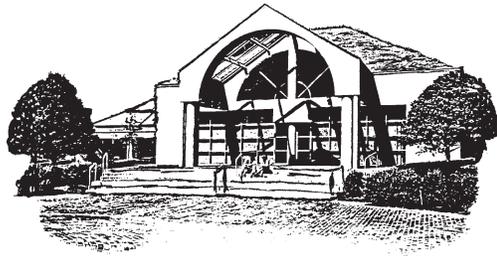


# The Council Report

SEPTEMBER 2001

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



## A Time for Healing as a Community

In the wake of the tragic events of September 11, our community faces the same difficulties confronting all Americans. As we try to resume our normal daily activities, we must comfort one another to help cope with the enormous sense of grief and loss we all share.

I was deeply gratified to see more than 100 people attend our community gathering on Sunday, September 16, which was hastily organized over a two-day period. We shared our thoughts and feelings with each other in an informal setting. Howard Denis, Montgomery County Council member and Village resident, facilitated the discussion and gave us his own heartfelt thoughts and prayers for the victims and their loved ones.

Several people spoke about the need to put aside any minor differences or disagreements we have and to focus on the things that unite us as a community. This is exactly what we needed to hear, and I urge us all to keep that message in mind as we go through a lengthy healing process.

As for specific ways to help the recovery effort, there are numerous organizations that have established relief funds, including the Red Cross, the United Way, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the New York Fraternal Order of Police, just to name a few. The Washington Post's website

(www.washingtonpost.com) has a list of organizations and addresses to whom you can make direct contributions. Meanwhile, we are collecting names for an upcoming blood drive at the Center (date and time yet to be determined). Please drop by or call 301-656-2797 to sign up.

As you consider donating to organizations, please remember our local emergency response team, the **B-CC Rescue Squad** (soon to have a satellite facility in the Village), which has begun its annual fundraiser. Donations have been used to fund the direct operations of the Rescue Squad since it was founded over sixty years ago.

Ned Sherburne, Chief of the Rescue Squad, has been called to New York City to assist with the rescue effort. We certainly wish him well and a safe return.

### New Shuttle Bus

We hope that you have tried riding the new shuttle bus. The new bus has:

- **Effective air-conditioning!**
- **More seats**—We had a choice between a bus that was either smaller or larger than our old one. The new bus has 32 seats including 6 folding seats that can be raised to provide room for wheelchairs. There should be plenty of room to sit down, even at rush hours, and shoppers should not have to feel guilty if they want to put their packages on the seat

next to them during slower times of the day.

In addition, there are two package shelves located in the front of the bus.

- **Easy to deploy electronic lift**—This is *not* just for wheelchairs. With the flick of a switch, the electronic lift can be lowered and quickly allow any passenger who needs it to get on or off the bus. Although we got the lowest steps we could in a bus that fit the needs of the Village (additional handrails have also been installed), and the driver will assist passengers needing help, that still may not make the bus accessible enough for some passengers to board. *Ask to use the lift!* That is why we have it.

- **More spacious interior**—Far more pleasant than the cramped interior of a "cutaway (the old bus)." The exterior is also larger, but will fit everywhere it needs to go. Driveways will, however, have to be kept clear of cars. This is important not just for bus access, but for access by emergency vehicles.

- **Radio contact**—If you notice a problem that needs to be addressed quickly, call the Center. We can immediately communicate with the driver.

The shuttle bus has long been an important Village amenity. We are confident that the new bus will make this amenity more enjoyable than ever before.

—Melanie Rose White  
Mayor

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

The Council took the following actions at the September 10, 2001, meeting:

- Approved proposal from CRH Concrete Services for \$11,431 for sidewalk replacement;
- Approved proposal from TrueGreen LandCare for landscape maintenance contract at Willoughby Park;
- Adopted a resolution designating Mayor Melanie White as the Village's resident agent to receive service of process, in accordance with a new state law.

**The Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 9, 8 p.m.**

(note schedule change due to the Columbus Day Holiday)

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