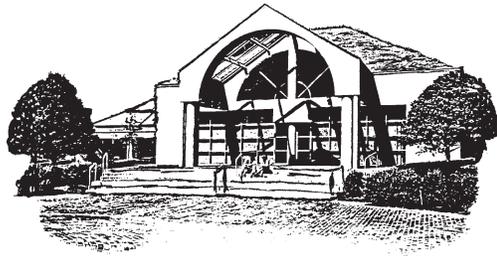


The Council Report

MARCH 2002

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



Council approves 12.5% tax decrease for FY 2003 Budget

Following the second and final public hearing on March 11, the Village Council adopted the FY 2003 budget, reducing the property tax rate by 12.5% to 7¢/\$100 assessed property value. The budget and tax decrease take effect July 1, 2002.

Copies of the approved budget are available at the Village Center. I wish to thank all those who participated in this year's budget process.

The Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD)

(submitted by Laura Chin, Montgomery County Commuter Services)

As a gateway to Montgomery County, Friendship Heights is a thriving business district with major office, retail, and residential buildings. Six Ride-On bus and more than ten Metrobus routes serve the area, moving more than 10,000 people each weekday. More than 17,000 commuters use the Friendship Heights Metrorail Station daily. With so many taking advantage of the amenities of Friendship Heights, congestion and mobility are issues for businesses and the community.

Formed in October 1999 (other TMDs operate in Silver Spring, Bethesda, and North Bethesda) the TMD provides transportation management services which aim to reduce traffic congestion, increase transportation capacity,

reduce air and noise pollution, and promote traffic safety and pedestrian access. TMDs promote the use of alternative commute options to employers and commuters. They encourage commuters to use public transit, carpool/vanpool, bike and walk.

TMD Services

Employers are an integral part of the equation. The TMD works through employers to promote alternate transit and develop other commute-friendly policies. The Friendship Heights TMD services include:

- Marketing commute options, such as public transit, car/vanpooling, teleworking, biking, and walking to employers and their employees;
- Providing one-on-one consultation to employers to determine their specific transportation needs;
- Facilitating the provision of transit subsidies or other financial incentives;
- Developing transit amenities, such as bus shelters and bike racks and improving transit waiting areas
- Providing technical assistance through employer assistance and annual traffic and commuter monitoring.

The Benefits

Providing transportation assistance and benefits for employees has advantages for the

employer, the community and the environment. The employer benefits by creating a better corporate climate, improved retention and recruitment of employees, a good community image, and tax deductible subsidies. For the community, there is reduced traffic congestion, fewer pollutants, greater safety, economic growth, and a better quality of life.



The TMD Advisory Committee

The Friendship Heights TMD Advisory Committee, appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, may advise the County Government on all aspects of programs, management and finances related to the transportation system management in the TMD. This includes proposing guidelines for traffic mitigation plans and monitoring the implementation, and recommending government, private or joint actions necessary to facilitate commuting goals.

The Friendship Heights TMD has 14 voting members including representatives from employers,

MVA Mobile Office—Monday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

the Friendship Heights Village Council, the Citizens Coordinating Committee, the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers, the Somerset Town Council, and the Somerset House Management Association, as well as from Development Projects mandated to participate in the TMD. Eight non-voting members come from Montgomery County agencies and the District of Columbia Government.

Dr. Bernard Norwood (Somerset House),

Chair of the Advisory Committee, notes that “as the population increases throughout the region, and as it grows within the area along the new commercial and residential development, we shall move more and more sense the pressures of traffic on Wisconsin and Western Avenues and on other streets and arteries. The Advisory Committee is intent on determin-

ing how the TMD can best keep ahead of the traffic pressures.”

For more information on the Friendship Heights TMD programs and services, contact the Montgomery County Department of Public Works & Transportation’s Commuter Services Section at (301) 565-5870.

—Melanie Rose White
Mayor

FORM 502 MARYLAND TAX RETURN (OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 1999, ENDING) 2001

RESIDENT

Your first name Initial Last name

Spouse's first name Initial Last name

Present address (No. and street) City or town State Zip code

Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were a resident on the last day of the taxable period. (See Instruction 6)

Montgomery Friendship Heights

YOUR FILING STATUS—See Instruction 1 to determine if you are required to file.

1. Single

EXEMPTIONS—See Instruction 10

Enter No. Checked (A) × \$1,850

Don't forget!

The Council took the following actions at the March 11, 2002, meeting:

- Held final public hearing on the Initial Proposed FY 2003 Budget; approved budget and tax rate;
- Appointed Ron Irion to serve on Program Advisory Committee.

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