



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

March 2021



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Mar 8 (tentative) Mar 22
ACC	Mar 2 (tentative) Apr 6
SA	Mar 3
REC	TBD
Parking	Mar 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:

Mar 8	Intl. Women's Day
Mar 14	Daylight Saving Time begins
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar 20	Nowruz (Persian New Year)
Mar 20	Spring Equinox
Mar 27	Passover begins
Mar 28	Lailatul Barat
Mar 28	Palm Sunday
Mar 29	Vietnam War Vets Day
Mar 29-Apr 5	FCPS Spring Break
Apr 1	Holy Thursday
Apr 2	Good Friday
Apr 4	Easter Sunday

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:

--The Board approved hiring Ross Engineering to develop a Request for Proposal and to assist in the selection of electrical contractors for the Town Home (TH) Light project

--3rd Amendment Audit Results from L&N show 443 YES votes (440 needed for the amendment to be registered). The Board is doing some final homeowner verification and expects to send the documents to Fairfax County shortly for formal registration.

--The Board did not support a motion to convert the Street Ambassador program into a RHA Committee.

--The Board decided to evaluate at a later time the possibility of snow removal for TH mailbox areas and sidewalks not in-front of THs.

--The Board did not approve 24/7 parking restrictions for a RPPD in the detached homes. The board will develop a plan to complete the RPPD request and communicate to the community by the next Board meeting.

--Board legal training on Feb. 22 was productive and informative. Several great ideas on how to improve the community should be implemented shortly based on the training and discussions facilitated by Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore & Bunn, P.C.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the February 2021 scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee approved two requests for change. One request was for a patio, and one was for new windows. **RESERVE THE DATE!** The Committee also changed the March meeting date to **Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.**

CAUTION: After walking around the community, there is one thing that the Committee would caution homeowners about.

(continued on page 2)

Five tips for the day AFTER your basement floods

by Charles Marts, Board Treasurer

Did your basement take a hit in a recent storm?

The local water table in our RHA neighborhood is high naturally, so downpours can quickly flood your basement and create a real mess; wading through soggy boxes of books, soaking carpeting, floating dog food bowls and wet furniture, you might feel paralyzed as to what to do.

Don't delay, you should act quickly to mop up water and repair damage caused by clogged drains, faulty sump pumps or backed-up gutters.

Mold can start to grow within a couple of days, so you'll want to remove and dry out wet possessions as soon as possible.

For safety reasons, call your power company, an electrician or a professional flood cleanup company if you have a large amount of standing water in your basement. You may have to disconnect the power before walking into the water.

Don't touch anything electrical.

Here are my five tips for dealing with flooding in your basement.

1. Remove the water.

A few inches of standing water can usually be removed with a wet-vac.

If you don't have a wet-vac, borrow, buy, or rent one.

Major water damage may need a professional such as ServPro or ServiceMaster. And dry wall may need to be removed or treated to stop mold from growing.

If your damage is minor, you can use towels to wipe the water up, but they should immediately be washed and dried to prevent mold from growing.

(continued on page 2)



ACC (cont'd from page 1)

Committee members often witness homeowners making significant changes to their properties, e.g., new windows, new siding, etc., and know that there was never a change application approved for the work. Any time you do work which will be a change to the appearance of the outside of your home, other than routine landscaping, an application must be submitted and approved before you can do the work. Failure to do so could possibly result in problems and delays if you want to sell your house. If you are making repairs to your house and you are replacing something with the *identical* thing, you do not need an application.

DID YOU KNOW...All shed trim must match the trim of the townhouse. That means the door color of the shed must be the same color as that of the house, and the shingle color of the shed roof must match the shingle color of the house.

DID YOU KNOW...All foundations should be covered with raised flower beds, shrubbery or other conforming landscaping, including exposed tar-like water proofing sealants along the townhome's foundation.

DID YOU KNOW...The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY**, March 2, 7:00, via Zoom. Use this link, <https://zoom.us/join>, to join the meeting. The Meeting ID is **865 4474 6564**, and the Passcode is **RHAACC**. To join the meeting by phone, please call 301-715-8592. The Meeting ID is 865 4474 6564, and the Passcode is 446550.

Recreation Committee:

by Lourdes Umana, Recreation Committee member

The Recreation Committee Inc. (RCI) held its quarterly meeting on February 10th. Pam Chilet and Delene Diab were introduced as new members.

--RCI reminds residents to please pick up after your pets. Plus, there has been vandalism with the dog waste bags provided by Lakes Home Association throughout both its and the RHA

community. LHA will consider reinstalling station bags, provided that the vandalism stops, and residents are vigilant and use the bags wisely.

--Our five playgrounds will be getting their annual wood chips replenishment (100 cubic yards each) in the next month or so.

-- In order to keep the rest of the community safe, please be careful on the playgrounds, and refrain from going

outside if you or your kids have any COVID symptoms .

--Mark your calendars: The community will have an Earth Day creek clean up on April 17th. More information soon.

--However, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will not take place this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

--The Committee agreed to ask Fairfax County to inspect the park land behind Oram Place, which has drainage issues, and make recommendations on how to alleviate the problem.

--Watch for pool packets in the mail from Sequoia Management; the community will continue to use:

<https://swimmingpoolpasses.net/reflection-recreation> for pool passes.

--Interested in joining our community swim team this summer? Email:

ReflectionRiptides@gmail.com

by March 31. This is an early deadline because we need to plan ahead to comply with COVID requirements.



Five Tips.... (continued)

2. Dry out your basement. Use dehumidifiers, heaters and fans to move air around, discouraging the growth of mold and mildew.

Keep dehumidifiers and heaters at least six to eight inches away from walls for the best air circulation. Clean and wash the dehumidifiers filters once every week or so to help it operate efficiently. Run your HVAC fan constantly to circulate air in the home. Throw away any wet boxes and other items damaged during flooding.



3. Scrub flooring. Scrub vinyl tile, linoleum and other hard surfaces with a solution of no more than one cup of chlorine bleach to one gallon of water. During this process, wear rubber gloves and protective eyewear and keep the room ventilated.

4. Examine and clear gutters, downspouts, and floor drains. Get rid of any leaves, twigs and mud. Remove the drain screen and give it a good cleaning and, if necessary, use a plunger or plumber's snake to clear it.



Muck out gutters and downspouts around the house and extend the drainage 6 ft away from the home.

5. Examine your sump pump. Ensure the float is not cracked and that the pump functions properly. Pour water into the sump well and ensure the float rises and the pump expels the water properly.

A valve in the pipe should keep water from back flowing into the well when the pump stops. You may consider adding battery backup for the sump pump as power outages may occur during storms and keep the sump pump from working.

Parking Committee

by Brenda Brown, Parking Committee Chair

Amendment #3

L&N is in the process of validating signatures. After legal and Fairfax County approve, the Parking Committee is poised to help assign parking spaces.

Privatization of Saunders and RPPD

The Parking committee has volunteered to help if requested.

Temporary parking hang-tags for RHA board/committee chair members have been issued for RHA business on town home streets. Look before you call to tow.

As a reminder: cones, chairs, 5-gallon buckets or other items placed on FFX County roads to reserve a parking spot may be

considered as debris and reported to the FFX County Police non-emergency number (703-691-2131). Such items on RHA Property Roads may also be considered as debris.

Please refer back to ETTIQUETTE and HOME Training; If you did not clean this space from snow and ice; respect the person who did and find yourself another place to park. RESPECT!

Have a little time on your hands?

The Parking Committee could use YOU! Submit your application to rhaboard@rha-homes.org



February Snow in RHA



The March Ahead

by Gene Harper, Recreation Committee member

The old proverb says March “comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb.”



Meteorologists say spring starts March 1. The early days in this month of weather transition could deliver winter’s last snow and ice assault. Mid-month, we get an extra hour of daylight till November. March 20 will welcome spring’s official, triumphant return, according to the earth’s and sun’s position. By month’s end the sounds of birds and lawnmowers fill the air as the first flowers spring forth.

But another “march” looms: For a full year, the coronavirus has advanced over us in lockstep, casting a dark shadow in its wake over our lives in large and small ways. In March 2020, the traffic light of lifestyles went from “go” green to “cautionary” yellow to “screeching halt” red. Businesses, schools and churches shut down.

Right here in RHA and our neighboring LHA, we all know neighbors, family members and loved ones who

have contracted COVID-19, the disease the virus causes. Some have fully recovered, some have lingering health issues, some have succumbed. In one year, that death toll advanced from a blasé handful to a breathtaking 500,000-plus.

Yet there’s hope in the transitions that represent March 2021: **Our 20170 is no longer in Fairfax County’s Top 5 or Top 10 zip codes for COVID cases.** Our governments and medical industry are both working hard to increase vaccinations to stave off COVID-19 to get our jobs, schools and churches back into full operation.

In the meantime, just like our travels on the icy streets of February, we move carefully through this month. The coronavirus and its variants demand that we dutifully keep up our safeguards: mask, wash and distance.

Another saying goes: “Hope is not a plan of action.” But hope will help keep us focused on plans and actions to get us back to normalcy in our lives here in our RHA community and beyond.



Step by step: Let us March on!

****NOTES****

Comments & Suggestions? We want to hear from you! If you have comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please send an email to: newsletter@rha-homes.org or write to us at:

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 c/o Karen Sine, Legum & Norman, Inc
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include soil, mulch, sod, stumps, whole trees, large branches or limbs or clean-up from storm damage.



From March 1 – December 24, yard waste must be placed at the curb separately for collection. Yard waste

can be placed in **paper yard bags** or rigid containers. Small quantities of yard waste can be tied in bundles (no longer than 4 feet in length, and no more than 50 pounds in weight). Branches must not exceed 6 inches in diameter. More than 4 bundles of tied yard waste should be scheduled for a **Special Pick Up**.

You Can Buy Girl Scout Cookies until March 14th:



See last month's newsletter for info, or call 703-618-8463



Multi-Cultural Vibes in RHA: Our community is a mixing bowl of diverse nationalities, religions, interests, backgrounds and talents. The Spring Equinox (March 20th this year) is an important date to many of those. Please take the time to wish your neighbors a Happy Spring, Nowruz (Persian New Year), Easter or whatever holiday/event they celebrate...and share a smile.

No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste! Yard waste is the organic waste generated by yard and lawn care and includes leaves, grass trimmings, shrub and tree trimmings. Yard waste does not



March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 (February) 	1 <i>Aquamarine</i> March Birthstone	2 7:00-9:00pm ACC meeting online meeting Read Across America Day	3 World Wildlife Day	4	5 Employee Appreciation Day	6 NATIONAL OREO DAY
7	8 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting International Women's day 	9 MARCH MADNESS March 8 - April 5	10 MARIO DAY	11 Lailat al Miraj	12 Girl Scouts Founded 1912	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins Pi Day	15 Grammy Awards	16	17 7:00-9:00pm Parking Committee online meeting St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Saint Joseph	20 PERSIAN NEW YEAR (NOWRUZ) Spring begins
21 World Down Syndrome Day	22 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting World Water Day	23 National Agriculture (AG) Day	24	25 INTERNATIONAL WAFFLE DAY	26	27 Passover
28 Lailat al Barat Palm Sunday	29 VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY holi Festival of Colors	30 National Doctors' Day	31	1 (April) Holy Thursday	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3

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.