

**About THE CITIZENS COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS (CCCFH)
Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Somerset Town Hall at 8pm**

The CCCFH was formed in 1971 by a group of residents in Brookdale and surrounding communities. It was formed in anticipation of Metro coming to Friendship Heights and locating the first central business district (CBD) in Montgomery County, Maryland there. This resulted in the Friendship Heights Sector Plan. The group was launched specifically to respond to the proposal to “Manhattan-ize” the area.

For more than 40 years the CCCFH has been an advocate for our communities to protect our quality of life through good land use planning. The CCCFH regularly participates in proceedings before the County Council, Planning Board, and Hearing Examiner to comment upon sector and master plans, zoning text amendments, including the 2014 zoning code rewrite, site plans and development plans.

Members of the Coordinating Committee participated in the 1982 Westbard Sector Plan and in the development of the 1974 and 1998 Friendship Heights Sector Plans. Thanks to efforts of CCCFH members, particularly Bob Cope, who worked with the developers and the Montgomery County Planning Department during the 1998 Friendship Heights redevelopment, the Friendship Heights recreation facility was provided for the community. Other public amenities negotiated for, but which will not be implemented until actual redevelopment of the Geico property, is a 2.5 acre Brookdale Park and a baseball field.

Originally comprised of 10 neighborhood groups, today there are 19 communities among the membership of the CCCFH including: Brookdale, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Drummond, Glen Echo Heights, Green Acres-Glen Cove, Kenwood, Kenwood Condominium, Kenwood House Cooperative, Kenwood Place Condominium, Somerset, Springfield, Sumner, Sumner Square Condominium, Sumner Village Condominium, Westmoreland, Westbard Mews, Westwood Mews, and Wood Acres.

About the RIVER ROAD-WESTBARD COMMITTEE OF THE CCCFH

This committee was formed to allow representatives of those member organizations that are most interested and will be most affected by the River Road-Westbard redevelopment to actively participate and be informed of the progress on the sector plan and the redevelopment of the area.

About THE RIVER ROAD-WESTBARD SECTOR PLAN

The [Westbard Sector Plan](#), which serves as a guideline for development in our area has not been reviewed by the County since 1982, making it one of the oldest sector plans in the County. Generally, a sector plan is reviewed every 15-20 years. The sector plan for Friendship Heights was reviewed once in 1974 and again in 1998. Downtown Bethesda was reviewed in 1994 and is currently undergoing another review. Westbard, however, has remained relatively unchanged in 32 years.

The Westbard Sector Plan is a long-promised plan by the County Council. In 2006, in anticipation of a sector plan review in 2007, the CCCFH, under the guidance of a professional research survey writer, distributed a survey to 4600 residents from 15 of its member communities to determine the type and size of development that would be acceptable within the River Road-Westbard area. Nearly 1600 residents responded. According to that survey it was acknowledged that the River Road -- Westbard Sector **should remain a neighborhood shopping area with a revised retail business mix**. Respondents said lower density development would be acceptable. They also acknowledged that most people relied on their cars to travel to the shopping areas and that River Road is a major choke point for traffic.

With these guiding principles as a foundation, this year the River Road-Westbard Committee went back to the member associations and asked them to update their development principles for the River Road-Westbard area. As a result of input from many of the 19 member communities, the River Road-Westbard Sector Committee developed guiding principles. CCCFH talking points for these principles contains detailed examples.