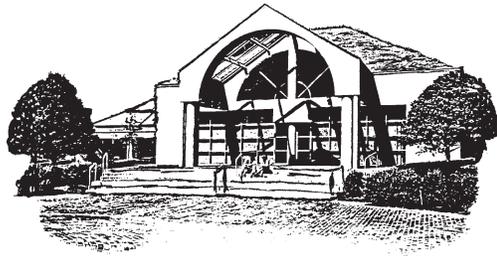


The Council Report

JUNE 2001

News from the Friendship Heights Village Council—the elected governing body of the Special Tax District of the Village of Friendship Heights



Chevy Chase Center Plan Approved with Larger Grocery Store Shuttle bus to Westbard Shopping Center to be provided during construction

Following several hours of testimony at a public hearing on May 31, the Planning Board voted to approve the Chevy Chase Center site plans. I testified on behalf of our Village Council in support of the plans. Contrary to a condition recommended by Park & Planning staff, the Planning Board will not require the developer (Chevy Chase Land Company) to have a continuously operating grocery store on site. This in effect endorses the option our Council previously approved to have a shuttle bus go to the Westbard shopping center during construction.

And, as an unexpected bonus, the Board granted a waiver allowing the grocery store to be expanded to 30,000 square feet (the Land Company had proposed a 25,000 square foot store, which is the maximum size allowed without a waiver). This was at the request of Planning Board Chairman William Hussmann, in one of his last official acts before retiring from the Board on June 1.

Mr. Hussmann and several other Board members also noted our covenant with the Land Company, which allowed for shuttle bus service elsewhere in the event a continuously operating on-site store was not feasible. Mr. Hussmann even went so far as to term the proposed 10,000 square foot interim store a “7-Eleven” that

would not add any value to the project and would delay its completion unnecessarily. This was precisely our position.

While the opponents to the plan, spearheaded by Chevy Chase Village and the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, may appeal this latest decision, as they have done with prior approvals, we can now look forward to a successful redevelopment plan that will make this a neighborhood center we can all be proud of.

Mayor & Chairman

At the June 11 Council meeting, a request was made to clarify the respective duties of the Chairman and the Mayor.

The only officers specifically referred to in the Village charter are the Treasurer and Chairman. The Chairman is named only for the purpose of countersigning checks.

Section 66-5 of the charter refers to “other officers” who serve at the pleasure of the



New Village Council Sworn In

*On May 21 the newly elected Village Council was sworn in by Molly Ruhl, Clerk of the County Circuit Court. Following the swearing in ceremony, the Council held its first public session and selected its officers for the new term. Standing from left to right: **Leonard Mudd**, Historian; **Michael Pollard**, Vice Chairman; **Melanie Rose White**, Mayor; **Frank Valeo**, Chairman; **Elizabeth Demetra Harris**, Secretary; **James Salter**, Treasurer; and **Maurice Trebach**, Parliamentarian.*

MVA Mobile Office—Monday, July 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Last Call for Rothstein Educational Scholarship

The Village Council is now considering applications for grants under the Robert & Sylvia Rothstein Educational Scholarship. The scholarship was established by the Council in 1998, and is funded by the Village of Friendship Heights and friends and family of Robert & Sylvia Rothstein.

This is a merit scholarship of up to \$5,000. It is not based on financial need. Residency in the Village of Friendship Heights is required. There are no age restrictions.

Application forms and copies of the Criteria and General Conditions are available at the Village Center. For more information, call the Center at 301-656-2797. All donations to the Rothstein Scholarship fund are tax-deductible.

Council. Other than specific duties of the Treasurer, the titles and duties of Council officers are **not** specified in the charter. The Council by-laws establish the offices and their specific duties.

In June 1994, with advice of legal counsel, the Village Council amended its by-laws to establish the office of Mayor as "the Chief Executive Officer of the Council." (Article III, Section 2).

In Article III, Section 3, the Chairman is authorized to preside at all meetings of the Council, countersign checks, and (as amended in 1994), "perform such other functions of the office of Mayor as are delegated by the Mayor, or when acting as Mayor in the Mayor's absence."

The Council took the following actions at the May 21, 2001 meeting:

- Elected Council officers for 2001-2003 term (see front page);
- Heard a presentation from the Chevy Chase Land Company on possible changes to the development plan for Chevy Chase Center; reaffirmed prior Council approval of temporary shuttle bus operation to Westbard shopping center during construction.
- Adjourned into executive session under section 10-508(a)(7) of the State Code to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice;

The Council took the following actions at the June 11, 2001 meeting:

- Approved proposal to upgrade sound system in Center auditorium;
- Approved proposal to reupholster 53 Center armless stack chairs;
- Authorized expenditure and encumbrance of up to \$10,000 for sidewalk replacement throughout Village as an FY 2001 expense; authorize staff to select contractor.
- Adjourned into executive session under section 10-508(a)(1)(i) and 10-508(a)(7) of the State Code to discuss personnel and legal issues.

—Melanie Rose White
Mayor

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