

Due to an accidental omission in the 1st printing, this is a reprinted version. The League apologizes for the error.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Voters' Guide
Friendship Heights
Council Election– May 10th

Mail-in ballot applications have been delivered to each building and can be downloaded from the Village website. To allow time for processing and mailing, **applications** must be received by postal mail or email **by April 26th**. Instructions are on the ballot application. Ballots may be returned by postal mail or taken to the drop box at the Village Center. **In person Voting** will take place at the Village Center from 7 am until 8 pm on **Monday, May 10th**. A limited the number of voters will be allowed in the polling place at one time. If you received a mail-in ballot, **you must vote that ballot**. You may bring your ballot to the drop box before, or during, Election Day.

Eight candidates are running for seven seats. Each candidate was asked to write a statement describing why they are running for this office and what makes them qualified to serve. The statement was limited 1000 characters (not including spaces.) The League does not make any edits or corrections. The text is what was submitted.

Roger Cochetti



I'm running because I'm concerned about the future of our community and think I can make a contribution to it. Managing our streets, parks and Center are very important, but there's something else that concerns me. We've all seen the major decline in Friendship Heights' (FH) commercial core (CC). Even though most of the CC lies outside of the Village, the CC has an enormous impact on our safety, our quality of life and our property values. The CC has been hit with strong competition from online merchants and from locations like downtown; pandemic closings; and even looting. Although many of the decisions about the future of our CC will be made by the DC and MoCo governments and by real estate investors, no one will be more affected than the 5,000 of us who actually live in the Village. So, we need to play a leading role in the redevelopment of the FH CC. To do that we need to take the initiative and, perhaps, even a lead. I've had over 30 years of experience as a business executive (COMSAT, IBM, VeriSign, CompTIA...you can find me at www.cochetti.us), a registered lobbyist and a small-scale real estate investor. I'm confident that I can help advance OUR interests in the redevelopment of the FH CC

Michael Dorsey



Serving The Village Of Friendship Heights Since 2015.
Asking for Your Vote for Village Council on May 10th.

Accomplishments: On Site Covid 19 Vaccinations As an early leader in advocating for testing & vaccinating at the Village Center I will continue to advocate for every age group in the Village to receive their vaccine at the Village Center ASAP. **On Site Voting** After many weeks of advocating for on site voting at the Village Center for the Council Election I am pleased to report it will take place on May 10th. **Social Equity** I was honored to have sponsored motions to have 2 deserved longtime workers of 24 and 14 years of Village service respectively included in our employees benefit package. **Infrastructure** After 6

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years of advocacy I am pleased to report the Council agreed to replace dead trees, repaint our rusted streetlights and replace dead grass.

Commitments: Development I will robustly advocate for any development interests to honor the SECTOR PLAN with BALANCED GROWTH and a CONSENSUS PLAN. **Page Park / Green Space** Continue to advocate for a more equitable distribution of funds between all 3 village parks.

Paula Durbin



My service on the Friendship Heights Village Council began in 2015. I am running for reelection because of my passion for this vibrant, cosmopolitan community that has been my home for 20 years.

I especially care about preserving our green space and assuring residents’ access to the information that affects them. These priorities have driven my commitment to:

- **Protection of Page Park** as open green space connected to water;
- Retention of expert **legal counsel specialized in land use**;
- **Height and density limits** per The Friendship Heights Sector Plan;
- As Communications Committee Chair, **an updated, redesigned Village website**;
- As Council Secretary, production of **an accurate account** of Council actions;
- Representation of the Village on the **Board of the Bethesda Fire Department**.

Challenges persist, among them Covid, of course, and the recurring threat of incompatible development. I remain committed to working with my Council colleagues, our superb Village staff and you to address these concerns.

Thank you for your confidence over the past three terms. I hope you will return me to the Council in May. Questions and ideas: spa921@mindspring.com

Michael Mezey



After a career in university teaching and administration, my wife and I moved to 4620 N Park in December 2014. I became a member of the Village Council in March 2019 and in May 2019, my colleagues elected me to the position of Council Chair.

As Chair, I work closely with the Mayor and our excellent staff on day-to-day administrative issues. I preside at our meetings and work hard to allow everyone to speak while at the same time moving us through our agenda in an orderly manner. I seek consensus when possible and civility always.

I also serve as a member of the Maryland Municipal League’s Legislative Committee, a statewide body that meets regularly to assess the impact of proposed state legislation on local jurisdictions.

I have a particular interest in development and planning issues that affect the Village and the surrounding area. I organized and led the Council through two public sessions on this topic and I

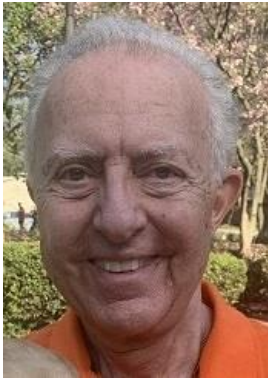
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closely monitor the work of County and DC planners.

During our next term, I am interested in exploring ways to leverage the Village’s healthy financial reserve to further enhance our community.

It has been an honor to serve you on the Council and I ask that you allow me to continue.

Alfred Muller



When I was privileged to lead the Village Council from 1975 to 2001, as chairman and then our first Mayor, our community was known for its innovations and amenities, especially for the elderly: a shuttle bus, a community center with numerous programs and trips, new streetlights to enhance security, and two new parks.

I pledge new ideas to restore that reputation. The Village has almost \$6 million in reserve. Those taxpayer dollars should better serve our taxpayer residents and businesses: we need more trash cans, possible purchase of new property for community usage, and professional evaluation and enhancement of all village green space. We should urge County approval for a nearby enclosed dog park.

I worked with businesses and developers to support a Sector plan which encouraged balanced growth, rather than wall-to-wall high rises. I worked with other elected officials to approve a post office for the Village.

Development will be a major issue in the coming years, and I pledge to use my experience and historical memory to once again help protect our community from overdevelopment with its noise and air pollution.

Bruce Pirnie



Retired as senior analyst with the RAND Corporation. Resident of the Carleton since 2014. Elected to the Village Council in 2019. Parliamentarian and Chair of the Infrastructure Committee.

I want to protect our beautiful Village and to enhance life for her residents. In and around our Village, I would promote retail trade, restaurants, and careful, responsible development. Day-to-day, I would:

- Respond to concerns. For example, I worked to add safeguards for pedestrians, to schedule a bus to the polls on Election Day, and to keep the Saturday market open through winter.

- Improve infrastructure. As Chair of the Infrastructure Committee (three Council members plus the Village Manager ex officio), I led action to paint eighty-eight cast iron street lights, to plant fifteen new street trees, and to renovate street verge (strip of land between sidewalk and street).
- Make Page Park inviting. Page should be a sylvan glade that invites us to linger, but it’s not. The first step should be a comprehensive, professionally prepared plan. I twice failed to gain approval in Council, despite a petition from concerned citizens, but I will succeed in the end.

Melanie Rose White



How fortunate we all are to call the Village of Friendship Heights our home! I am running for a seat on the Village Council so that I may continue working to keep our unique community vibrant, dynamic, and a great place to live.

As a Council member, my focus will include

- spending our tax dollars wisely.
- striving for effective and clear communication.
- supporting Village staff members as they perform their professional duties.
- promoting Village Center programs and activities for residents of all ages.
- achieving balanced development and preserving open/green spaces in the Village.
- increasing pedestrian safety.
- collaborating with surrounding communities to enhance neighborhood amenities.

My volunteer experience working diligently on behalf of residents is extensive and includes

- serving as Mayor for more than 19 years, Secretary for 8 years, and Historian for 10 months.
- editing our Village newsletter, each month, since 1987.
- chairing the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (a coalition of 22 community organizations, including our Village) for 2 years.

Thank you for reading my statement. On May 10, I respectfully ask for your vote.

Carolina Zumarán-Jones



I am Carolina Zumarán-Jones, a Village resident since 1999, an elected Council member since 2017, and the first Hispanic-American to serve in that governing body. I also served on *The Elizabeth* condominium board for seven years. I am familiar with community governance issues.

The Village is densely populated, diverse in age, race and cultural background, yet our residents are unified by high levels of education and a desire to see the community improve and thrive.

These strong elements lend themselves to creative and collaborative work, at a time when our community faces singular challenges: a 'new normal' that includes evolving retail business and real-estate patterns.

I want to strengthen the ties that bind Village residents—across buildings, generations, and cultures—so that we can work productively together. My goal is to expand services to all sectors of the population and to advocate for neighborhood businesses that serve the needs of residents and protect our apartment values.