

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Kathy Strom (Town Council liaison), Putnam Ebinger, Scott Egloff, Rose Edwards, Julie Stanish. Cathy Wolf arrived at 7:15. Rose Miller arrived at 7:40.

Kathy Strom, acting as chair in Ann Wild's absence, called the meeting to order and introduced the committee's newest member, Scott Egloff. Scott discussed plans to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program in the Town. He has met with Dana Matthis, the community services officer who would be the police department's liaison to the Town. Scott agreed to invite committee members to a meeting he will set up with Officer Matthis in January. Scott left at this point to attend to another commitment.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Cathy Wolf reported on the holiday gift project, which worked very well. Residents gave more than 600 gifts to the families in the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program. Cathy, who organized the collection and delivery of gifts, said the families were very pleased and appreciative. Several committee members expressed support for making the gift project a holiday tradition for the Town.

Kathy Strom said the Dec. 7 holiday concert was well-attended and suggested offering it again next year. She said Town resident Bob Johnson, director of the choral group, would be happy to come back.

The Nov. 23 Turkey Trot in honor of Mier Wolf was wonderful and much appreciated by Mier, according to Cathy Wolf. The event, which included a short walk and a reception at Town Hall, drew a big crowd of residents and public officials, including County Executive Ike Leggett. Community members suggested repeating the event next year and agreed to start thinking about a theme.

Kathy Strom discussed her recent meeting with Joan Urban and Naomi Kaminsky, who want to set up an Aging-in Place program in the broader Chevy Chase area. The Town would help with publicity and communication. Ann Wild also attended the meeting.

Rose Edwards updated the committee on efforts to spruce up The Forecast. Over the next few months, there will be some modest changes; in the January issue, for example, there will be news articles on Page 1, instead of the mayor's letter, which will be on Page 2. Broader changes, such as a switch to a more traditional newsletter layout, are being considered.

Julie Stanish said Shangri-la, a restaurant on Wisconsin Ave., agreed to offer a 20 percent discount to Town residents who attend a group dinner there. Julie said she would write a Forecast article inviting residents to a dinner at the restaurant on Feb. 19.

Cathy Wolf suggested getting Town residents involved in efforts to get leftover food from Trader Joe's to people who need it. She has been collecting food from the store on Sunday evenings and delivering it to the Montgomery County Abused Persons program the next morning. Committee members suggested putting something about the project in The Forecast. Rose Miller said she would invite a representative from Martin's Addition, which has a food collection program, to a meeting of the committee.

Kathy Strom described the coming Town events: The Bob Brown Puppet show on Jan. 25 and the chili dinner on Feb. 22; the reopening of the playground, likely in March; a wine-tasting event in April; and, at some point, a ceremony to mark the renaming of the Leland Center in honor of Jane Lawton.

Members suggested putting an item in the Chevy Chase Elementary School newsletter inviting families to take on the job of organizing the July 4 picnic and parade for 2009. Rose Edwards will let the committee know when the next issue of that newsletter is coming out.

The committee held a brief discussion on how to foster better communication among Town committees and with the Council. Kathy Strom agreed to talk with Town Manager Todd Hoffman about this issue, including the possibility of his preparing a summary of the committees' minutes each month for the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Edwards