

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
December 1, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (Chair), Jean Carlson, Bob Lyford, Bridget Hartman, Christine Riley, and Erin Kopelman.

Bridget Hartman moved to approve the November 2011 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Bob Lyford, and they were unanimously approved.

Bridget Hartman reported on the November Turkey Trot Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Collection. More than 4,100 pounds of food were collected this year. Donations came from Town residents, B-CC High School families, and through the Lawton Community Center. On November 19, 2011, the B-CC Crew team organized, sorted, and boxed the food at the Town Hall. On November 20, the B-CC Crew team joined Town residents to assemble and decorate the dinner baskets and then loaded the baskets into Linkages to Learning vans. The dinner baskets were delivered to families in need identified by Linkages to Learning, a County social service agency helping Montgomery County Public School families. This year, 117 needy Montgomery County families received Thanksgiving dinner baskets (up from 62 last year). Articles appeared in the *Chevy Chase Gazette* and on Chevy Chase Patch about the November Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Collection.

Bridget Hartman reported on the Winter Coat Drive. We are planning on continuing the Winter Coat (and Accessories) Drive through the January 2012.

Ann Wild reported for Cathy Wolf on the Holiday Gift Drive. The details are written up in the December Forecast. There are several options: (1) adopt a family by contacting Cathy Wolf; (2) purchase gift cards and deliver them to the Town office; and (3) donate unwrapped items to the Town office. For the Holiday Gift Drive, the Town is partnering with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program, and Chesapeake Counseling. Gifts will go to victims of domestic violence and child witnesses of domestic violence. The deadline to drop off donations is Friday, December 16, 2011.

Ann Wild reported on the Family Events. Beatrice Pickles, who has performed at Imagination Stage, will do an interactive drama with children on Sunday, January 15, 2012. The Chili Dinner will be Sunday, February 26, 2012; there will be a magician (the Great Zucchini) to entertain the Town's children. Christine Riley suggested John Henry for another family event either this year or next year; he does interactive music with children. (Later Belinda reported that he has performed previously at a two successful Family Events in the Town and could be rescheduled in the future.)

Ann Wild reported that the Drum Circle, which is intended for adults for adults and children, scheduled for the Lawton Social Hall, will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

The Bingo event, which had been scheduled for January 28, 2012, has been cancelled.

Bridget Hartman said that she will report at the next meeting on the Lawton Community Center Day.

We are hoping to have the Art Show to benefit a charity the first weekend of June (June 1-3, 2012), with an opening wine reception on Friday evening, June, 1, 2012. Town resident Katie Vita has agreed to spearhead the event. The charity has yet to be chosen.

Jean Carlson reported on the Roundhouse Theatre Event. We are now thinking of doing the outing on Thursday, June 21, 2012. The play is Double Indemnity. There will be a pre-show talk with dessert. Discounted tickets for our group will cost \$40.

Jean Carlson reported that they are always looking volunteers for mentoring at Chevy Chase Elementary School.

Barbara Rose from Aid to Africa is going to do a Discussion and Desserts on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at Pat Burda's home.

Bob Lyford reported that two Town residents, both architects, who are constructing a green/net-zero carbon footprint home in the Town, have agreed to do a Discussion and Desserts. The event, which will be at their home, anticipated to be finished in the Spring, will show off the unique features of the house

Charlie Cook will present another Discussion and Desserts also in the Spring.

This year the Bake Off will feature sweet and savory pies and is being moved to Sunday, April 29, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman