

The Council Report

2019 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Vice Chairman*
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN G. COOPER, *Treasurer*
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Parliamentarian*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY

constant—that Friendship Heights is one of, if not *the*, premier community for residents of all ages.

Another constant for the Village and surrounding neighborhoods was the “baby” Giant, formerly located in the Chevy Chase Center, which closed on January 9. Although the store had its struggles, it was a familiar spot for many of us and one that we relied on for food and other household necessities. I am happy that the Village Council voted to begin shuttle service in January to the Westbard Giant in an effort to make shopping easier for residents without access to multiple grocery stores.

As comforting as constants can be in our lives, it is important to embrace change and to recognize its value. Throughout the Village you can witness the power of change as it complements the constants we appreciate.

At the Village Center, the staff continues to offer new classes, speakers, and entertainment. Outside the Center, you’ll see improvements such as the HAWK light system on Willard Avenue that we hope will increase pedestrian safety. Two new Village shuttle buses will arrive this spring and will help us to enhance our most popular service. And, of course, we rely on you to share your ideas for what the Village Council and staff can do to keep our community vibrant, fresh, and attractive to residents and



Artists at work in our abstract painting class at the Center.

businesses.

As you think about the constants in your own lives, I have a feeling that many of them will be a part of life in the Village. Whether it is something as simple as enjoying your annual hot dog on the Fourth of July or as heartfelt as your neighborhood friends, I hope your constants bring you as much joy and contentment as those cows did for the co-ed in Vermont. On behalf of the Village Council, I wish each of you a healthy and happy 2020. Let’s make this year a celebration of all that we cherish and of the unexpected surprises that keep us moving forward. See you at the Center!

Recognizing Our Constants

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

Years ago, I read a magazine profile about a young woman attending college in rural Vermont. Each day, late in the afternoon, she watched out her window for a herd of cows making its way across the hills, on a nearby farm, heading back to the barn. She knew as soon as she saw those cows on that familiar journey, that all would be well in her world. For her, the cows were a constant—a person or thing that makes our ever-changing and topsy-turvy world a little more calm, predictable, and less frightening. Last December the first time I saw our gumdrop holly trees in Humphrey Park, lit so beautifully once more for the holiday season, I smiled and thought about the constants we each cherish.

Perhaps the constants I recognize in the Village are not quite so romantic as the lush countryside of Vermont, but they still play a part in making our community a wonderful place to live. One constant is our devoted, knowledgeable, and long-time Village Center staff who faithfully execute their jobs to make our lives better. The staff know so many of us who reside in Friendship Heights by name and are quick to resolve a problem, provide an answer, or just extend a warm greeting. Seeing such familiar faces, at the Center’s front desk in particular, goes a long way in making our collection of highrises seem a lot less anonymous.

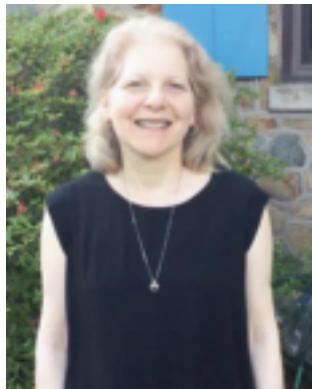
Our Village Center could not operate without your tax dollars. Speaking of taxes, our tax rate has been the same low 4 cents per \$100 for the past 14 years—a constant in our financial lives for sure. Despite our low tax rate, we still continue to offer an amazing array of programs, services, and benefits that makes us a standout in Maryland. State and County officials recognize this

2019 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

In January, Michael Mezey was selected to fill the vacant Council seat following the resignation of former Council member Alexandra Kielty. The Village Council held its election in May. There were eight candidates running for the seven Council seats. Six of the seven Council incumbents were re-elected, joining newly elected Council member Bruce Pirnie. Following a swearing-in ceremony, the Council selected its officers for the 2019–2021 term: Mayor, Melanie Rose White; Chairman, Michael Mezey; Vice Chairman, Carolina Zumarán-Jones; Secretary, Paula Durbin; Treasurer, Kathy Cooper; Parliamentarian, Bruce Pirnie. Michael Dorsey was re-elected but declined to serve as an officer.

We welcomed Jeanne Pettenati as the newest member of the Village staff in May. Jeanne serves as the Assistant to the Program Director.



Jeanne Pettenati

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

The Village's shuttle bus service is always a topic of much discussion, particularly this past year. Our bus contractor, RMA Transportation, launched a new app for the service that shows a map of the bus route with the current location of the bus marked in red. Additional pop-up messages indicate how far the bus is from the next stop on the route. Below the map is a list of all the stops with the estimated time to get to each stop.

As we approached the end of the current ten-year contract with RMA, the discussion turned to finding a new bus. In October, the Council approved a recommendation from RMA to replace the existing bus with two new Ford Champion 550 LF Transport buses. These



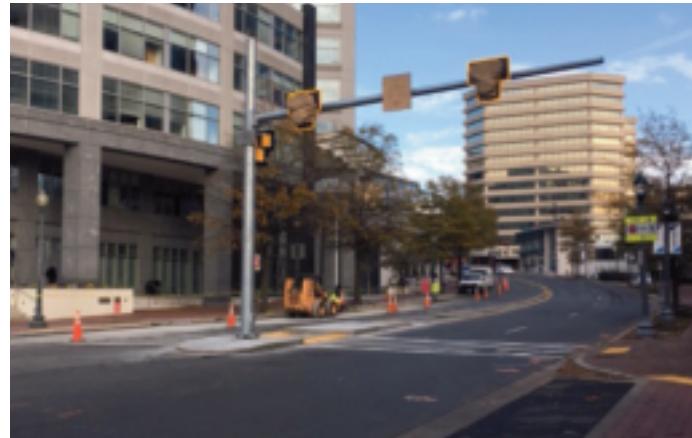
The Ford Champion 550 LF Transport shuttle bus.

will be low-floor kneeling buses, smaller than the current model. Having two main buses should provide a consistency that has been lacking with the large main bus we have been using. While smaller in capacity, the contractor has determined that the number of seats will be sufficient. The buses should be quieter and also cleaner running. We look forward to their arrival in 2020. The Council also renewed the contract with RMA to provide the bus service for a five-year period, beginning February 2020. RMA has been operating the service since 2007.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Following Montgomery County's decision to expand the pilot program for dockless vehicles, local jurisdictions were asked if they would like to opt-in to the program. The Village Council voted not to participate due to concerns that the vehicles would be hazardous, so users of the County's dockless vehicles (both electronic scooters and electronic bikes) are not permitted to end a trip or park the vehicle on Village streets or sidewalks.

Village residents Elizabeth Harris and John Mertens continued to represent us on the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee. Mr. Mertens serves as Vice Chair. The TMD advises the County on a range of traffic and transportation issues.



The pedestrian-activated HAWK signal on Willard Avenue.

Following numerous inquiries by the Village in conjunction with the TMD, the County agreed to install a pedestrian-activated signal at the Willard Avenue crosswalk near Whole Foods. A second crosswalk was added across Willard on the west side of the intersection with The Hills Plaza. The installation was completed at the end of the year, and the signal should soon be activated. Poles on both sides of Willard will have buttons for pedestrians to activate the signal.

COUNTY MOBILE COMMUTER STORE



The Village continued to host the Montgomery County TRiPS Commuter Store once a week. The mobile store parks next to the Village Center, in the same spot as the MVA bus. Residents can buy transit passes for Metrorail, Metrobus and Ride On, including Senior SmarTrip cards (good for discounted fares), regular cards and Ride On Youth Cruisers.

VILLAGE SEEKS NEW TENANT FOR 4602 N. PARK

The Village-owned house at 4602 North Park Avenue (pictured below) was made available for lease for the first time in eight years. The lower level of the property houses the police field office, and the two upper levels are available for lease. The 1938 brick house, converted for office use, is one of the last single-family proper-



ties remaining in our high-rise community. The space is approximately 2,000 square feet and consists of 10 rooms and 3 bathrooms on two floors. Designated on-street parking for two cars and additional off-street parking is included.



An interior view of 4602 North Park.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PAGE PARK

We continued to focus attention on sprucing up Page Park, the small green space between 4615 North Park



The enhanced walkway, new plantings and the new seating area on the west side of Page Park.

Apartments and 4701 Willard Avenue. Two phases of plantings were completed in 2019. The first phase enhanced the existing seating area on the west side of the park with a variety of shrubs and flowers. Along the interior pathway, holly shrubs, liriope, hosta, rhododendron, hydrangeas and day lilies were planted.

The second phase included flowers inside the circular wall to accompany the crepe myrtles. In addition, our contractor began a turf improvement program with applications of weed control and fertilizer through the growing season, following the installation of the irrigation system the previous year.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND OUTREACH

Just before the end of the year we were notified of the impending closing of the Giant grocery store at Chevy Chase Center. The Chevy Chase Land Company also reported that it has signed a lease for a full-service grocery store to occupy the same space. The new store is expected to open at the end of 2020 after making improvements to the space. The lease agreement reportedly contains a non-disclosure provision that does not allow the Land Company to identify the new grocery store until the new grocer permits, so we don't know the identity yet.



The Village continued its active involvement in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, a coalition of 19 neighborhood associations and towns. Melanie White and Mike Dorsey serve as Council liaisons, and Mayor White was selected as Chairman of the CCCFH this past year.

The Council also remained active in the Maryland Municipal League and its County Chapter. Council members and staff attended the annual convention in Ocean City and the annual meeting with state legislators. Council Chairman Michael Mezey was selected to serve on MML's Legislative Committee, and I continued in my role as Treasurer of the County Chapter.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE

The Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue, now 23 years old, is a wonderful partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department. The facility provides increased police presence and visibility in the community.

MVA ON WHEELS

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Mobile Office has been a convenient, reliable, and popular service in the Village since 1999. The bus parks every month on Friendship Blvd., next to the Village Center, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All of the services provided at the MVA Express Offices are available on the bus, including renewing driver's licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing Maryland photo identifications, obtaining disability placards and returning tags.



MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2020 (Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.):

**January 28, February 25, March 24, April 21,
May 19, June 23**

COUNCIL TRIBUTES

At the Community Day celebration on April 13, the Council recognized Village centenarian Helen Davis. Mayor Melanie White presented community service awards to Village volunteers Judy Abrahams, Margaret Levine, Gita Pancholy, and Kritika Sharma. Norman Knopf was selected to receive the Elizabeth Scull Outstanding Community Service Award.

We rely on volunteers from the community to help us at the Village Center every day. My special thanks to them and to our wonderful staff.

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Cooper

Our budgeting philosophy in the Village has always been conservative. We try not to overstate our expected income, and are happy if our expenses come in less than we anticipated. Our results for FY2019 validated that philosophy in a substantial way, as we had an audited surplus of \$458,000. We expect to "beat the budget" again in FY2020 and are predicting another surplus in FY2021. **Consequently, we can report that the proposed tax rate remains at 4¢ per \$100, the lowest rate allowed by our charter, for the 15th consecutive year.** Compare that to the stories you often read about government finances!

A major reason for our very positive results has been an increase in expected income tax revenue. There were many forecasts of a doom and gloom effect on state revenues when Federal income tax laws were changed. The opposite seems to have happened, at least in the Village. We receive 17% of the income tax our residents pay to Montgomery County. That revenue exceeded expectations in FY2019 and is expected to do the same in FY2020. Taking a middle ground estimate from our annual visit to state officials in Annapolis, we are using predicted FY2020 numbers in our FY2021 budget.

On the negative side, our long-term tenant at 4602 North Park Avenue vacated its space as FY2020 began. While this was anticipated in the budget, re-leasing has taken longer than anticipated, and we are predicting no revenue for the balance of the fiscal year. We hope to have a new tenant by the start of FY2021 and are again predicting income.

The proposed Village budget for FY2021 follows, along with an explanation of the various categories. As always, the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, and the footnotes at the end should be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories. Public hearings will be held on the proposed FY2021 budget in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY2021, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,421,000. This is the same number we are now expecting this year. Interest rates have reversed direction from when we presented the FY2020 budget last year. While we still expect to get close to our number this year, we have lowered our expectations for FY2021. Municipal Revenue Sharing remains a wild card. This is money received from Montgomery County to reimburse local

governments for services that the County would have to provide. The formula for this distribution is up to the County Council and County Executive and seems to always be in flux. For budget purposes we are using the amount we have been receiving over the last few years.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category is being increased less than 1% over the FY2020 budget. Salaries ran lower than expected for FY2019 because of a position that took longer than expected to fill. This affected the FY2020 budget and we expect to come in lower for the year.

Public Safety: We may see an increase in the security patrol contract.

Public Works: We were able to renew our shuttle bus contract, which will include two new buses, with no increase in cost the first year! This will reduce both our



FY2020 expense and our projection for FY2021. Snow removal will, of course, depend on the amount of snow we get. We have had a mild start to the season. We can only wait and see what the rest of winter brings.

Recreation and Parks: We did a lot of tree trimming in FY2020 and expect to do less in FY2021.

Capital Improvements Fund: There are no pending capital projects approved by the Council. If additional funds are needed for capital expenditures, they can be transferred from the general fund.

As we are happy to say once again, the Village's strong financial condition, combined with careful management, has allowed us to maintain services while keeping the tax rate at the lowest possible level allowed by our charter. In addition, we continue to improve Village properties such as Page Park, as well as offering a wide range of programs at the Village Center. We hope our fellow residents remain proud to call the Village of Friendship Heights their home.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2021

REVENUES:	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Est. Actual FY20	Budget FY21
Property tax ¹	\$627,553	\$630,000	\$630,000	\$630,000
Income tax ²	1,394,434	1,214,500	1,421,000	1,421,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	95,245	95,245	95,245	95,245
Gas/highway tax ⁴	51,710	65,000	65,000	68,000
Parking violation income ⁵	239,458	250,000	250,000	250,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	57,173	39,209	0	60,000
Interest income ⁶	105,970	100,000	100,000	80,000
Village Center rental income	8,008	15,000	8,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	14,661	15,000	15,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	29,755	40,000	30,000	30,000
Village Center program/misc. income ⁸	10,320	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,634,287	\$2,470,954	\$2,621,245	\$2,671,245
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Est. Actual FY20	Budget FY21
General Government				
1 Elections	\$4,253	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	11,860	12,000	12,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	13,801	10,000	12,000	12,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	18,422	25,000	25,000	25,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	20,629	25,000	25,000	25,000
2F Village Council reports	2,348	3,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries ¹²	650,127	748,021	725,000	747,000
3B Health and life insurance ¹³	127,388	141,750	135,000	141,750
3C F.I.C.A.	50,788	57,223	55,500	57,500
3E Retirement contribution ¹⁴	48,916	57,695	56,000	58,000
4A Xerox copiers	688	1,000	1,000	1,000
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	10,941	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	4,070	4,500	4,500	4,500
5C Bldg./General liability insurance ¹⁵	11,248	10,494	10,494	12,583
6 Telephone and utilities	35,943	45,000	45,000	45,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	18,882	17,000	17,000	20,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	8,048	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	0	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	3,696	10,000	10,000	10,000
8E Computer equipment/supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance/repairs	18,332	25,000	25,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	120,278	135,000	135,000	135,000
Total General Government	\$1,183,658	\$1,357,683	\$1,326,494	\$1,369,333
Public Safety				
9A Security patrol contract	\$95,113	\$100,000	110,000	\$120,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	1,241	4,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	11,353	11,500	12,000	12,000
Total Public Safety	\$107,707	\$115,500	\$126,000	\$136,000

Public Works	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Est. Actual FY20	Budget FY21
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$467,758	\$490,000	\$470,000	\$480,000
11A Street maintenance	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	52,532	20,000	20,000	20,000
11C Snow removal	46,390	50,000	50,000	50,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	39	0	0	0
12A Waste collection ²²	20,854	24,000	24,000	24,000
12B Recycling	3,030	3,500	3,500	3,500
13 Street lighting	27,130	25,000	25,000	25,000
14 Street signs	1,719	1,000	1,000	1,000
15 Trees	8,697	15,000	15,000	15,000
16 Villagescape ²³	12,084	14,000	14,000	14,000
Total Public Works	\$640,233	\$652,500	\$632,500	\$642,500
Health/Social Services				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	9,785	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total Health/Social Services	\$9,785	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	2,271	10,000	10,000	10,000
18D Musicians' fees	25,062	20,000	20,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	(2,103)	0	0	0
18F Trip fees	(2,006)	0	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	173	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	6,417	6,000	6,000	6,000
18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners	13,320	12,000	13,000	14,000
18M Center special events ²⁵	39,191	40,000	40,000	40,000
19 Reading Room materials	2,044	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	28,093	29,000	29,000	29,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity	949	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	5,839	7,000	7,000	7,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain maint.	13,560	15,000	15,000	15,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting maint.	1,033	3,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint.	0	0	0	0
21G Art fund	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
23 Landscaping contract	91,704	90,000	100,000	100,000
24 Arborist contract	9,252	15,000	25,000	15,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$234,799	\$261,000	\$282,000	\$273,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$2,176,182	\$2,398,683	\$2,378,994	\$2,432,833
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$458,105	\$72,271	\$242,251	\$238,412
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,360,826	\$2,470,954	\$2,621,245	\$2,671,245
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$5,131,368	\$5,203,639	\$5,373,619	\$5,612,031
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCE²⁶	\$63,368	\$59,000	\$59,000	\$60,000
OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE²⁷	\$1,007	\$0	\$0	\$0

FOOTNOTES

Revenues

- 1 The special tax rate for the Village of Friendship Heights (not less than 4¢/\$100 nor more than 20¢/\$100 on assessments based on 100% of value), set by the Friendship Heights Village Council, was 4¢/\$100 in FY2020 and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2021, which begins July 1, 2020.
- 2 Estimate reflects the portion of the County tax rate returned to the Village from state filings.
- 3 An agreement between the County and municipalities (including special tax districts) requires the County to reimburse special tax districts for a portion of certain expenditures, which currently include park maintenance, health services, and road maintenance.
- 4 This amount is derived from a State formula based on the number of registered vehicles at Village addresses.
- 5 Parking violation income is collected by Montgomery County. The Village revenue share is 75%.
- 6 Interest is from Village funds placed in State approved investments. Interest on the Capital Improvements and OPEB Funds, included in the audit figure, is not included in the budget.
- 7 Permit fees are paid by contractors who occupy public rights-of-way (streets and sidewalks). By law, the fees defray only the reasonable administrative costs of maintaining the permit system and are currently \$250. Certain license fees are also received from the State.
- 8 Includes a percentage of art sales and commission from produce market sales.

Expenditures

- 9 Includes the annual audit and financial statements required by law.
- 10 Includes taking of the minutes for the monthly public Council meetings, postage and stationery. May also include contracted administrative support.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues and conventions attended by Council and/or staff.
- 12 Salaries of five full-time and six part-time employees. (The Center is open seven days a week and four evenings until 9 p.m.) Volunteers provide additional support to staff.
- 13 Covers costs of health insurance and life insurance provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Includes Workers Compensation, Public Officials Liability, Fidelity Bond, and Building/General Liability.
- 16 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and holiday decorations.
- 17 Includes general cleaning products, restroom paper supplies, copier paper, and office supplies.
- 18 Contract for maintenance staff at Village Center. Includes cleaning, minor repairs, setups and takedowns of equipment, street cleaning and 4602 North Park Avenue Police Field Office cleaning.
- 19 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 20 Cost of security vehicle provided by security contractor.
- 21 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance.
- 22 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week. A community shredding service, twice per year, is also included.
- 23 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on streetlight poles.
- 24 Includes cost of nurse consultation services and other health related programs.
- 25 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 26 The costs of completed or committed projects have been deducted. The Council may consider other capital projects. Money will be moved into the Capital Improvements Fund as required.
- 27 Reserve for payments into Montgomery County Trust for retiree health benefits. Additional money will be moved into the reserve as required.

2019 Program Report

Anne O'Neil, Program Director

The year 2019 offered an opportunity to implement many of the suggestions residents offered in our Village-wide survey.

Village residents asked for a greater variety of activities, especially on the weekends, and we responded by offering more courses, presentations and workshops designed to meet the interests of a broad array of residents.

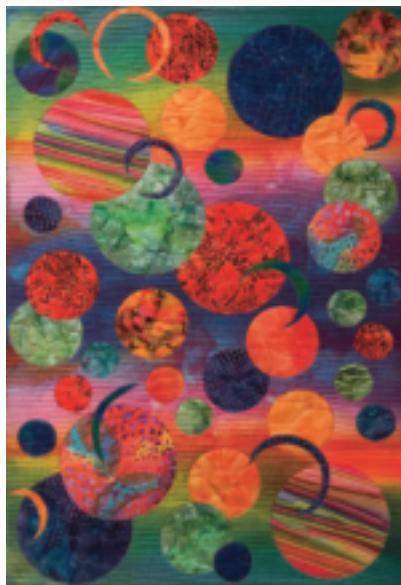
In 2019, the Village calendar was filled with art and culture, music, exercise, safety, self-care and caregiving, politics, community service, language, medicine and many fun-filled events. Among the offerings at the Village Center were classes, workshops, and discussion groups; book, chess and bridge clubs; movies; a children's art camp; a farmers market; health programs; lectures, concerts, our annual artisan fair, a children's Halloween party; and many opportunities to celebrate with neighbors.

With events ranging from a Diaper Drive and Royal Baby Shower to College Options for Artistic Students to a Senior/Toddler Exercise class, programming in 2019 appealed to residents from toddlers to centenarians.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our annual New Year's Day Open House brought the community together to welcome the new year with delectable light hors d'oeuvres and soothing music. The Dixie Power Trio brought the sounds of New Orleans to our Mardi Gras party.

Residents enjoyed barbecue and bluegrass during our annual Community Day celebration in April. Later in the spring, residents of all ages took part in a dia-



"Celestial Orbs 4" by Donna Radner was featured in the Friendship Gallery art show in May.

with the Bill Baker Band and delicious barbecue at our Fall Festival.

In November, "A Holiday Affair," our annual artisan craft fair, featured perennial favorites and new artists. This year, the Friday evening reception featured specially themed mocktails in honor of our hometown sports heroes from the World Series Champion Washington Nationals. Saturday's fair featured fine arts and craft shopping, concessions and a hot chocolate bar.

CLASSES

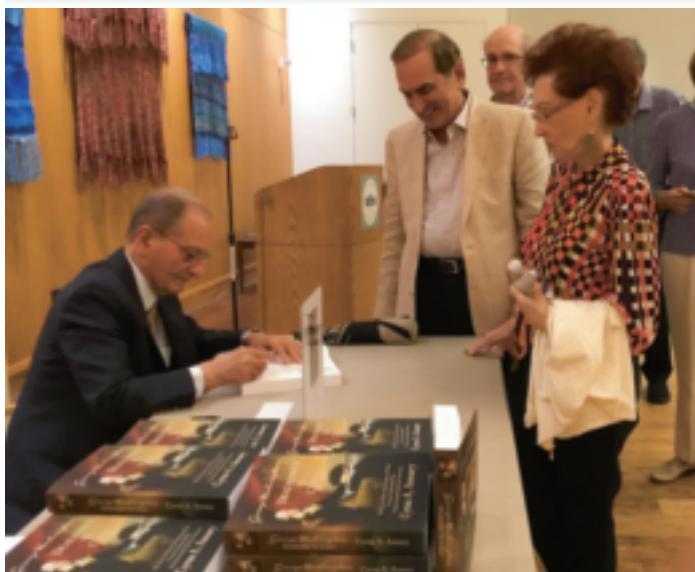
The Center offered art classes for all ages and skill levels. Still Life Painting, Abstract Art, Painting for Everyone, and All in the Eyes—a portraiture class—continued to be popular.

Well-attended exercise classes continued to bring residents to the Village Center. Classes included Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, Strength Training, Fall Prevention, Chair Exercise, and Seated Yoga and Meditation. The Walking Club met three times a week to walk through streets in and around Friendship Heights. A Spanish conversation group, classes in Italian—through the Italian Cultural Society—and Yiddish continued to attract loyal followers each week. The Village Bridge Club, Chess Group and Book Club gathered at the Village Center. We also introduced a new memoir writing class and a new course addressing driving and aging. In the fall, we introduced a new Saturday program, "Lunchtime Lessons," which features 30-minute lectures on a variety



We visited West Virginia's historic Greenbrier resort.

per drive to benefit the National Diaper Bank, then celebrated the pending birth of a new royal with singing, dancing, games and treats during our Royal Baby Shower. Our old-fashioned July 4th always attracts a crowd for hot dogs, music, children's activities and speeches from our local leaders. Later in July, residents gathered for a summer yard sale at the Village Center. In October, we welcomed fall



Cyrus Ansary discussed his book about George Washington at the Center in September.

of topics from the Great Courses DVD collection. This fall and winter the lectures focused on U.S. National Parks and Great Tours of Washington, D.C.

ON THE GO

Day trips included visits to the The Museum of the Bible in Washington; The American Craft Council Show in Baltimore; a Cherry Blossom Cruise on the Potomac River; "Costuming the Crown" at Winterthur and high tea at the historic Hotel DuPont ; "Hello Dolly" at the Kennedy Center; Glenstone Museum in Potomac; The Chesapeake Maritime Museum and a cruise on the Miles River on Maryland's Eastern Shore; plays at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, W. Va.; a day at the beach in Rehoboth Beach, Del.; a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and a boat trip on the Severn River; and The Museum of the Shenandoah in Virginia. In December, a group traveled to New York for a two-day excursion to see the Broadway musical, "Ain't Too Proud" and the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. We also celebrated the sounds of the season with the Washington Revels' Christmas performance at Lisner Auditorium, followed by tea at the Henley Park Hotel.

OUR YOUNGER RESIDENTS

Throughout the year, the Village Center continued its efforts to reach out to a wide range of ages, including children and teens. Our Tuesday Morning Village Playtime, with Marsha Goodman-Wood, brings together toddlers, parents, grandparents and caregivers for music, dancing and fun. We also introduced a

toddler-senior exercise program one day per month.

In the winter, children, parents and grandparents enjoyed an evening of science, songs, a movie and pizza during our "Frozen" party in January.

June brought our annual art camp, which gave children a week-long art education, with projects ranging from Chinese brush to pastels and painting to jewelry making. Children also had the chance to gather to watch some of the year's best animated and children's movies during our Thursday night movie series. Within our Wednesday night concert series, we also offered concerts throughout the year with kid-friendly music.

In July, children enjoyed an old-fashioned splash party in the park, complete with sprinklers and other water toys designed to beat the heat.

In October, we hosted our annual Halloween Party at the Village Center, a hit with children and their parents.

Teens and pre-teens also volunteered in record numbers, helping out at our summer art camp, Mardi Gras concert and party, Star Wars movie night, Royal Baby Shower and Halloween parties, and at our front desk and as members of our Program Advisory Committee.

CONCERTS

Our Wednesday Evening Concert Series, special concerts, musical community jams, multi-generational sing-alongs, musical teas, and a songwriters' night attracted talented professional and student musicians throughout the year.

Village residents also enjoyed several theatrical productions throughout the year: Mini-Musicals on the Move presented "The Music Man," and in July, Montgomery College students performed scenes and songs from their Summer Dinner Theater productions of "Sweet Charity" and "Spamalot."



We enjoyed a day in St. Michaels in July.



Pianist Thomas Pandolfi's September performance received a standing ovation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Attention to health issues has always been important at the Center. Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks, nurse consultations, and monthly health lectures. Free glaucoma screenings were held in January. Residents learned about the dangers and symptoms of sepsis during two talks at the Village Center in September. Flu shots were administered by Giant in October. AARP Safe Driving and Smart TEK workshops were offered in the spring and summer. The speech support group, now known as "Express Yourself" and vision support groups continued to meet. In the fall, the Center hosted National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day when residents could drop off expired or unwanted medication for safe disposal by the County police and the DEA. In December, Louisa Klein held a meditation session designed to reduce stress during the holidays. State and local politicians Susan Lee, Ariana Kelly, Marc Korman, Sara Love and Andrew Friedson hosted a senior forum with information on wellness, identifying scams and fraud, and local and State resources.

BOOK SIGNINGS, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Book signings and lectures of the past year covered a wide variety of issues and interests, running the gamut of topics from music and brain development to medical marijuana.

Authors who spoke at the Center included Stuart Eisenstat, Bob Levey, Kyi May Kaung, Cyrus Ansary, and Maulik Pancholy. Peggy Goetz held a workshop on how to tackle clutter; Ariana Lightningstorm offered a fun talk on lip print reading; Glaucoma Expert Arthur Schwartz addressed advances in treatment of eye disease; local high school students and parents learned

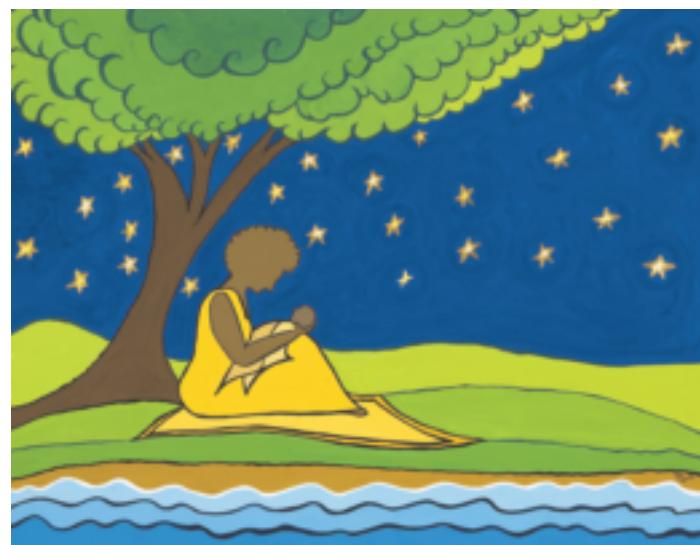
about art school and art program options; acclaimed storyteller Jane Dorfman presented Irish tales in March and spooky tales in October; Maryland State Senator Susan Lee reported on the 2019 legislative session; and local psychologist David Sachs held a series of talks aimed at staying sane during stressful political times. Jeanne Pettenati, now a Village staff member, spoke about two 20th century American painters; Marsha Goodman-Wood discussed music and its impact on brain development; Dr. Matthew Mintz gave some straight answers about medical marijuana; Barbara Rosenblatt hosted an afternoon program on sharing stories in honor of Grandparents' Day; and Village residents enjoyed getting creative during Saturday art workshops ranging from fused glass to pottery to wreath-making.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery featured monthly art exhibits, from abstract to expressionism, watercolor to photography to fiber arts.

THANK YOU

Many volunteers contribute countless hours to assist with the programs at the Center. Our special thanks to the Village Council, our committees, volunteers and staff for their dedicated efforts throughout the year.



"The Gift of Life" by Cynthia Farrell Johnson was part of the art show at Friendship Gallery in February.

Notice of Public Hearings

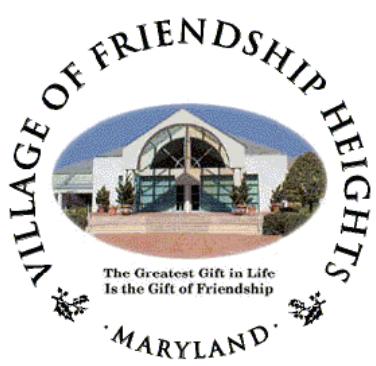
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-2 of the Montgomery County Code (1984 Edition), notice is hereby given that the Friendship Heights Village Council will conduct public hearings on Monday, February 10, 2020, and Monday, March 9, 2020, at 7:45 p.m. in the Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815, in connection with the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021, based on a proposed tax rate of 4¢/\$100 assessed property value. The final tax rate will be determined after the two public hearings. The Village Council will vote to establish the tax rate for FY2021 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2020, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the proposed budget before June 1, 2020, is available at the office of the Friendship Heights Village Council, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Any persons desiring further information may call Julian Mansfield, Village Manager, 301-656-2797, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



The Council Report

**The Friendship Heights Village Council
4433 South Park Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815**

www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



2019 Annual Report and FY2021 Proposed Budget