COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MISSION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The mission of the Community Relations Committee is to create a deep sense of community and neighborliness among the Town's residents. The committee organizes activities and events aimed at residents of all ages and interests; communicates to Town residents the information they need to be active participants in the Town; and helps residents reach out to their Town government so that it will be responsive to their needs and concerns. The committee also provides opportunities for community service.

The Committee organizes activities and events aimed at residents of all ages and interests.

Activities and Events 2014–2015

- Breakfast and a Walk with the Town Arborist
  - Saturday, October 18
  - Saturday, October 2015 (Date TBD)
- Outdoor Concerts and Good Eats
  - B-CC High School Jazz Band and Food Trucks – Sunday, October 19
  - Rockville Concert Band and Food Trucks – Sunday, July 19
- Sunday Concerts
  - Kelleher Ensemble of Jazz and Fusion Sounds – Sunday, February 8
  - Simple Gifts Learn to Play the Ukulele – Sunday, March 8
  - Simple Gifts Traditional Folk Tunes – Sunday, March 8
- Discussion & Desserts
  - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria – Thursday, October 23
  - Journey from Journalist to Naturalist – Tuesday, September 29, 2015
- Play Dates in the Park (coffee, juice boxes, and bagels)
  - Saturday, October 25 (young children and parents)
  - Saturday, July 11 (young children and parents)
  - Saturday, August 22 (rising K and primary children and parents)
- Movie Night for Families (with pizza and popcorn)
  - *Free Bird* – Friday, November 14
  - *Frozen* – Friday, December 12
  - *Despicable Me* – Friday, January 9
  - *Wreck-It Ralph* – Friday, February 13
  - *Planes* – Friday, March 13
- Movie Night for Grown-Ups (with wine and cheese)
  - *Harvard Beats Yale* – Friday, November 7
  - *Exit Through the Gift Shop* – Friday, December 5
  - *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* – Friday, March 6
- Round House Theatre Play and Reception
  - *The Nutcracker* – Sunday, December 7

- *Uncle Vanya* – Thursday, April 30
- 19th Annual Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees – Wednesday, December 17
- Dinner Out at Vino Volo – Tuesday, January 20
- Chili Dinner & Ice Cream Sundae Bar – Sunday, February 22 (canceled due to weather)
- Six O'Clock Scramble Demonstration – Sunday, March 22
- Impossible Made Possible (Magician Show) – Friday, April 17
- It Must Be Magic: Simple Solutions to Common Dog Problems – Saturday, April 18 (canceled due to illness of presenter)
- Town Art Show – Friday (reception), Saturday, and Sunday, June 5, 6, and 7
- Annual July 4 Independence Day Parade and Picnic – Saturday, July 4

Major Annual or Occasional Committee Events

- 4th of July Independence Day Parade & Picnic (annual)
- Chili Dinner (annual)
- Holiday Buffet for Seniors and Retirees (annual)
- Garden Tour (alternate years)
- Art Show (alternate years)
- Town Bake-Off
- Drum Circle
- Progressive Dinner

The Committee communicates to Town residents the information they need to be active participants in the Town.

- Drafted guidelines for Neighborhood Watch Program for Town Council (adopted 2009); now with 75% of the Town participating, Block Captains meet semi-annually
- Town Contribution Policy
    - Reviewed and made recommendations to Town Council of Town Contribution Policy drafted by Town Counsel (adopted 2009)
    - Recommended Revisions of Town Contribution Policy for Town Council (adopted 2014)
    - Drafted recommended Policy and Procedures for Town Contribution Policy to Town Council (adopted 2014)
- Town Crier Policy
    - Drafted Town Crier Policy for Town Council (adopted 2008)
    - Recommended Revision of Town Crier Policy to Town Council (adopted 2010)
    - Recommended Revision of Town Crier Policy to Town Council (July 2015)
- Drafted Town Guidelines for Articles for the Forecast for Town Council (adopted 2010)
- Drafted Co-sponsored Activities Policy for Town Council (adopted 2010)
- Reviewed, provided input, and beta tested the Town's new web site (2012)

- Recommended Guidelines for the Town Emergency Alert System to Town Council (adopted 2012)
- Worked with Town staff and recommended updates and improvements to 2013–2014 Community Handbook
- Lawns Alive! How to Grow a Beautiful, Safe Lawn Without Pesticides – Saturday, March 14 (co-sponsored with Climate and Environment Committee)

The Committee helps residents reach out to their Town government so that it will be responsive to their needs and concerns.

- Recommended to Town Council that it establish an extended Public Comment period for residents with the opportunity for Council dialogue at Town Council Meetings (approved 2011)
- Property Tax Assessment Talk in response to residents' concern over property tax increases – February 2014
- Investigated and then recommended to Town Council that the Town launch Social Media communications through Twitter and Facebook (approved June 2014)
- What's a Town Tweet? Introduction to Twitter and Facebook Presentation – Saturday, November 8
- In cooperation with the Land Use Committee, facilitated the planning, design, and installation of new playground equipment for younger children at Leland Park – December 2014–March 2015

The Committee provides opportunities for community service.

- Annual Canned Food Drop-Off for Manna Food Center – Year Round
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Food Drive for County families in need through Linkages to Learning – November
- Annual Holiday Gift Drive for victims of domestic violence and their children through Montgomery County Office of Justice – December
- Annual Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive for Bethesda Cares and Interfaith Works – November 1–January 31
- Art Show – May 2012 fund raiser for Montgomery County's Summer Smart Packs children's food program through Manna Food Center
- Art Show – May 2010 fund raiser for Haiti earthquake victims through Partners in Health
- Habitat for Humanity's Gaithersburg Project – May 2013 fund raiser and October 2013 Neighborhood Build Day