

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

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

JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797

Fax: 301-907-3922

Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov

Website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



Tree Report from Village Infrastructure Committee February 2021

The Village arborist normally assesses our trees at least annually. He conveys the results, including recommended action, to our Village Manager, either in writing or orally. In its February 2021 meeting, the Village Council decided to have our new arborist conduct an especially thorough assessment. According to plan, he will update our inventory of trees over two inches in stem diameter, mark trees with sequentially numbered brass tags, identify trees with likelihood of failure, and provide a written tree management plan.

Our former arborist was employed by ArborCare. Our new arborist Nick Scaletta is employed by Bartlett Tree Experts, which acquired ArborCare. Bartlett is a long established company employing over 1,500 people. It operates Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories in Charlotte, North Carolina. Nick has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Pennsylvania State University. He is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Safety Professional, and licensed Maryland Tree Expert.

The Village budget contains line items for trees and for arborist services. Our staff documents all expenditures and records the associated checks. The Village Manager has authority to issue checks for contracts costing less than \$5,000. For contracts costing \$5,000 and above, the Council votes in open session to request bidding and to approve the winning bid. There are no exceptions for tree services. For example, the Council unanimously approved during its September 2019 meeting an expenditure of \$18,740 to Adirondack Tree Experts.

In March 2020, the Council decided to establish a permanent Infrastructure Committee. Its first act was to prepare a plan for fifteen new street trees, i.e., trees in the verge between sidewalk and street. In its June 2020 meeting, the Council approved this plan unanimously. Some of these trees are located where trees died over previous years while others are in new locations. They include the species nuttall oak (*quercus nuttalli*), swamp white oak (*quercus bicolor*), and Zelkova (*zelkova serrata*). Fully grown, these will be large (50'-80') shade trees.