



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

February 2021



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Feb 8 (tentative) Feb 22
ACC	Feb 2 (tentative) Mar 1
SA	Feb 3
REC	Feb 10
Parking	Feb 17

Until further notice, all meetings will be **online** at 7pm & are subject to change.

The RHA website has instructions on attending online meetings.

www.rha-homes.org

Important Dates:

Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 7	Super Bowl Sunday
Feb 12	Chinese New Year
Feb 14	St. Valentine's Day
Feb 15	President's Day (fcps holiday)
Feb 16	Mardi Gras
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday
Feb 25	Purim

RHA Board

President:

Willie Jimenez Elias

Vice President:

Don Nuss

Treasurer:

Charlie Marts

At Large:

Mike Olson

Secretary:

Colleen Ward

L&N Property Manager:
Karen Sine 703-970-8856

Board:

by Willie Jimenez Elias, RHA Board President

Key items addressed by the RHA Board:

- There were four volunteers to fill the vacated fifth position on the RHA Board. Colleen Ward was appointed to serve out the remaining two years of the three-year term. Please welcome & thank her.
- The 2021 Street Ambassador program is meeting monthly, on the first Wednesday, and volunteer participation is increasing, but we still have streets without ambassadors. TH: Aiken, Apgar, Feldman, Frear, Fones, Hungerford, Preuit, Schwenger, Rowles, and Shea. DH: Bryce, Catocin, Hamer, Keisler, Frinks, Tamani, Maleady, Parcher, Veenendaal, Whisonant, Pocono, Seaman, and Sugarloaf.
- Pamela Chilet was appointed to the vacant sixth RHA position on the Recreation Committee. Welcome Pamela and thank her for volunteering.



RHA Street Ambassador Corner

by Patsy Velin, Blue Ridge Ct Street Ambassador

As an RHA Street Ambassador, I receive lots of questions about "how can I do this?" or "is this allowed?" Trying to be helpful and stay informed, the RHA website is always a good source of information, but I find myself reviewing other websites/applications as well, i.e., NextDoor and TownSquare.

What is NextDoor?

NextDoor is a local, social networking service for neighborhoods.

It's where neighbors look for babysitting services, sell furniture, borrow tools, support local business/contractor, find medical services and even alert folks to a found pet. Recently neighbors were informed of numerous car break-ins. By posting on NextDoor and also informing the police, many neighbors increased security and communication.



If interested, check out www.nextdoor.com or download the app "Nextdoor: Local Neighborhood" to join others in your neighborhood.

- The Board is considering changing TH trash pick-up to twice weekly, pending vendor proposals and Board approval, in order to reduce cost and reduce the amount of days that trash cans/bins are out in the TH community.

- The Board is going to focus on how to lower our current delinquency rate on HOA assessment payments by homeowners of 14.13% (\$56,632)

- Ross Engineering provided a summary of the findings of the TH Light Study. The board will decide the next steps on improving lighting in the TH areas.

- L&N committed to finding reasons on why Homeowner calls and emails are not being answered in a timely fashion.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the January 2021, scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee acted on two requests for change. One was for a roof and one was for new siding and front door. The Committee also changed the February meeting date to Tuesday, February 2.

(continued on page 2)

Please also note that our RHA neighborhood is "Reflection", **not** "Reflection Lake"

What is TownSquare?

TownSquare is an operational and communication tool for HOA Board members and L&N property managers.



Homeowners may pay assessment bills, and review meeting minutes, annual reports and board announcements. You may PARTICIPATE in COMMUNITY POLLS and more. If interested, check out <https://app.townsq.io/associa/signup> or download the app "TownSq" to join. (You will need your account number, which is on your billing statement or coupon book.)

Contact Your Street Ambassadors!

Go to rha-homes.org/street-ambassador-program for info on proposed goals, recruitment, responsibilities and resources. Email: ambassadors@rha-homes.org.

ACC (cont'd from page 1)

The ACC continues to receive applications for change that do not have all the details necessary for approval. Please check the guidelines for what you are doing, and include the details that will address those guidelines.

DID YOU KNOW...Plastic sheeting covering windows either to keep cold air out or to block the sun's rays is not authorized in the community.

DID YOU KNOW...All holiday decorations from December should have already been removed.

DID YOU KNOW...As we enter what is possibly the snowiest month of the year, remember that snow must be completely removed from sidewalks, brick-to-brick, i.e., not just a shovel-width path, within 24 hours from the end of snowfall.

DID YOU KNOW...The next ACC meeting is scheduled for TUESDAY, February 2, 7:00 pm, via Zoom. This is a change. Use this link, <https://zoom.us/join>, to join the meeting. The Meeting ID is 865 4471 5095, and the Passcode is 520603. To join the meeting by phone, please call 301-715-8592.

Recreation Committee:

by Lourdes Umana, Recreation Committee member

We hope that you are staying healthy in these crazy times.

Please join us February 10th at the 7:00pm virtual Rec. Committee meeting and meet our new RHA appointed representative, Pamela Chilet.

Are your boots & work gloves in good shape? Look for an announcement of the date of the 2021 "Annual Creek Clean-up"



The committee approved cleaning of the multipurpose caged asphalt area, and it was accomplished in mid January ("...no leaves, no poop, no trash!"... to quote one very pleased observer). Such cleaning is done on a discretionary basis by our management (Sequoia) and landscaping (Peter's) companies. We ask that you please pick up after your pets, as this area is for multipurpose use for the whole community and some kids practice skateboarding or learn how to ride their bikes there. Finding pet waste littering the space is a disappointment to them.



If you have any questions regarding the community's common area, please feel free to send an email to recommittee@sequoiamgmt.info.

The next RCI meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021. Zoom Meeting ID: 967 3902 0567 Passcode: Recreation. Post cards will be sent with this same information .

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

by Lourdes Umana, Recreation Committee member

Traditions are Wonderful!

Since 1917 (over 100 years!!), Girl Scouts and their enthusiastic supporters have held "this annual cookie sale -- and they've had fun, developed valuable life skills, and made their communities a better place every step of the way" (paraphrased from www.girlscouts.org).

In our RHA community, we have **Troop 51096**, and yes, they are selling cookies this year, in spite of the pandemic.

The young ladies will not be going door-to-door this year. Instead, to place an order, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3c95i8W> or <https://bit.ly/3p7UXxU> or email: troop51096@jamieanderson.org or call: 703-618-8463.



Orders will be delivered to your door by members of Troop 51096.

Do you want to help but don't want a lot of tempting treats around the house? You can place an order under the "Troop 2 Troops" program, where our local Girl Scouts troops donate cookies to the USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore.



Parking Committee

by Brenda Brown, Parking Committee Chair

FRIENDLY REMINDER: TH owners - Please be sure to always read the inserts inside the envelope your parking decals come in. This envelope may contain a number of inserts that are important and that you need to be aware of.

Parking Decals are to be placed on **CLEAR** glass in your vehicle, **NOT ON TINTED** or **SMOKED** glass.



Tow Truck drivers may not see decals if they are not placed on clear glass; this may increase your chances of being towed.

**Voided TH Parking Stickers:**

As is usual when the new six-month stickers come out, there is a brief flurry of TH owners & renters who, for various reasons, lost, or can't find them & need replacements. The stickers/decals originally assigned to the TH are then voided.

The current voided list is:

59-60, 177-178, 277-278, 299-300, 307-308, 405-406, 455-456, 527-528, 591-592, 671-672, 695-696, 693-694, 749-750.

January/February Gardening in RHA...

by Lois Olson, RHA Newsletter Team

...depends on what the weather was in Nov/Dec.

Some winters there will be a devastating multi-day freeze in November with temps in the teens (or lower!) that pretty much stops everything outdoors in its tracks (I lost 2 hazelnut trees, several smaller shrubs & all my late season vegetables to such an early freeze a few years back). This year is not one of those early deep freeze years, fortunately. Several of our pepper and tomato plants had quite a surprising amount of fruits well into the fall. We did a "clean pick" in late October, gave away several boxes of mixed ripe/ripening/green fruits to neighbors and put the rest into flat trays downstairs to ripen. We ate the last of those in mid-January, a new record!

I should mention that while we don't have a very big yard, and we have several very large oak trees in it, we've built raised garden beds in the backyard spots that get enough sun to produce vegetables, plus we use large pots on the porch & back patio--things anyone in RHA can likewise do.

Outside, the swiss chard (that I planted last spring, and have been harvesting throughout the summer & fall) is still going strong, with the added treat that since we've had several light frosts, the chard has "sweetened" and is almost a different vegetable from the Spring/Summer chard.

I can still walk out the front door and snip rosemary, sage, thyme and parsley as needed for cooking--& regularly enlist my husband, Mike to hold a flashlight if it's after sunset. All of these herbs are growing in big pots on my front porch (note: the basil quit after the first temperature drop into the 30's, and the chives were close behind). The garlic I harvested in mid-summer is in the garage, and if I ration it out, should last until next summer's crop is ready.

Speaking of garlic, the bulbs I planted in the fall have sprouted and are about 10" tall. They will speed up/slow down growth depending on the temperatures until Spring when they will grow to about 2-3' tall. It gets harvested in late June, but is ornamental, too. I've got it in several of the flowerbeds where I let it produce its pretty purple flowerheads in the spring that the bees love.

The cold frame got put up in early November and is full of lettuce right now. In cool temps, lettuce also has a "sweet" taste that is a world of difference from supermarket produce.

Indoors, the Christmas poinsettias are still looking great--one, by a south-facing window, hasn't lost a single leaf since I bought it at Reston's Home Depot in early December. The Christmas cactus's flamboyant flowers are just about done, but the cyclamens are in their prime bloom period -- there are two pots on my kitchen windowsill and the blooms are definitely appreciated on some of our overcast days.

But, plant pests don't all die off or hibernate over the winter (...darn!!). Aggravating little soil gnats generally show up in our home around mid-January & start flying around. However, I heard of a trick last year that worked & I will be using again this year: mint tea bags. I just put them on the top of the soil in the flowerpots so they get wet every time you water the plants. It worked better than any of the various soap concoctions I'd tried in previous years, & seems to be working this year, too.

Happy RHA (indoor) gardening!



****NOTES****

Parking 101

by Mike Olson, RHA Board Member at Large

Parking on public streets in RHA (all streets in the DHs, plus Saunders and Springer) is enforced by the Fairfax County Police Department. While the county code appears lengthy and complex remembering these four numbers will keep you in compliance and prevent a parking ticket from appearing on your windshield: **10, 15, 20, 30.**

10: It is illegal to park in front of or within **10** feet of a driveway.

15: It is illegal to park within **15** feet of a fire hydrant.

20: It is illegal to park in or within **20** feet of an intersection or a crosswalk.

30: It is illegal to park within **30** feet from a stop sign.

Vehicles parked on public streets must have a current registration and safety inspection decal.

Any person can report violations to the Police Department by calling the non-emergency number: (703) 691-2131. You will be asked to provide the license number and location of the violation.

An Important Message from Your Reston District Community Liaison Officer

Phones Down. It's the Law.
New Virginia Law Effective January 1, 2021

In Virginia, It is illegal to hold your phone while driving a motor vehicle on Virginia roadways.









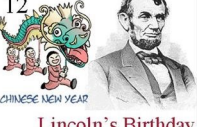



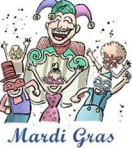










- Dialing a phone number
- Texting
- Social media
- Video conferencing
- Shopping online
- Watching movies
- Checking the weather
- Playing games

Virginia.gov Let's work together to make safer roadways in Virginia!



February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 (January)	1  World Read Aloud Day	2 7:00-9:00pm ACC meeting online meeting  Groundhog Day	3 7:00-9:00pm Street Ambassadors Meeting online meeting	4  World Cancer Day	5	6
7  SUPER BOWL	8 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting	9  Founded 1910	10 7:00-9:00 Recreation Committee online meeting	11  International Day of Women & Girls in Science	12  Lincoln's Birthday 1809	13  WORLD RADIO DAY
14  Happy Valentine's Day	15  Presidents' Day (FCPS holiday)	16  Mardi Gras	17 7:00-9:00pm Parking Committee online meeting  Ash Wednesday	18	19	20  THE NAACP IMAGE AWARDS since 1968
21	22 7:00-9:00pm tentative RHA Board online meeting  Washington's Birthday 1732	23	24	25  PURIM	26	27
28  Golden Globe Awards	1 (March) 7:00-9:00pm ACC meeting online meeting tentative	2  Read Across America Day	3  World Wildlife Day	4	5  Employee Appreciation Day	6  NATIONAL OREO DAY (invented 1912)

This newsletter is created by the Board of Directors of Reflection Homes Association in order to inform you about its work, and to keep you updated on things important to our neighborhood. If you have any questions, suggestions, or contributions to this newsletter, please email them to: RHAbord@RHA-Homes.org and/or newsletter@RHA-Homes.org Visit: <http://rha-homes.org> to read past newsletters, or to request email newsletter delivery.