVERYONE (SATURDAYS)

A 5-week class, Saturdays, 9 to 10 a.m., May 30 to June 27, taught by Dawn Maynard, \$125 for residents; \$130 for nonresidents. Students may bring a towel, mat and Pilates props. A minimum of four students required.

### STRENGTH AND CORE (EVENINGS)

An 8-week class, taught by Chad Ashley, Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6 p.m., May 5 to July 7. Class will not meet May 26 nor June 23. \$60 for residents; \$68 for nonresidents.

### QIGONG AND TAI CHI (MONDAYS)

An 8-week session, Mondays, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., May 4 to June 29. 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. Class will not meet June 15.

### TAI CHI FORMS AND TRADITIONAL ROUTINES (MONDAYS)

An 8-week session, Mondays, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., May 4 to June 29. 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. \$114 for residents; \$120 for nonresidents. Class will not meet June 15.

## LANGUAGE AND ART

### SPANISH CONVERSATION

Elena Marra-Lopez, a Village resident and longtime Spanish teacher, conducts a 4-week Spanish conversation class, Tuesdays, 4 to 5 p.m., May 12 to June 2. English will NOT be spoken. \$25 for residents; \$30 for nonresidents. Minimum of five; maximum of eight.

### 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 is required.

## 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.

## 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, Mondays, 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.

## 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 attendees may store small weights at the Center.

## 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 every third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

## 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](mailto:manessheila@gmail.com).

## VILLAGE PLAYTIME

Toys and play items will be set up in the auditorium for preschool children on Tuesdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Saturdays, 9 to 10 a.m. Children must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver older than 18.

## WALKING CLUB

The club takes a two-mile walk in Chevy Chase Village every day at 8:15 a.m. Meets at the Village Center entrance. Call Joan Lewis at 301-452-4466. **Walkers may encounter uneven surfaces and they 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@friendshipheightsmd.gov](mailto:msolt@friendshipheightsmd.gov) or Patricia Canessa at [pcanessam@yahoo.com](mailto:pcanessam@yahoo.com).

# Put a spring in your step with wellness talks

Beginning in June, Village Center Pilates instructor Dawn Maynard will present a series of monthly wellness talks focused on healthy aging, movement, and practical nutrition.

On **Friday, June 12, from 11 to 11:45 a.m.**, Maynard will present an overview of topics. According to Maynard, the series is designed to “help people understand and embrace staying healthy with simple daily habits that support mobility, strength and overall well-being.” The talks would be interactive, practical, and designed especially for adults interested in improving their strength, mobility, and quality of life as they age. Each talk will include simple strategies that participants can begin using immediately. Space is limited and registration is required. See page 2 for details.

## Join our Village Women's Group

The Women's Group looking at new emerging topics, welcoming new residents, and encouraging each member to genuinely enjoy this stage of our lives.

The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Call the Village Center or contact Patricia Canessa at [pcanessam@yahoo.com](mailto:pcanessam@yahoo.com) and/or Martha Solt at [msolt@friendshipheightsmd.gov](mailto:msolt@friendshipheightsmd.gov) for more details.

## B-I-N-G-O!

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of Bingo on **Tuesday, May 26, from 1 to 2 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

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

# 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, May 6—*Bali Jegeg Traditional Balinese Dancers*—Join us in a celebration of Asian-American Pacific Islander Month as we welcome Bali Jegeg for an exciting evening of dance. Balinese traditional dance is an ancient, deeply expressive art form integrated into religious rituals, storytelling, and community life, characterized by dynamic eye movements, intricate finger gestures, and angular body positions.



Wednesday, May 13 —*Holly Hamilton and Virginia Lum*— Holly Hamilton, violinist, has been a member of the National Symphony Orchestra since 1978. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from The Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.



She earned a Master of Music degree from Yale University where she studied with Syoko Aki and the Tokyo Quartet. Virginia Lum made acclaimed debuts at the Phillips Gallery, Merkin Hall, and Carnegie Hall. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Juilliard.

Wednesday, May 20—*Frederick Moyer Jazz Trio*— Pianist Frederick Moyer returns to the Village Center for an evening of jazz with his friends bassist Mike Pope and drummer Byung Kang. Like other small jazz ensembles, the trio performs its own arrangements of standards from the Great American Songbook. What sets this trio apart from others is its note-for-note transcriptions of great jazz-trio performances from the past. Moyer and friends have painstakingly transcribed every note of favorite historic recordings and brought the resulting scores to life. It is similar to a chamber music ensemble playing Bach or Beethoven, infusing the music with its own vitality and interpretations. The result is a swinging celebration of the best in jazz, delighting both classical music lovers and long-time jazz enthusiasts.

Wednesday, May 27—*Angklung Bamboo Instrument Ensemble*—Angklung is an Indonesian musical instrument consisting of two-to-four bamboo tubes suspended in a bamboo frame, bound with rattan cords. The tubes are carefully whittled and cut by a master craftsman to produce certain notes when the bamboo frame is shaken or tapped. Each Angklung produces a single note or chord, so several players must collaborate in order to play melodies.

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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, May 7, 7 p.m.: Movie—*Mamma Mia!***— ABBA's greatest hits fuel *Mamma Mia!*, a romantic comedy musical centered on Sophie, a 20-year-old bride-to-be on a Greek island who secretly invites three men from her mother Donna's past to her wedding. She hopes to discover which of them is her father, leading to chaotic, feel-good complications. **Rated PG-13. Running Time: 1 hour, 48 minutes.**

**Thursday, May 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m.: Art Reception**

**Thursday, May 21, 6:45 p.m.: Movie—*Merrily We Roll Along***—This musical film, directed by Maria Friedman, tells the turbulent story of composer Franklin Shepard and his friends, writer Mary and lyricist Charley. Spanning three decades, it uses reverse chronology (from 1976 back to 1957) to show how they grew apart due to ambition, friendship, and heartbreak, and features hit songs such as "Old Friends" and "Not a Day Goes By." **Rated PG. Running Time: 2 hours, 25 minutes.**



**Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m.: Movie—*Remarkably Bright Creatures***—Based on the bestselling novel by Shelby Van Pelt, the Netflix film *Remarkably Bright Creatures* follows Tova Sullivan (Sally Field), a grieving widow working the night shift at a local aquarium. She forms an unlikely bond with a grumpy, elderly giant Pacific octopus named Marcelus (voiced by Alfred Molina). Together, they work to solve the decades-old mystery of her son's disappearance and connect with a wayward young man (Lewis Pullman) in a story focused on connection, grief, and wonder. **Rated PG-13. Running Time: 1 hour, 51 minutes.**

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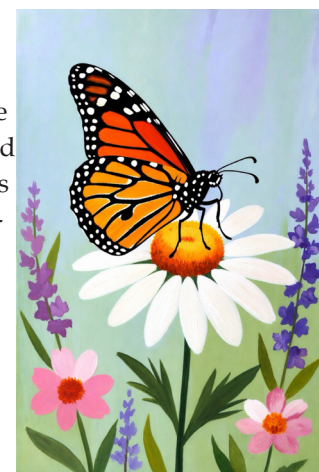
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## This month's mindful painting features flights of fancy

Capture the fleeting beauty of butterflies during this month's Mindful Painting on **Tuesday, May 26, from 7 to 8 p.m.**, at the Village Center. Residents 21 and over are invited to enjoy a glass of wine, while creating a painting with the help of Village resident Caroline Thomas.

The cost is \$5 and space is limited to 10 participants, 21 years and older. All materials are included. Registration is required. See page 2 for details.



## Gather for a springtime sing-along

Pianist Deborah Brouse leads a sing-along on **Tuesday, May 19, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**, with a few tunes, at the Village Center. Lyrics will be provided, and no talent or musical experience is required—only a desire to sing.



# ART AND CULTURE

## Gaithersburg Camera Club captures the wild and wonderful



"Baby Elephant" by Michael Kedda

The Friendship Gallery welcomes the Gaithersburg Camera Club as it presents "Collected Captures" during its exhibit in May.

The show features stunning images from a wide variety of subject matter, ranging from florals to fauna to travel, from a Botswana safari to the jaw-dropping landscapes in Utah and South Dakota.

The Gaithersburg Camera Club brings together photography enthusiasts of varying skills and interests,

primarily from upper Montgomery County.

Meet the artists during a reception on **Thursday, May 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

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 the room. Please check with the front desk upon arrival. All sales are final.



"Oil and Water" by Sabine Dickens

## Experience Ikebana through the eyes of an expert designer Longtime Ikebana instructor offers afternoon demonstration

Celebrate the beauty and serenity of the Asian art of Ikebana as we welcome Motoko Kakukei Shimizu to the Village Center on **Friday, May 29, at 2:30 p.m.**, for a demonstration of this floral art form. Shimizu is a First Degree Sogetsu Ikebana instructor with more than 30 years of experience teaching, exhibiting, and demonstrating Ikebana in Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, and Japan.

Currently she is the Vice President of the Ikebana International Washington, D.C. Chapter #1 and Youth Education and Outreach Program Chair.

Her works have been presented at the Embassy of Japan, Washington National Cathedral, Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. National Arboretum, Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival, as well as in educational programs at local colleges, community centers and high schools. She also teaches Ikebana at the Embassy of Japan.

Her past collaborations that blend Ikebana with other

art forms include a light show, music concerts, participatory youth programs, and tea ceremony events.

Her work reflects a sense of form and space shaped by her master's-level architectural studies.

She was an awardee of a Sogetsu Ikebana School Grandmaster, Akane Teshigawara's Prize for the school's 100th Anniversary.

Registration is required for each of these workshops. See page 2 for details.



# TO YOUR HEALTH

## A guide to understanding your Medicare options

Learn about all your Medicare choices when SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) Director Rafael Espinoza presents "Medicare Overview: Understanding Your Choices" on **Wednesday, May 6, at 2 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

During this hour-long lecture, Espinoza will cover what is Medicare, enrollment periods, financial assistance, and preventing Medicare fraud and abuse.

SHIP provides free, unbiased help to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers. Whether you are new to Medicare, reviewing Medicare plan options, or have questions about how to use Medicare, SHIP can help. Trained staff and volunteer counselors are available in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City for one-on-one assistance and community education.

This is the first in a series of talks on Medicare to be presented by a SHIP representative throughout this year. Registration is required. See page 2 to sign up.

## Suburban partnership brings to the Village Center a host of free services to keep you healthy

HeartWell is a free, innovative health education and screening program, offered by Friendship Heights Village in partnership with Suburban Hospital. A visiting registered nurse provides blood pressure screenings, medication and symptom guidance, and preventive lifestyle education at the Village Center, with consultations available at no cost to residents every Tuesday from noon to 4 p.m.



### Low Vision Support Group

**Thursday, May 21,  
from 11 a.m. to noon,  
at the Village Center.**



## Remember BE F.A.S.T.

### Suburban Lecture offers stroke prevention tips

In honor of Stroke Awareness Month, the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from a stroke is to understand your risk and how to prevent it. Providers from NIH Stroke Program at Suburban Hospital will discuss stroke risk factors and prevention strategies on **Wednesday, May 13, from 1 to 2 p.m.**, at the Village Center.

The lecture will outline a stroke action plan, as well as vital signs and symptoms to be aware of using the BE F.A.S.T. strategy.

This lecture is a partnership between Suburban Hospital and the Friendship Heights Village Center.

Registration is required. See page 2 to sign up.

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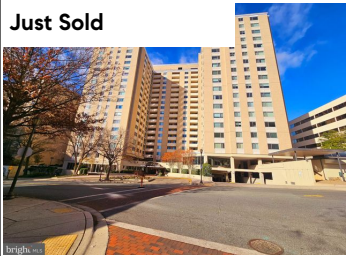
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## Friendship Village Special

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# Sam & Jon's Listings!

Just Sold



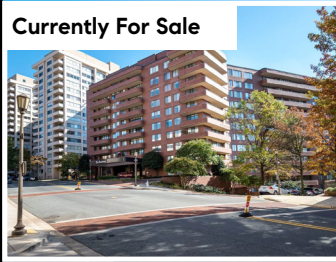
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Friendship Heights

# VILLAGE NEWS

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



### Visit our website:

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

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**May 2026 events calendar**