

The Council Report

2003 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2005



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
FRANCIS R. VALEO, *Chairman*
MAURICE J. TREBACH, *Vice Chairman*
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*
ALVAN M. MORRIS, *Treasurer*
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Parliamentarian*
LEONARD E. MUDD, *Historian*

Upgrading Our Village

Mayor's Comments

Melanie Rose White

Were you one of the hundreds of Friendship Heights residents who participated in a Village-sponsored activity in 2003? If so, you're well aware of the broad array of cultural, educational, and health-focused programs offered at the Village Center. From exercise classes to concerts and movies, the Center is busier than ever. Last fall, residents enjoyed our longest trip, to Montreal, in addition to shorter getaways throughout the year. Our book-signings continue to draw enthusiastic crowds, as do our colorful celebrations, such as Fall Festival, which featured food from one of our newest Village businesses—Mei Wah.

Exciting projects continue to take shape. When a more temperate climate returns, you'll be able to once again enjoy the amenities of Hubert Humphrey Park. With a state-of-the-art fiber-optic fountain, new pavers, and granite steps, this award-winning greenspace clearly reflects the months of work necessary for its extensive renovation. From the initial blueprints to the final walk-through, Councilman and retired engineer Leonard "Chip" Mudd monitored each phase of the park's upgrading. Many thanks to him for the countless hours he volunteered on this lengthy project.

None of these Village programs, activities, or capital-improvement projects would be possible without your tax dollar. Inside this report is the proposed budget for FY05. The "Treasurer's Report" prepared by Council Treasurer Dr. Alvan Morris provides a detailed overview. The budget proposes a tax rate of 6 cents per \$100, which means that your tax rate has not increased in more than six years! **The FY05 budget is balanced and fully funds all of the outstanding, high-quality community services that you expect.**

As you scan the proposed budget, you'll see that one of our largest expenditures is for the Village shuttle bus. This service will become even more critical as reconstruction begins at the Chevy Chase Center. Although

outside our boundaries, this retail operation still has a tremendous impact on the quality of Village life.

The Village Council negotiated an arrangement with the Chevy Chase Land Company to provide uninterrupted access to a grocery store when the Giant closes this summer. We anticipate that the Land Company will subsidize the existing Village shuttle bus to provide this service to the Westwood Giant. We will keep you fully informed as the date nears. As a resident who does not own a car, I will be just as dependent on the services of the Village shuttle bus as the many daily and weekend riders are now.

The new center will offer Village residents many rewards. The Collection (a two-story luxury strip facing Highland House) will include 100,000 square-feet of



retail space. The new Giant will be more than double in size and will include a full-service pharmacy. The Land Company has confirmed that the new center will also include a dry cleaner and movie entertainment retailer.

It's impossible to write about Village programs, activities, and services without thanking each of the Village Center staff who work so hard to make our community outstanding. In addition to our dedicated staff, I thank each of the Village volunteers (including my fellow Council members) who donate hour upon hour throughout the year in support of Friendship Heights. If, by chance, you are not among the hundreds of residents who have visited the Village Center during the past year, I invite you to stop by and sample some of the many activities offered almost at your doorstep.

Warm wishes to you all for a safe, healthy, and rewarding 2004.

2003 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Friendship Heights Village Council includes seven unpaid members elected by the community to serve two-year terms. The incumbent Council members were re-elected in May 2003, along with newcomer Alvan Morris.

There were few staff changes this past year. Kathleen Pantano began as our new part-time Financial Assistant in August. Longtime Front Desk Receptionist Claire Carmichael came back to work after an extended absence due to injury, and we welcomed Hermine Shapiro, a resident of the Village, to the front desk staff on a part-time basis. Assisting staff in keeping the Center open on its seven-day-a-week schedule was our much appreciated group of volunteers. My special thanks to them and to our terrific staff.

REBUILDING HUMPHREY PARK

2003 featured the largest Capital Improvements project undertaken in the Village since the construction of the Center in 1986—the rebuilding of Hubert Humphrey Park. In March the Council awarded the general contract to William Klingensmith, Inc., and the fountain subcontract to Paddock/Waterstone, at the recommendation of our architect, Walton Madden Cooper Robinson Pones.

Although work was delayed significantly due to poor weather, the final result was well worth the wait. All the bricks in the park were replaced with new pavers using the durable “Bethesda standard” (concrete and asphalt base with mortarless joints), which was also used for

the sidewalk adjacent to Willoughby Park.

New lightpoles around the inner circle provide increased lighting and an updated look and are complemented by new benches, trash cans, and stainless steel handrails. The old concrete stairs in the park were replaced with granite.

The centerpiece of the park is a beautiful new fountain with polished granite coping, fiber-optic lighting, and a granite border around the base that matches the granite stairs along the walkways. There is also a device that shuts down the fountain during high winds.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Councilman Leonard “Chip” Mudd, whose oversight and keen eye throughout this project helped ensure a high-quality result. Thanks also to the contractor, William Klingensmith, Inc., in particular Al Musgrove, the foreman, for coordinating the various components of the work and keeping everything moving forward.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continued our participation in numerous organizations affecting our community, including the Maryland Municipal League and Montgomery Municipal Cable (the station that films and broadcasts many of our events). I serve as Treasurer for both MMC and the Montgomery County Chapter of MML. We are also active in the Friendship Heights Task Force, as well as the International City/County Management Association (Bob Shapiro and I are corporate members). Bob gave a presentation on aging in place at the ICMA’s annual convention, and I gave a similar presentation at the MML’s convention last year, which Mayor White, Bob and I attended, as we continued to advocate on behalf of the important issues facing the elderly.



Councilman Chip Mudd (left) provided much wisdom and guidance throughout the renovation of Hubert Humphrey Park last year. New benches (above) along with pavers, trash cans, lightpoles and granite steps completed the refurbished look, highlighted by the new fountain.

CONTINUING GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Village offers a wide range of services and also partners with other agencies and organizations. Some of the major services are described below:

MVA Mobile Office



The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Mobile Office continues to be one of the most popular and convenient services offered to Village residents. Once a month the MVA bus comes to the Village from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Friendship Boulevard next to the Village Center. It provides all the services that are available at the MVA Express Offices, such as renewing driver's licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing MD photo identifications, obtaining disability placards, and returning tags.

Mammovan from GWU Hospital



The Mammovan, a mobile mammography unit from George Washington University Hospital, came to the Village for the first time last year. The Mammovan offers on-site breast health screenings and consultation. It will return to the Village on March 29 and September 20, 2004.

Village Shuttle Bus



In June the Council approved the regular extension of the shuttle bus, adding Sunday service and extra time on weekday mornings and evenings. When the Giant store at Chevy Chase Center closes this summer, our bus will provide service to the Westwood Giant store off River Road.

Police Field Office and B-CC Rescue Squad Facility



The B-CC Rescue Squad facility at 4602 North Park Avenue continues to provide quick response rescue to Village residents and those in the nearby area. The Police Field Office inside the same Village-owned property has provided a regular Police presence within the Village for the last seven years.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Chevy Chase Center development underway



Construction at the Chevy Chase Center began last summer with the upgrading of the buffer area between Chevy Chase Village and the Center parking lot. Excavation on site is now underway. The project will feature a new office building (depicted above) with neighborhood retail on Wisconsin Circle, two retail buildings on Wisconsin Avenue, a new Giant grocery store/pharmacy, and public parks. The Clyde's restaurant will close at the end of February for about 15 months and will reopen with outdoor seating.

As soon as the existing Giant closes—anticipated this summer—our shuttle bus will begin going to the Giant at the Westwood shopping center off River Road. This service will continue until the new Giant opens roughly 18 months later. The entire project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2006.

New bank at Chase Tower Building



Hecht's project to begin in spring 2004



Above is a rendering of the Hecht's project, by New England Development, as seen from Wisconsin Avenue. The new Hecht's store will be at the corner of Western Avenue and Friendship Boulevard. The site also will feature a high-rise residential building, a new park on the corner of Friendship Boulevard and Willard Avenue, office and retail on Wisconsin Avenue, a community center, and pedestrian plazas throughout.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2004 and will take approximately three and a half years to complete. The existing Hecht's store will remain open until the construction of the new Hecht's at the corner of Friendship Boulevard and Western Avenue.

New restaurant comes to the Village



Mei Wah (above) opened for business at the corner of Willard Avenue and The Hills Plaza, above Panera. Mei Wah has quickly become very popular and catered our annual Fall Festival celebration in October. SunTrust Bank (at left) opened last year on the ground floor of the Chase Tower office building at the corner of Willard Avenue and The Hills Plaza.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvan Morris

The proposed budget of the Friendship Heights Village Council for FY05 is included in this Annual Report for your information and review. It is based on a Village tax rate of 6 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, the rate currently in effect for FY04.

Compiling the budget for FY05 has been a more difficult project than usual. As was previously reported, we had a very sizable decrease in income tax receipts from state filings this fiscal year compounded by an over-distribution last fiscal year. We are now estimating that total revenues will be \$241,000 less than budgeted for FY04 (\$1,377,000 v. \$1,618,000). Fortunately, we have been able to make up for some of this deficit through careful management of expenses, and it is estimated that we will only need to go into reserves for less than \$100,000. Because the Village has built a healthy reserve fund, this deficit can easily be managed. We are informed that other jurisdictions are not nearly as fortunate.

Considering the uncertainty of future Village income tax receipts, our task in planning for FY05 has been to proceed cautiously without altering the many wonderful programs that the Village offers. Maintaining our healthy financial position should be uppermost in our decision process.

The proposed budget will be considered at public hearings in February and March. In response to past requests, I am including a narrative in an attempt to make the budget presentation more informative. The narrative that follows is intended only to hit certain highlights of the budget. The footnotes found at the end of this report are still to be consulted for the most complete explanation of the indicated categories.

As a modification this year, both revenue *and* expense figures for FY03 are taken directly from the Village Audit.

REVENUE: For FY04, income tax was estimated at \$900,000, a realistic figure based on previous years. Because of sharply reduced income tax receipts, however, we now estimate that the actual revenue for FY04 will be \$636,000. The good news (for the Village!) is that Montgomery County has increased its income tax share by 8.5% for calendar year 2004. This will give us some assistance in FY04, and allows us to increase our estimate for FY05 to \$750,000. Since we don't anticipate an over-distribution of funds from the State this

year and have presumed no growth in revenue, this is a cautious, yet supportable number. This amount was computed with assistance from the State Revenue Administration Division and is higher than we had originally anticipated.

The estimate for property tax has been increased by 5% over anticipated FY04 receipts reflecting a phased increase in the taxable base. Interest and Gas/Highway tax numbers reflect expected reductions. All other revenue estimates for FY05 are basically static, resulting in expected revenues of \$1,490,000.

EXPENDITURES: Of particular interest for FY05—

General Government: estimated expenditures have been increased \$22,500 or 2.75% over the FY04 budget. Allowances have been made for the May 2005 election, salary increases for staff, and increased costs for Center maintenance. A few small categories have been eliminated as separate items.

Public Safety: The five year maintenance contract on the security vehicle expired in 2003, and due to the age of the vehicle, could not be renewed. Maintenance expenses are expected to increase, and eventually, a new vehicle will be needed.

Public Works: Although a new bus contract will be negotiated during FY05, a substantial portion of the shuttle bus cost is expected to be offset by a contribution from Chevy Chase Land Company which will allow the total bus expense to decrease. The Land Company is obligated to provide bus service to the Westwood Giant when the Giant at Chevy Chase Center closes. Based on the announced construction schedule, this service (and subsidy) is expected to begin this summer. There is no guarantee, however, that the construction schedule will not change.

Health/Education/Social Services and Recreation and Parks: These categories all remain basically similar to the FY04 budget.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Total estimated operating expenses for FY05 are less than budgeted for FY04, and only \$17,200 (1.1%) over expected FY04 figures.

MOST IMPORTANT! Despite decreasing revenues, the Council is presenting a **balanced budget** for FY05 **without any increase in property taxes.**

I wish to thank all those who helped in the preparation of this draft.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2005

REVENUES:	Actual FY03	Budget FY04	Est.ActualFY04	Budget FY05
Property tax ¹	\$452,294	\$360,000	\$394,000	\$413,000
Income tax ²	916,054	900,000	636,000	750,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	81,841	80,000	82,000	82,000
Gas/highway tax ⁴	75,689	80,000	55,000	55,000
Parking violation income ⁵	107,917	100,000	120,000	100,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	16,800	16,000	16,000	16,000
Interest income ⁶	48,973	30,000	22,000	22,000
Village Center rental income	20,481	15,000	15,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	14,530	10,000	10,000	10,000
Newsletter ad income	23,895	20,000	20,000	20,000
Village Center program/misc income ⁸	8,478	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,766,952	\$ 1,618,000	\$1,377,000	\$1,490,000
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY 03	Budget FY04	Est.ActualFY04	Budget FY05
General Government				
1 Elections	\$3,809	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	7,884	14,000	8,500	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	13,701	12,000	15,000	12,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	17,557	20,000	20,000	20,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	12,268	20,000	20,000	20,000
2F Village Council reports	6,267	12,000	8,000	8,000
3A Salaries ¹²	345,354	387,000	375,000	410,000
3B Health/Life/Family Benefits ¹³	61,217	70,000	62,000	70,000
3C F.I.C.A.	28,366	30,000	31,000	34,500
3D Worker's Comp Insurance	1,044	1,000	1,000	1,000
3E Retirement Contribution ¹⁴	20,267	30,000	29,000	31,000
4A Xerox copiers	4	1,000	0	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,740	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	5,995	7,000	7,000	7,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	3,774	2,500	2,500	2,500
5A Public officials liability insurance	2,060	3,000	2,100	2,500
5B Treasurer's bond	720	1,000	2,500	2,500
5C Bldg/General liability insurance	30,213	30,000	16,500	17,000
6 Telephone and utilities	25,952	30,000	30,000	30,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁵	17,707	17,000	17,000	17,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁶	14,060	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	1,686	5,000	2,000	5,000
8C Building improvement	0	1,000	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	501	5,000	2,000	5,000
8E Computer equip/supplies	4,171	5,000	3,000	5,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	19,711	15,000	20,000	20,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁷	67,375	82,000	80,000	85,000
Total General Government	\$713,403	\$817,400	\$771,000	\$839,900
Public Safety				
9A Security Patrol contract	\$89,009	\$100,000	\$95,000	\$100,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁸	2,165	5,000	2,500	5,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance	2,228	4,500	4,500	6,000
Total Public Safety	\$93,402	\$109,500	\$102,000	\$111,000

Public Works	Actual FY 03	Budget FY04	Est.ActualFY04	Budget FY05
10 Bus contract ¹⁹	\$242,365	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$155,000
11A Street maintenance	0	2,500	5,000	5,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	0	10,000	5,000	10,000
11C Snow removal	60,310	35,000	35,000	35,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	2,500	2,500	2,500
12A Waste collection ²⁰	11,754	13,000	13,000	13,000
12B Recycling	928	1,500	1,500	1,500
13 Street lighting	9,559	12,000	10,000	10,000
14 Street signs	1,801	2,000	2,000	2,000
15 Trees	3,020	6,000	6,000	6,000
16 Villagescape ²¹	3,372	6,000	6,000	6,000
Total Public Works	\$333,109	\$355,500	\$351,000	\$246,000
Health/Education/Social Serv.				
17B Health/Social services ²²	7,026	10,000	14,000	10,000
17C Housing Program ²³	4,920	5,000	5,000	5,000
17D Scholarship Program ²⁴	9,477	10,000	0	10,000
Total Health/Education/Social Serv.	\$21,423	\$25,000	\$19,000	\$25,000
Recreation and Parks				
18A Equipment rentals	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
18C Lecture fees	1,362	2,000	2,000	2,000
18D Musicians' fees	21,289	25,000	22,000	25,000
18E Instructors' fees	(8,006)	4,000	0	4,000
18F Trip fees	2,658	8,000	5,000	8,000
18G Art/theme shows	1,524	2,000	2,000	2,000
18H Equipment purchases	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
18I Consumable supplies	4,611	8,000	6,000	8,000
18J Art supplies	330	300	300	300
18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners	10,025	13,000	13,000	13,000
18L Hospitality	598	1,000	1,000	1,000
18M Center special events ²⁵	20,433	18,000	20,000	22,000
18O Bamberger Current Events Series ²⁶	837	10,000	2,500	10,000
19 Reading Room Materials	2,848	3,000	3,000	3,000
20B Flyers	0	500	0	500
20C Village newsletter	33,902	49,000	35,000	37,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity ²⁷	3,127	3,000	3,000	3,000
21B Village Parks: Water	2,560	4,300	4,000	4,300
21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint.	8,035	12,000	8,000	12,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint.	545	2,000	2,000	2,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint	642	3000	3,000	3,000
21G Art fund	0	5,000	0	5,000
23 Landscaping contract	75,805	85,000	85,000	90,000
24 Arborist contract	5,680	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$188,805	\$272,100	\$229,800	\$268,100
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,350,142	\$1,579,500	\$1,472,800	\$1,490,000
General Fund Deposit ²⁸	\$416,010	\$38,500	\$(95,800)	\$0
Capital Improvements Fund Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,766,952	\$1,618,000	\$1,377,000	\$1,490,000
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$2,093,445	\$2,131,945	\$1,997,645	\$1,997,645
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BAL. ²⁹	\$1,381,144	\$1,550,000	\$890,000	\$903,000

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 6¢/\$100 in FY2004, and is proposed to be 6¢/\$100 for FY2005, which begins July 1, 2004. Montgomery County's estimate of assessable base is \$684,000,000.
- 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 a state-regulated fund established for local Maryland governments—the Local Government Investment Trust. Interest on the Capital Improvements Fund, 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.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues (approximately \$9,000/year).
- 12 Salaries of 6 full-time and 4 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, life insurance, and other benefits provided to qualifying employees. A pending assessment from the LGIT insurance pool may result in an additional \$13,538 charge for prior year deficits.
- 14 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and holiday decorations.
- 16 Includes general cleaning products, restroom paper supplies, copier paper, and office supplies.
- 17 Contract for maintenance staff at Village Center. Includes cleaning, minor repairs, setups and takedowns of equipment, streetcleaning, and 4602 North Park cleaning.
- 18 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 19 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance. Cost is projected to be reduced in FY05 due to subsidy from Chevy Chase Land Company to provide bus service to Westwood Giant when Chevy Chase Center Giant store closes. Existing contract expires in September 2004 and will be renegotiated.
- 20 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week.
- 21 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on 30 streetlight poles.
- 22 Includes cost of 4-part program with Suburban Hospital and other health related services.
- 23 Cooperative program with county and Village landlord for transitional housing for one needy family.
- 24 To fund educational scholarship. Recipient(s) selected by the Council.
- 25 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 26 Continuing current events series originally established by donation.
- 27 Expenditures for all three parks (Willoughby, Humphrey, Page) are consolidated in items 21A-21F.
- 28 No increase (or decrease) in the general fund is budgeted for FY2005.
- 29 The FY04 figure did not reflect expenses expected to be incurred for the Humphrey Park rehabilitation project. These expenses are included in the Estimated Actual FY04 figure. Neither the Estimated Actual FY04 nor the FY05 estimates include any future Capital Improvement projects. Potential projects may include, but are not limited to, undergrounding utilities; additional streetlights; and major repairs at the Village Center.

2003 Program Report

Jennie Fogarty, Assoc. Program Director
Anne Hughes O'Neil, Assoc. Program Director

Since its opening in 1986, the Friendship Heights Village Center has become a focal point for many residents of the Village, who gather daily for classes, concerts, lectures, trips and special events.

The Center offers numerous ongoing programs, including YMCA exercise classes, Great Books discussion groups, language classes, Tai Chi, Yoga, Somerset Kids Participating (SKIP), art classes, Thursday night movies, Tuesday teas, Wednesday night concerts, Suburban Hospital blood pressure checks, on-site nurse specialist, monthly art exhibits, University of Maryland's health insurance assistance, tax assistance from February to April, Coffee and Current Events, RSVP Knitters, Walking Club, the Bookmobile (discontinued in July), the MVA's Mobile Office and Twin Springs Produce Market from May to November.

CLASSES

The Center once again was host to a number of exercise and movement classes last year, including Forever Fit and Aerobics taught by YMCA instructors; Strength Training taught twice a week by physical therapists from the National Rehab. Hospital; Tai Chi taught twice a week by Thomas Johnson; and Yoga taught by Robin Dinerman once a week. Mat Pilates, which stretches and strengthens muscles, and "Bones for Life", weight-bearing exercises to promote healthier bones, were introduced. In addition, a "drop-in" Tai Chi class led by students was held twice a week, and the Walking Club continued to meet three times a week.

Three popular art classes continued: Chinese Brush Painting taught by Helene McCarthy, Drawing and



Noted commentator Eleanor Clift, author of *Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment*, was one of many prominent local authors to come to the Village Center for a discussion and book signing.

Painting taught by Doris Haskel, and Color and Design taught by Tamora Ilatat. A new class in still life painting taught by Joan Samworth began in the spring. "Great European Plays" was taught by Mark Wallace, a GWU professor, and "Great American Plays" was led by actor and director Ed Starr. A series of computer



Bows the Clown was a favorite with the kids at our July 4 celebration.

classes was taught by Web Wise Seniors throughout the summer. In the fall, James Biedron taught a series on Russian history, and Elouise Schoettler led a series on storytelling. A one-day class in CPR was taught by Jeremy Gruber of Rescue One. Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, continued and were well attended.

In March the Village and The Blind Faith School of Music and Art announced a new program for the blind and visually impaired. Classes are taught at the Center every Saturday afternoon for children to seniors. Lessons include piano, drum, tap dancing and weaving.

Another program introduced in 2003 was Café Muse, a monthly presentation of poetry by the Village and The Word Works.

BOOKSIGNINGS & LECTURES

Numerous authors appeared at the Center for book signings during the year, including

- Akbar Ahmed
- Dale Bumpers
- Tucker Carlson
- Eleanor Clift
- David Von Drehle
- Gilbert Hahn
- Thomas Hargrave
- Walter Isaacson
- Anne Keiser
- Jane Leavy
- Eugene McCarthy
- Alice McDermott
- Charles Moose
- Amy Schapiro
- Strobe Talbott
- Evan Thomas
- Judith Viorst
- Milton Viorst

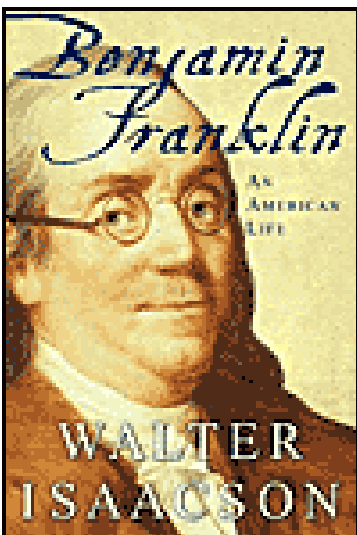


In October we took a trip to Montreal, our longest excursion ever. The group also stopped in Williamstown, MA, and Saratoga Springs, NY.

In addition to our monthly lectures on health, speakers included Village Resident Selma Stone who lectured on Matisse and Picasso, Channel 4's consumer reporter Liz Crenshaw, scientist Teddi Galligan who spoke about weather, Lorraine Minor of the Family History Center who talked about genealogy, and Bill Young who discussed art forgery and theft. Village residents enjoyed (and starred in) several fashion shows with clothes provided by Chico's and Draper's & Damon's.

ON THE GO

Overnight trips included New York City and Richmond, and a five-night trip to New England and Montreal in October. Villagers also enjoyed jaunts to Charles Town, Rehoboth Beach, The National Aquarium, Walters Gallery and the Baltimore Museum of Art,



Walter Isaacson came to the Center in November to discuss his biography of Ben Franklin.

Fredericksburg, and Belle Grove Plantation near Strasburg, Va. Other outings included tours of the City Museum, Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Woodlawn and the Pope-Leighey House, the National Art Gallery, Dumbarton Oaks and Dumbarton House, and homes and embassies on the Kalorama House Tour. Villagers enjoyed the Orioles and performances at The National Theatre, Ford's Theatre,

Arena Stage, Toby's Dinner Theatre, Wolf Trap, The Kennedy Center and the annual Hexagon show.

CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series offered a wide variety of performances throughout the year, including classical music by the Silver Strings, Da Capo, Les Amis de Mozart, Seager and Sison, Eva Pierrou, and concert pianist Ryoko Tajika Drei. The concerts also featured ethnic and folk music by Scottish fiddler Elke Baker, Iranian pianist Guity Adjoonani, Spanish guitarist William Feasley, Celtic music group IONA, Klezmer group Machaya Klezmer, latin and Spanish sounds by QuinTango and Mariachi de los Compadres, reggae group Fan Fan and Friends, and Irish vocalist Seamus Kennedy. The sounds of Dixieland jazz and zydeco filled the Village with performances by Sounds East and The Dixie Power Trio.

Musicians Herb Smith, Greg Harrison, Susan Jones, and Larry Brown featured the jumping sounds of jazz, while Jesse Holt, Ellen Crawford, Barbara Papendorp, and Ericka Ovette brought their powerful vocals to the Center in 2003. Traditional American music by The Grandsons proved popular, while audiences also enjoyed Emery Davis performing songs from the 40s and 50s.



One highlight was a trip to the Walters Museum in Baltimore to see the famous Fabergé eggs.

Audiences delighted in the remarkable talent of young performers such as William Perdue, Emely Phelps, and Yale's Proof of the Pudding. Dance performances by the Maryland Ballet Theater and Kinor Dancers were a big hit with Village audiences.

HEALTH

Issues of health and health care have always been of interest to Village residents. In June, the National

Kidney Foundation held free kidney screenings. In September many health specialists and organizations participated in the Village Health Fair. In October flu shots were administered by Adventist HealthCare. Suburban continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures. AARP presented 55 Alive, a safe driving program for adults 55 and better, in April and October.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our four special community events—Community Day on April 13, July 4th, Fall Festival, and New Year’s Day Open House—were fun and festive and also gave us an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have given their time to activities at the Center. Other events during the year included a crab feast, several parties for new residents, and a dinner dance in February.

SOCIAL

The Scrabble group continues to meet weekly and Tuesday Tea has had as many as 40 people attend. Monthly “special lunches” prepared by Ed Harris of Brighton Gardens continue to be popular.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. In July, the Center again sponsored a community juried art show, attracting many local artists who incorporated the Fourth of July theme into their works. Cash prizes were donated by local businesses and given to the winners.



Closer to home, we went to the Corcoran to see the J. Seward Johnson exhibit featuring his sculptures based on famous impressionist paintings.

“A Holiday Affair” was offered again the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This artisan fair gave residents an opportunity to shop for unique handmade gifts right here at the Village Center.

FOR THE KIDS

The younger residents of Friendship Heights enjoyed a variety of programs, ranging from Bob Brown puppet shows to Halloween parties. Village Playtime continued on Thursdays at the Village Center, attracting pre-school children from around the Village. The year 2003 marked the debut of Camp Friendship, a five-week program of arts, crafts, music and play for children ages 2 to 5. Children also ventured out of the Village with a trip to Glen Echo’s Puppet Theater for a show and picnic. Camp Friendship proved to be a springboard for other ongoing children’s programs, such as Ready, Set, Sing—a music and theater class by Glen Echo’s Adventure Theater. Look for more children’s classes, events and field trips.

None of our efforts would succeed without the dedication and hard work of the Council, our committees, volunteers and staff. Throughout the year, the thousands of hours donated by volunteers help to create the very special environment that is the Village Center. Our sincerest thanks go to all those involved in programming: the Program Advisory Committee, whose suggestions and evaluations are so important; the staff members; the volunteers; and the Council and Mayor who provide support and encouragement.



Our annual Fall Festival celebration at the Center featured the Wong Chinese Lion Dancers.



The Council Report

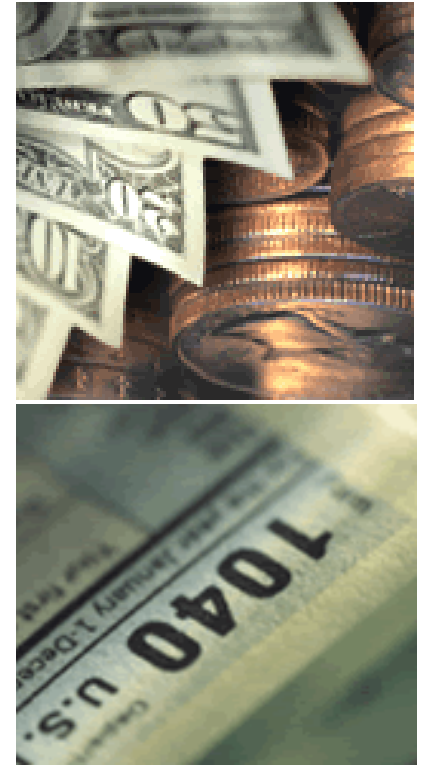
The Friendship Heights Village Council
 4433 S. Park Avenue
 Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

2003 Annual Report and FY2005 Initial Proposed Budget

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 9, 2004, and Monday, March 8, 2004, at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Center, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, in connection with the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2005, based on an initial proposed tax rate of 6¢/\$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 FY2005 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2004, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the initial proposed budget is available at the office of the Friendship Heights Village Council, 4433 South Park Avenue, 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.

FEDERAL TAX FORMS AVAILABLE AT CENTER



NEW SERVICE! 2003 Federal income tax forms are available at the Center for copying and filing with the IRS. Search the index by subject or form number and a staff member will make a copy for you. Normal copying charges apply. Call the Center in advance at 301-656-2797 to make sure the form you need is available.