

# The Council Report

## 2021 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*  
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Vice Chairman*  
ALFRED MULLER, M.D., *Secretary*  
PAULA DURBIN, *Treasurer*  
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Historian*  
MICHAEL J. DORSEY

### Exceeding Your Expectations

*Melanie Rose White, Mayor*

Some years ago, I had a boss (whom I greatly admired) who held a doctorate in industrial psychology. He told me once that one of the causes of depression is often “unfulfilled expectations.” He is no longer with us, but I often recall his words. As I write this page of our Annual Report and think back over the past 12 months, it is hard not to reflect on the ups and downs of the COVID pandemic and how most of us continue to re-evaluate our circumstances and, in turn, our expectations.

No doubt, some of your expectations encompass your day-to-day experiences living in the Village. An annual report is an opportunity to both recap the previous year and to make plans for what to do differently during the coming months. As a resident of Friendship Heights, what are your expectations? Are there aspects of life here that you would change?

Each morning as I commute to my office in Northeast D.C., I ride by at least two dozen high-rise residential buildings scattered throughout the city. Most are isolated with the exception of a few uninspired commercial buildings and drab parking lots nearby. I cannot help but compare our community of nine buildings—separate structures, but united by the strength of our Village as a whole. That unity is fostered by the things that make our neighborhood unique. From the beautiful parks and greenscaping, to the bustling Village Center, to the spirit of our residents, it is not hard to see why our collection of high-rises is such an attractive place to live.

As your mayor, I also like to think that we sometimes (not always!) exceed your expectations. Your all-volunteer Village Council works diligently to ensure our services, programs, and amenities are delivered with that extra “something”—that bit of sparkle that helps define us. Here are a few examples.

While many communities take precautions to protect pedestrians, in the Village we are going beyond the norm. During the next few months, you will see enhanced

pedestrian safety measures on our streets, including a speed hump near the police statue. Inside the Center, a custom-designed aquarium will be the focal point of our lobby and that we hope will delight residents and visitors. Our shuttle bus—probably our most popular service—provides a way for residents to access a variety of stores, both in the Village and at nearby Westbard. Our bus drivers are undoubtedly the best in the business and never hesitate to assist folks who need a hand. And, on our snowiest days, I could not help but notice that the streets and sidewalks within the Village were clean and dry, unlike the ones nearby.

Our multi-talented Village staff work tirelessly to enhance our quality of living and to meet and surpass your expectations. In early January, many of our residents were able to pick up free test kits at the Village Center and avoided those long lines in front of local libraries. Our program staff continue to plan a variety of classes and events months in advance, despite not knowing what restrictions the pandemic will impose during any given

week. I am also grateful for the constant communication and outreach our staff fosters with County leaders, with other local elected officials, and with each residential building in the Village.

Recognizing our staff is terribly bittersweet this year, knowing that Bob Shapiro, our finance director and assistant Village manager, and Council Treasurer Kathy Cooper, passed away in 2021. Both were such treasured members of our community and leave a legacy of hard work and dedication. We also bid a happy retirement to longtime staffers Betty Ardizzone, Annie Natali, and financial assistant Bernadette Salyer, and wish them well in their next adventures. Each of these individuals spent many years working on behalf of the Village and giving their best as they served our residents.

As we look ahead to what we hope will be a “back-to-normal” spring, think about your expectations. We invite you to visit the Center and try out a new class or program. Let us know what you would like to see and let us hear your heart. On behalf of the Village Council, I wish you each a joyful and fulfilling year ahead.



*The Village joined in a statewide memorial event to pay tribute to COVID victims.*

# 2021 Village Report

*Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager*

Village Council member and Treasurer Kathy Cooper resigned in early 2021, then sadly she passed away in March. Kathy had served on the Council since 2015 and was a longtime resident of The Willoughby and member of the Willoughby Board of Directors.



**Kathy Cooper**

The Village Council election was held in May. Eight candidates ran for the seven seats. The election was conducted by mail and in person, and there was a larger than usual turnout. Voters elected the six Council incumbents, along with Dr. Alfred Muller, who returned to the Council after serving from 1975 to 2001.

After being sworn into office, the Council selected its officers for the 2021–2023 term: Mayor, Melanie Rose White; Chairman, Michael Mezey; Vice Chairman, Bruce Pirnie; Secretary, Alfred Muller, M.D.; Treasurer, Paula Durbin; Parliamentarian, Michael Dorsey; and Historian, Carolina Zumaran-Jones. Mr. Dorsey subsequently resigned as Parliamentarian, leaving that position vacant.

There were numerous changes among the staff over the course of the year. We suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of Village Manager/Finance Director Bob Shapiro in November, following a battle with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Bob was a vital part of our staff for over 25 years, and more recently lived in The Carleton. He will be sorely missed. Three other beloved staff members, Betty Ardizzone (Facilities Manager), Bernadette Salyer (Financial Assistant), and Annie Natali (Front Desk Receptionist), retired after many years of service to the Village.



**Bob Shapiro**

We welcomed Donna Bryant as the new Financial Assistant, and Judy Strong and Milly Salamanca as new Front Desk Receptionists. Tracey Biagas, longtime Front Desk Supervisor, was hired as Facilities Manager in

November. We will be seeking to fill a few more staff positions as the calendar turns to 2022.

## COVID-19 AND THE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic was once again the dominant headline for the year globally and locally. Early in the year, as we waited for vaccines to become more widely available, we focused our efforts on COVID testing and highlighting information resources on our website. At our request, Montgomery County set up a free weekly testing site at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center, which was a convenient and popular location for our residents. We continued pressing County and State officials and our elected representatives for vaccine clinics, and we were all frustrated by the slow pace of vaccine distribution. Partnering with Giant Pharmacy, we held vaccine clinics at the Village Center in April and May. Over the summer we hosted weekly vaccine clinics at the Center thanks to Brookville Pharmacy.

In June, the Village Center reopened to the public, on a modified schedule, for the first time since March 2020. Village Council meetings resumed at the Center rather than online. In-person programming was limited initially, as a number of our classes and groups continued to meet via Zoom. Our July 4 celebration in Humphrey Park, the first major community event we were able to hold in 18 months, was enjoyed by many residents and once again featured numerous elected officials at all levels. In September, we resumed our regular (pre-pandemic) seven-day per week schedule with full programming (see the report from Program Director Anne O'Neil beginning on page 9).

## DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING ISSUES

Both regional planning and neighborhood development discussions came to the forefront this past year. For the first time since 1964, the County proposed an update to its long-term plan to guide development in the area. Known as Thrive 2050, the new plan puts forth goals for land use, zoning, housing, the economy, equity, transportation, parks and open space, the environment and historic resources. It aims for the creation of "complete communities," where most essential services and amenities would be available within a 15-minute walk or bike ride. These communities would also feature "missing middle" housing, i.e., more diverse and affordable types of residential units.

The Village joined a coalition of Chevy Chase municipalities and community organizations to address

concerns with the proposed plan. Following numerous hearings and town meetings, the plan has now been sent to the Montgomery County Executive and County Council for their review.

Meanwhile, for the first time in several years, a development project within the Village's jurisdiction has been proposed and is moving through the County's approval process.

Donohoe Development and Carr City Centers purchased the properties on the 5500 block of Wisconsin Avenue, including the Courtyard by Marriott hotel. They are proposing to redevelop the portion of the block south of the hotel to the corner of South Park Avenue. The hotel will remain unchanged. The proposed plans include an 18-story apartment building with approximately 380 units and a height of 180 feet (plus mechanical equipment not included in the height calculation), along with up to 15,000 square feet of commercial and retail uses on the ground floor. The building would have two six-story "shoulders" on either side of the main tower rising up from the middle. It would be situated parallel to South Park Avenue with a setback from the street and the adjacent hotel.

The proposal also includes a shared street between the new building and the existing hotel that would run from The Hills Plaza to Wisconsin Avenue. It would provide pedestrian and vehicular access, including garage entry, loading docks and spaces for moving trucks and delivery vehicles. After the developer filed their sketch plan with



the Planning Board, the Village Council held a special public meeting in October. Following a presentation with the developer and input provided by residents, the Council voted to oppose the project conditionally, expressing concerns regarding the height of the building and the design and use of the proposed shared street.

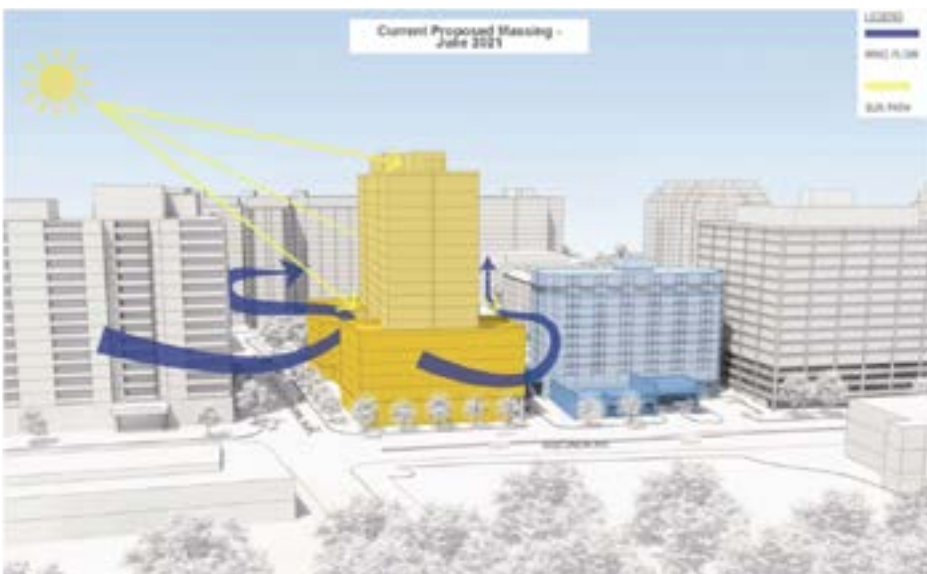
In November, the Village testified at the Planning Board public hearing, but the Board approved the sketch plan unanimously. The next phase in the process is the site plan application, which the developer is expected to file in 2022.

### NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

The Council's Parks and Grounds Committee was active throughout the year on several projects. In the spring, the Village's new arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Village's trees, including an updated inventory and tagging system. While nearly all our trees were classified in good or fair condition, there were several recommended for removal. The Parks and Grounds Committee, in consultation with the arborist, identified locations for additional trees, and subsequently 18 new trees were planted in the fall.

The Parks and Grounds Committee also initiated a project to solicit new designs for Page Park, the small park on North Park Avenue nestled between 4615 North Park Apartments and Willard Towers. In December, the Council selected three landscape designers for a design competition that will begin in January 2022. The guidelines include limiting the lawn area, providing flowers, plants and bushes, and retaining most of the existing trees.

Traffic and safety issues in the Village were topics of much discussion during the year. Responding to safety concerns related to the Village's busiest intersection, South Park Avenue and The Hills Plaza, the Council approved the installation of a speed hump and a pedestrian warning sign at the approach to the intersection. Our police statue at the corner was vandalized and had to be removed for several months to undergo a full restoration. This led to discussions about installing exterior security cameras near the statue and in Humphrey Park, which the Council approved in December.



***The proposed 18-story apartment building at 5500 Wisconsin Avenue, as seen from the east side of Wisconsin.***



The much-anticipated Amazon grocery store opened in August, in the same location as the former Giant store. Our shuttle bus resumed service to the front of the store, and the bus also maintained its schedule with trips to the Westbard Giant three days a week.

The Council approved a proposal to install an aquarium in the Village Center lobby. The large tank will include a custom wooden stand and canopy. We anticipate installation in early 2022.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Village residents Elizabeth Harris and John Mertens continued to represent the Village on the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD) Advisory Committee, which advises the County on a range of traffic and transportation issues.

The Village also maintained its active involvement in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, a coalition of 21 neighborhood associations and towns. Melanie White continued to represent the Village on the CCCFH. And the Village remains active in the Maryland Municipal League, with Council Chairman Michael Mezey serving on MML's Legislative Committee, and Village Manager Julian Mansfield continuing as Treasurer of the MML/Montgomery County Chapter.

We welcomed a group of local artists as our new tenants in the Village-owned property at 4602 North Park Avenue. The group is part of the Montgomery County Art Association, which has presented art shows in the Village Center. In addition to working on their art at the location, the artists also plan on having shows and workshops periodically for the community.

In December, we once again coordinated a holiday food drive at the Village Center and delivered more than



400 pounds of food to Manna Food Center to help feed the hungry in the community. We also partnered with Goodwill Industries for a donation drive in the Village. Numerous residents donated clothing and household goods. We anticipate partnering with Goodwill on more donation drives in the Village.

### COUNTY MOBILE COMMUTER STORE

Montgomery County's TRiPS Commuter Store continued its weekly presence in the Village despite the constraints of the ongoing pandemic. 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.

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE

The Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue, now in its 25th year of operation, continues to be a terrific partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department.

### MVA ON WHEELS

Residents were pleased to see the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Mobile Office resume service after a lengthy shutdown due to the pandemic. The MVA bus, now by appointment only, comes to the Village on



multiple days each month. All of the services provided at the MVA Express Offices are available on the bus.

### THANK YOU

My special thanks to our wonderful staff for all their efforts throughout a challenging year. We welcome residents to the Village Center to take advantage of all that we have to offer. Please stay healthy and safe in 2022.

# Treasurer's Report

The COVID-19 pandemic was the dominant storyline of the past year. Despite its impact, the Village has retained a strong financial position. We ended FY21 with a budget surplus of more than \$450,000, and we anticipate a surplus of about \$572,000 in FY22. This means that for the 17th consecutive year our tax rate can remain at 4 cents per \$100.

The budget developed for this report assumes that we will put COVID restrictions behind us by the end of FY22 and return to a more “normal” context through FY23, which begins on July 1.

## REVENUES

The Village of Friendship Heights receives revenue primarily from taxes on property and income, interest on its accounts, parking tickets and rentals.

The largest source of revenue is our share of the income tax that residents pay to the State. In November 2021, that share totaled more than \$733,000, which was greater than anticipated and accounts for much of the surplus projected for FY22. According to State authorities, the higher distribution was attributable to individuals who had received extensions to file their income tax returns, among them some of the wealthiest taxpayers in the Village.

At the dawn of the pandemic, interest rates dropped and they have stayed down for nearly two years. During 2021 and into the new year, the Council noted the effect on the Village's substantial reserves. Interest income for the current year will fall short of projections. The Federal Reserve Board has indicated the possibility of higher interest rates in 2022. If rates do rise, interest income for the Village might increase slightly in FY23, which is also reflected in this budget.

Revenue from parking tickets decreased during the spread of COVID. It then recovered as the County reinstated enforcement procedures that had been suspended for some time during the pandemic.

Village income from rent is attributable to several sources. After a lengthy vacancy, the Village leased the property at 4602 North Park Avenue last summer to a group of artists. The popular Twin Springs market now serves the Village year round, resulting in additional income. Due to the pandemic, however, the Village ceased rental of the Center for weddings and other gatherings.

Thanks to many years of careful financial management and a healthy tax base, Village reserves have grown steadily. By the end of FY23, the fund is anticipated to reach some \$6.6 million, more than twice the total annual budget. Its disposition will continue as a focus in 2022.

## EXPENDITURES

As noted in the Village Manager's report on page 2, the Village has experienced vacancies in a number of positions during FY22, including several that had been filled by the longest-serving staff members. The resulting reduction in payroll for the remainder of this fiscal year will continue into FY23, even allowing for a 3 percent raise in salaries expected to take effect in July.

Because the Center remained closed until June, and full programming did not resume until September, expenses in several categories shrank. The Council was able to host two substantial community events in FY22—our annual July 4 celebration and Fall Festival—and anticipates holding these again this year. Per its contract with the Village, our Security Patrol currently works a reduced schedule.

The proposed budget for FY23 follows. As always, the narrative hits only certain highlights; the footnotes to the budget offer a more complete explanation of the categories indicated.

## IN APPRECIATION

During 2021, Friendship Heights lost two individuals who had contributed significantly to the financial well-being of our Village: Kathy Cooper, the Village Council's Treasurer since her election to this body in 2015, serves as a model for her successors in expertise and temperament. As Financial Director, Bob Shapiro deserves our gratitude for his many accomplishments benefiting the Village during decades of service, most notably the development of our reserves. Kathy and Bob's clear-eyed judgment, ethical standards, loyalty to the community, and careful management of our funds worked to put the Village in the strong financial condition reflected in this Annual Report, which has allowed Friendship Heights, year after year, to maintain services while keeping the tax rate at the lowest level allowed by our charter.

—Paula Durbin

# Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2023

| <b>REVENUES:</b>                                   | <b>Actual FY21</b> | <b>Budget FY22</b> | <b>Est. Actual FY22</b> | <b>Budget FY23</b> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Property tax <sup>1</sup>                          | \$651,206          | \$630,000          | \$640,000               | \$640,000          |
| Income tax <sup>2</sup>                            | 1,521,797          | 1,406,000          | 1,734,000               | 1,464,000          |
| Municipal Revenue Sharing <sup>3</sup>             | 95,245             | 95,245             | 95,245                  | 95,245             |
| Gas/highway tax <sup>4</sup>                       | 54,464             | 64,000             | 68,000                  | 70,000             |
| Parking violation income <sup>5</sup>              | 118,841            | 250,000            | 250,000                 | 250,000            |
| 4602 N. Park Ave. rental                           | 0                  | 60,000             | 30,000                  | 36,000             |
| Interest income <sup>6</sup>                       | 12,322             | 50,000             | 10,000                  | 10,000             |
| Village Center rental income                       | 616                | 15,000             | 0                       | 0                  |
| Permit and License fees <sup>7</sup>               | 13,455             | 15,000             | 25,000                  | 25,000             |
| Newsletter ad income                               | 32,053             | 30,000             | 30,000                  | 30,000             |
| Village Center program/misc. income <sup>8</sup>   | 9,321              | 7,000              | 13,000                  | 13,000             |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                              | <b>\$2,509,320</b> | <b>\$2,622,245</b> | <b>\$2,895,245</b>      | <b>\$2,633,245</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                               | <b>Actual FY21</b> | <b>Budget FY22</b> | <b>Est. Actual FY22</b> | <b>Budget FY23</b> |
| <b>General Government</b>                          |                    |                    |                         |                    |
| 1 Elections  | \$6,505            | \$0                | \$0                     | \$6,500            |
| 2A Financial admin. and accounting <sup>9</sup>    | 14,346             | 12,000             | 12,000                  | 13,000             |
| 2B Administrative costs <sup>10</sup>              | 8,115              | 12,000             | 12,000                  | 12,000             |
| 2C Memberships and conferences <sup>11</sup>       | 17,690             | 25,000             | 15,000                  | 25,000             |
| 2D Legal counsel and consultants                   | 25,021             | 25,000             | 80,000                  | 50,000             |
| 2F Village Council reports                         | 2,365              | 3,000              | 3,000                   | 3,000              |
| 3A Salaries <sup>12</sup>                          | 754,436            | 824,000            | 758,000                 | 740,000            |
| 3B Health and life insurance <sup>13</sup>         | 166,581            | 191,000            | 200,000                 | 220,000            |
| 3C F.I.C.A.  | 58,547             | 63,500             | 58,000                  | 56,500             |
| 3E Retirement contribution <sup>14</sup>           | 54,697             | 64,000             | 57,000                  | 55,000             |
| 4A Xerox copiers                                   | 751                | 1,000              | 1,000                   | 1,000              |
| 4C Heating and cooling maintenance                 | 11,773             | 12,000             | 12,000                  | 12,000             |
| 4D Bldg. security system maintenance               | 6,539              | 4,500              | 4,500                   | 4,500              |
| 5C Bldg./General liability insurance <sup>15</sup> | 12,583             | 13,752             | 12,583                  | 11,690             |
| 6 Telephone and utilities                          | 33,339             | 45,000             | 35,000                  | 35,000             |
| 7 Hospitality and special events <sup>16</sup>     | 2,463              | 20,000             | 8,000                   | 15,000             |
| 8A Equipment and supplies <sup>17</sup>            | 11,213             | 15,000             | 14,000                  | 14,000             |
| 8B Office and building furniture                   | 0                  | 5,000              | 0                       | 5,000              |
| 8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance                   | 16,774             | 10,000             | 15,000                  | 15,000             |
| 8E Computer equipment/supplies                     | 2,524              | 3,000              | 3,000                   | 10,000             |
| 8F Center maintenance/repairs                      | 7,415              | 25,000             | 35,000                  | 35,000             |
| 8G Maintenance service <sup>18</sup>               | 28,580             | 25,000             | 15,000                  | 15,000             |
| <b>Total General Government</b>                    | <b>\$1,242,257</b> | <b>\$1,398,752</b> | <b>\$1,350,083</b>      | <b>\$1,354,190</b> |
| <b>Public Safety</b>                               |                    |                    |                         |                    |
| 9A Security patrol contract                        | \$55,206           | \$120,000          | 57,000                  | \$60,000           |
| 9B Police Field Office <sup>19</sup>               | 1,966              | 4,000              | 2,000                   | 2,000              |
| 9C Security vehicle maintenance <sup>20</sup>      | 6,704              | 12,000             | 7,000                   | 7,000              |
| <b>Total Public Safety</b>                         | <b>\$63,876</b>    | <b>\$136,000</b>   | <b>\$66,000</b>         | <b>\$69,000</b>    |

| <b>Public Works</b>                           | <b>Actual FY21</b> | <b>Budget FY22</b> | <b>Est. Actual FY22</b> | <b>Budget FY23</b> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 10 Bus contract <sup>21</sup>                 | \$402,870          | \$485,000          | \$485,000               | \$495,000          |
| 11A Street maintenance                        | 0                  | 10,000             | 15,000                  | 15,000             |
| 11B Sidewalk maintenance                      | 11,130             | 20,000             | 20,000                  | 20,000             |
| 11C Snow removal                              | 62,481             | 50,000             | 50,000                  | 50,000             |
| 11D Storm drain maintenance                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                       | 0                  |
| 12A Waste collection <sup>22</sup>            | 12,132             | 15,000             | 14,000                  | 14,000             |
| 12B Recycling                                 | 3,030              | 3,500              | 1,200                   | 1,200              |
| 13 Street lighting                            | 25,648             | 25,000             | 20,000                  | 20,000             |
| 14 Street signs                               | 895                | 1,000              | 5,000                   | 5,000              |
| 15 Trees                                      | 11,060             | 15,000             | 15,000                  | 10,000             |
| 16 Villagescape <sup>23</sup>                 | 12,654             | 14,000             | 14,000                  | 14,000             |
| <b>Total Public Works</b>                     | <b>\$541,900</b>   | <b>\$638,500</b>   | <b>\$639,200</b>        | <b>\$644,200</b>   |
| <b>Health/Social Services</b>                 |                    |                    |                         |                    |
| 17B Health/Social services <sup>24</sup>      | 111                | 12,000             | 10,000                  | 12,000             |
| <b>Total Health/Social Services</b>           | <b>\$111</b>       | <b>\$12,000</b>    | <b>\$10,000</b>         | <b>\$12,000</b>    |
| <b>Recreation and Parks</b>                   |                    |                    |                         |                    |
| 18C Lecture fees                              | 2,530              | 10,000             | 3,000                   | 10,000             |
| 18D Musicians' fees                           | 8,019              | 20,000             | 20,000                  | 20,000             |
| 18E Instructors' fees                         | (3,390)            | 0                  | 0                       | 0                  |
| 18F Trip fees                                 | 861                | 0                  | 0                       | 3,000              |
| 18G Art/theme shows                           | 240                | 3,000              | 1,000                   | 3,000              |
| 18I Consumable supplies                       | 1,264              | 6,000              | 2,000                   | 4,000              |
| 18K Lunches, brunches, teas & dinners         | 1,366              | 14,000             | 10,000                  | 14,000             |
| 18M Center special events <sup>25</sup>       | 7,743              | 40,000             | 25,000                  | 35,000             |
| 19 Reading Room materials                     | 2,125              | 4,000              | 3,000                   | 3,000              |
| 20C Village newsletter                        | 24,189             | 29,000             | 29,000                  | 29,000             |
| 21A Village Parks: Electricity                | 906                | 2,000              | 1,500                   | 1,500              |
| 21B Village Parks: Water                      | 7,865              | 7,000              | 10,000                  | 10,000             |
| 21C Village Parks: Fountain maint.            | 14,435             | 20,000             | 20,000                  | 20,000             |
| 21D Village Parks: Lighting maint.            | 2,007              | 3,000              | 3,000                   | 3,000              |
| 21E Village Parks: Furniture                  | 27,652             | 2,000              | 2,000                   | 2,000              |
| 21F Village Parks: Walkway maint.             | 0                  | 0                  | 3,000                   | 3,000              |
| 21G Art fund                                  | 0                  | 3,000              | 0                       | 3,000              |
| 23 Landscaping contract                       | 101,925            | 100,000            | 115,000                 | 100,000            |
| 24 Arborist contract                          | 9,745              | 15,000             | 10,000                  | 15,000             |
| <b>Total Recreation and Parks</b>             | <b>\$209,482</b>   | <b>\$278,000</b>   | <b>\$257,500</b>        | <b>\$278,500</b>   |
| <b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>           | <b>\$2,057,626</b> | <b>\$2,463,252</b> | <b>\$2,322,783</b>      | <b>\$2,357,890</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>                      | <b>\$451,694</b>   | <b>\$158,993</b>   | <b>\$572,462</b>        | <b>\$275,355</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                     | <b>\$2,509,320</b> | <b>\$2,622,245</b> | <b>\$2,895,245</b>      | <b>\$2,633,245</b> |
| <b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>                   | <b>\$5,780,018</b> | <b>\$5,939,011</b> | <b>\$6,352,480</b>      | <b>\$6,627,835</b> |
| <b>CAP. IMPROV. FUND BALANCE<sup>26</sup></b> | <b>\$11,298</b>    | <b>\$11,298</b>    | <b>\$11,298</b>         | <b>\$11,298</b>    |
| <b>OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE<sup>27</sup></b>   | <b>\$1,335</b>     | <b>\$3,000</b>     | <b>\$5,000</b>          | <b>\$3,000</b>     |



## 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 FY2022 and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2023, which begins July 1, 2022.
- 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 eight full-time and five 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 supplies and supplemental cleaning at Village Center. Maintenance employees were added to Village staff in November 2020.
- 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 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.



## 2021 Program Report

*Anne O'Neil, Program Director*

The year 2021 was a year of patience and anticipation as we adjusted to an ever-changing social landscape still dictated by COVID-19. It began with the Village Center remaining closed to the public due to continuing concerns about the virus.

As a result, in early 2021, most programming occurred virtually. By using Zoom, groups were able to gather over the internet from the comfort and safety of their own homes: Coffee and Current Events continued to discuss and debate events of the day, Fiber Friends could show off knitted and crocheted handiwork, Great Books could ponder literary classics, Chess players challenged their opponents, the Village Book Club reflected on a host of written works, Express Yourself offered support for aphasia patients, and even the Walking Club joined in to meet virtually.

Village residents went online for art and writing workshops. The Village Center continued to offer free tech tutorial classes—the most popular offered help with participating in Zoom lectures and tips for using cell phones. The Village Center also offered a host of virtual lectures, field trips and concerts.

On-line lecture topics ranged from race relations to COVID to political strife around the world: playwright Kenneth Jones examined censorship in “Alabama Story;” Dr. David Sacks offered insight and coping methods during “Staying Resilient—COVID 19: One Year Later;” physical therapist Shira Racoosin addressed fall prevention; Kyi May Kaung explained Myanmar’s military coup.

Although our Village-sponsored trips were on hold, we traveled virtually to a number of exciting sites across



*Residents took a virtual tour of the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in May.*

the country—New York City’s Tenement Museum, the American Labor Museum, the Idaho National Lab, the Baseball Hall of Fame, The Baltimore Museum of Industry, the Museum of Folk Arts in Utah, the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, the Warhol Museum, the Norton Museum, and the Corning Glass Museum.

While residents waited for in-person concerts to resume, they enjoyed round-the-clock access to YouTube performances made specifically for Friendship Heights audiences. Online...OnStage performers included: classical pianist Frederick Moyer, clarinetist James Logan, saxophone and piano duo R2Duo; holiday concerts by Music Pilgrim Trio, Janet Rutland and Susan Jones; classical and vocal performances by Tulsa Trio; a Spanish Heritage program from Isaac Eicher and Marcella Pinilla; R&B, jazz and international music from the Silver Sounds band; western swing from Shelby Eicher; jazz from Jenny and Nathan Wilson; and a variety of vocal performances ranging from country to vintage pop to show tunes from Janet Rutland; classical guitar by Richard Miller; soothing sounds of the harp by Miriam Gentle; and a performance by Baltimore Symphony Orchestra cellist Darius Skoraczewski and flautist Marcia McHugh.

The Online... OnStage series also features musical and performing arts lectures ranging from Native American ballerinas to the history of jazz to the stories behind songs by Duke Ellington and Glen Miller.

In addition to online programs, there were a number of activities throughout the Village that enabled residents to engage while keeping a safe social distance.

Seasonal craft kits, stocked with art supplies for children and adults, sparked creativity and kept residents engaged.

During a state-wide memorial event, we joined in



*We saw a performance of the musical Hadestown at the Kennedy Center in October.*



***Our trip to Rehoboth Beach in the summer is always popular with Village residents.***

paying tribute to those who lost their lives to COVID by placing luminaries in the Village Center windows and around the fountain in Hubert Humphrey Park.

By early spring, a number of COVID-19 vaccines were available to the general public. While many Marylanders waited in lines at local stadia or amusement parks, almost 200 Village residents came to the Village Center for vaccine clinics offered by the Village Council, in cooperation with Giant pharmacies. Brookeville Pharmacy also administered COVID-19 vaccines, in cooperation with the Village Center.

State Sen. Susan Lee was joined by State Delegates Ariana Kelly, Sara Love, Marc Korman and Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Friedson via Zoom to present a review of issues the legislature tackled in its 2021 session.

In June, the Village Center reopened with limited in-person programming. Concerts were held outdoors in Hubert Humphrey Park in front of the Village Center. The Dixie Power Trio kicked off our Outdoor Summer Concert Series: Entertainers were thrilled at the chance to perform in front of live audiences again and audiences greeted them with great enthusiasm.

Summer concert performances included: guitarist Steve Hom and jazz vocalist Karla Chisholm; jazz bassist Tommy Cecil with guitarist Nate Najjar; bluegrass band Big Howdy; jazz vocalist Karen Lovejoy; Celtic band IONA; Latin stylings by guitarist Richard Miller and vocalist Vanessa Fallabella; jazz fusion band The Silver Sounds; Machaya Klezmer; a comedy night with Robert Mac; the Jenny Wilson Trio; Music Pilgrim Trio; and One Night Samba.

The return of our July 4th celebration in Hubert

Humphrey Park had the semblance of normalcy with residents enjoying hot dogs and apple pie, speeches by local politicians, rides on a trackless train, music by Frank Cassel and the Mountain Fever Band, and the camaraderie of friends and neighbors.

The Village celebrated Dinosaur Day with a splash party in Willoughby Park in August. Children enjoyed running through giant dinosaur-shaped sprinklers, playing dinosaur-themed games, and visiting with friends. Marsha Goodman Wood also returned for outdoor concerts designed to entertain and educate toddlers, their parents and caregivers with song and dance.

When the Center fully reopened in September, residents eagerly took part in exercise classes such as Tai Chi, Balance and Fall Prevention, Chair Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Pilates for Everyone and Balance, Movement and Memory. Students tapped into their creative side with art classes such as portrait drawing with Marianne Winter and gel painting with Jan Rowland. Elena Marra Lopez met weekly with residents for an informal Spanish conversation class and a beginning Spanish class.

Residents demonstrated a vast array of artistic styles during Saturday workshops on decoupage by Amy Boccella Smith, and decorative tile-making workshop by potter Natalia Kormeluk.

A number of groups — Chess, Coffee and Current Events, Great Books, the Village Book Club; Express Yourself, Friday Fiber Friends, and Canasta either returned to meeting in person at the Village Center or continued to meet via Zoom. The Society for the Prevention of Blindness and Suburban Hospital continued to offer lectures via Zoom.

In September, our Wednesday night concerts moved indoors to Huntley Hall in the Village Center. Audiences



***Giant Pharmacy conducted COVID vaccine clinics at the Village Center in April and May.***





**Volunteers  
Phoebe  
Joseph and  
Tobi Esler  
keep things  
organized  
in the Vil-  
lage Center  
library.**

enjoyed indoor performances by trumpeter Max Gergits, pianist Raffi Kasparian, Caliente, the Steve Abshire Trio, String of Pearls, the Dariusz Skoraczewski Duo, the Ann St. Trio, Ginny Carr, the Jenny Wilson Trio, the Capitol Carolers, teen musicians from the Friday Morning Music Club, Eunbi Kim and a special song-writers night with Bill Baker and friends. In perhaps the most moving performance of the year, pianist Haskell Small performed his own composition created for the right hand after he suffered a stroke that has denied him the use of his left hand.

The Village Center welcomed back popular lecturer Nick Glakas who brought The Silk Road, the French Riviera, and French Polynesia to Village residents through his slides and stories. Columnist Bob Levey spoke of the future of journalism, while Roland Hirsch offered insight into the science of climate change. Folk singer Jesse Palidofsky offered a musical lecture on Carole King, Laura Nyro and Joni Mitchell.

Several authors appeared in person at the Village Center including Harriett Edelson, author of "12 Ways to Retire on Less," Julie Potter, who wrote "Harnessing the Power of Grief," and Helen Schwartz, who authored "Thieves of Paris." The Friendship Gallery also reopened, hosting a colorful multi-media exhibit and open art shows.

Eager to resume travel for residents, the Village Center sponsored trips to Rehoboth Beach, Glenstone, and to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to see the Broadway musical "Hadestown."

During monthly Zoom sessions, the Society for the Prevention of Blindness continued support for those with low vision. In September, colleagues and friends gathered via Zoom to remember the lifetime of dedication and contribution of Janet Morrison to the low vision community.

Suburban Hospital offered online lectures on healthy aging, addressing dementia, common skin problems, peripheral neuropathy, strokes, cholesterol, new advances in heart surgery, foot problems, joint replacement, circulation, and health diet options. Nurses from Suburban Hospital returned in July to offer blood pressure screenings each Tuesday.

Our weekly tea came back with a slightly different look as guests gathered and enjoyed gift bags with pre-packaged treats. Giant pharmacists administered almost 100 flu shots to Village residents during a clinic at the Village Center in October.

Autumn offered a chance to gather and celebrate during our Fall Festival in October, held outdoors in Humphrey Park. Residents enjoyed empanadas, whoop-ee pies, autumn-inspired games and tapped their feet to the tunes of BlueTrain Bluegrass. Twin Springs Fruit Farm sold fresh produce to residents, even throughout the year. The Shred-It truck also made several appearances in the Village during the year.

We ended the year with two one-day food drives to benefit the Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg. Village residents came out in force despite the chilly weather to bring non-perishable food items to help feed the hungry.

Friendship Heights celebrated the winter season with decorations inside and outside the Village Center. While twinkling lights illuminated the park, the Village Center was festooned with green garland, colorful poinsettias, smiling snowmen, and beautifully decorated gingerbread houses as part of a Village-wide contest that proved to be one of the year's most popular programs!



**"Tree and Leaf Reflection," by  
Brandon Johnson, was part of  
the Friendship Gallery art show  
in September.**

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked via Zoom to ensure that groups continued to meet and to those who keep offering their help at the Village Center. Residents continue to show resilience, creativity and community spirit that make the Village of Friendship Heights a unique and very special place to live.





**FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS**  
As always, we have ordered tax forms from the IRS for copying at the Village Center. Check with the Center on the availability of the tax forms.



*Festive gingerbread houses made by community members were on display at the Village Center in December as part of our holiday decorations.*

### 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 14, 2022, and Monday, March 14, 2022, 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 2023, 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 FY2023 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2022, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the proposed budget 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](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov)

