

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

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LESLIE STRATHMANN, *Village Manager 1987-1996*

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The Village of Friendship Heights

Designation: The Special Tax District known as The Village of Friendship Heights, was created by the Maryland State Legislature in 1914 as a special unit of government and was originally named the Villages of Friendship Heights and The Hills.

Location: The thirty-two acre Village is pie-shaped with the tip being the Irene apartments on Willard Avenue, extending eastward to Wisconsin Avenue, then north including the buildings on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue up to and including the Chevy Chase Office Building.

Governance: The Friendship Heights Village Council is a seven-member body elected every two years by the voters of the Village as its governing body. The Council ordinarily meets the second Monday of each month in public session in the Village Center.

Taxes: The Council is empowered to levy a property tax of up to \$.50 per \$100 of assessed property valuation. The current property tax rate is \$.05 (effective July 1, 2005). In addition to the property tax, additional revenues are received from the State and Montgomery County.

Services: Among the services which are provided from these tax monies are street lighting, street maintenance, storm drain maintenance, snow removal, shuttle bus service, grocery delivery for infirm individuals, and security patrol.

Village Center: The Friendship Heights Village Center located at 4433 South Park Avenue houses the municipal offices of the Village as well as facilities for recreational, educational, cultural, civic activities, and health services. Montgomery County offers special programs for senior citizens but the needs and interests of all age groups are a major part of the Center's programming. The building is available for rental to private citizens and groups.

Parks: The Village owns and maintains three parks for the enjoyment and use of all residents and visitors. Hubert H. Humphrey Friendship Park is located immediately in front of the Village Center. William Tyler Page Park on North Park Ave. between The Irene apartments and 4615 North Park apartments contains playground equipment, two barbecue pits and picnic tables. Willoughby Park is located at the corner of Willard Ave. and Friendship Boulevard next to The Willoughby condominium. Ball playing and other active sports are not permitted in these parks. Trash receptacles are provided for litter. Pet owners are expected to abide by County and Village ordinances requiring that animals not eliminate waste on public property.