



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

May 2021



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	May 10 (tentative) May 24
ACC	May 4 (tentative) June 1
SA	May 5
REC	May 12
Parking	May 19

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:

May 1	Kentucky Derby
May 4	National Teachers Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 9	Mother's Day
May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 15	RHA Bulk Item Pickup
May 17	TAX DAY
May 21	Bike to Work Day
May 23	Pentecost Sunday
May 31	Memorial Day
June 6	D-Day Anniversary

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 in April by the RHA Board:

- The Townhome Light Project (replace & add new lights in the TH common areas). Ross Engineering was expected to deliver the first draft of the Request for Proposal (RFP) the week of April 26th. The plan is to start work in May/June 2021.

- The RHA Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R) changes recommended by legal, and the privatization of Saunders Avenue are being considered as the next items for the Board to request community approval.

- L&N completed spring inspections. Pay special attention to notifications received by mail from L&N, since monetary sanctions can now be imposed on homeowners that do not comply with ACC Guidelines.



Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee acted on one request for change. That request was to install windows in a garage. The Committee also changed the May meeting date to Tuesday, May 4.

- Inspections have been completed. Homeowners whose houses are in violation of the guidelines will be receiving letters from L&N detailing what needs to be done to bring the houses into compliance. Owners/residents need to heed the correction letters they receive because the Board of Directors will be enforcing RHA's legal right to fine for uncorrected violations as authorized by the 3rd amendment.

DID YOU KNOW... No vegetable or herb gardens of any type are permissible in the front yard of a Lot. This bears repeating from last month. It seems no matter how many times we publish this, some homeowners plant full vegetable gardens in the front yard. Squash vines (or anything else) covering the front yard is not allowed. *(continued on page 2)*

Community-Wide Bulk Item Pickup — May 15

We want to make sure you all have Saturday, May 15th on your calendar! This is the day of the community-wide bulk item pickup provided by **Bates Trucking** as part of the Association's trash collection contract! Let them take away your **unwanted large furniture, appliances, rugs/carpets, tables/chairs, desks, etc.**

We encourage you to place your bulky items out for collection no earlier than Friday afternoon. Bates will start pickups approximately 7:00am, Saturday morning. However, there are some things Bates will **NOT** pick up:

- liquids; combustible materials;



- tires; batteries
- dead animals; dirt; rocks
- items identified as hazardous
- Construction materials including drywall, concrete, bricks

RHA will send out a flyer with more information a few days before the 15th.

ACC (cont'd from page 1)

DID YOU KNOW...It is that time of year that homeowners need to start mowing their lawns. All Owners must keep their turf grass at no higher than 6 inches. When finished mowing, don't forget to sweep the sidewalks clear of any grass clippings.



DID YOU KNOW...As of April 19, Fairfax County's enforcement of their new yard waste policy began. The policy requires that all yard waste be placed in paper bags or reusable containers—plastic bags are no longer allowed.

DID YOU KNOW... The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY**, May 4, 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, Inc. (RCI):

by Lourdes Umana & Gene Harper, Recreation Committee members

-- Pool pass applications went out to all property owners in mid-April. If you haven't received yours, call or send an email to RCI community manager Dale Edwards at (703-803-9641) or dedwards@sequoiamgmt.com and he'll mail or email you back the application and info. We are using the same company as last year, and as explained in the letter, you can apply online at: <https://swimmingpoolpasses.net/reflection-recreation>. Beware there is some conflicting info in the mailed packets. **Pool season opens during Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 29 and runs through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6, 2021.** Also, if you mail back your application using the postal

service, you will not be charged an application fee – you will get your pool passes free, just as you would online. And remember: If there are home owner association or recreation committee assessments owed on the property you're living in, **you will not get pool passes until they are paid in full.** It takes 7-10 business days for those pool passes to get to you, so get busy if you want them by the **May 29 splashdown date!** COVID-19 pool guidance on people numbers, masking and social distancing will be published before opening date.

--The annual Earth Day-inspired April 17 creek clean up was successful. See photos and an article elsewhere in this issue.

--The next RCI meeting will be virtually May 12 at 7pm. Dale Edwards promised to get postcards in the mail by April 28 with all the sign-on details to homeowners .

-- Registration for the Riptides Swim Team is open now through May 22nd. For up-to-date instructions and information, go to <https://reflectionriptides.swimtopia.com>. Swim practice will start as soon as the pool season begins.

--Interested in joining or volunteering with our community swim team this summer? The Reflection Riptides Swim Team is a summer developmental swim team that promotes community and longtime friendships. Swimmers ages 5-18 have the opportunity to learn four competitive strokes and participate in swim meets during the summer season. We will begin practice on June 1st and our first competition (Herndon Swim League) is planned as June 19th.



RHA/LHA CREEK CLEANUP -- SATURDAY, April 17, 8-12

Our 2021 Potomac Watershed Cleanup, in conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation, worked/splashed through the park collecting an amazing variety of discarded items that



will now have no chance of flowing into the Potomac River: Three shopping carts. A bicycle. Recyclable cans and glass/plastic bottles. Lots of gooey, icky, wet cardboard, bags, & clothing. Excellent participation by young scouts & members of the Riptides Swim Team (all earned community service credits). Afterwards, the participants happily devoured a stack of well-earned pizzas. Thank you all!



Parking Committee

by Brenda Brown, Parking Committee Chair

YELLOW CURBS: Whether bright yellow, or dingy and dirty yellow, these curbs, corners and lanes are all: "Fire Lanes"

Fire lanes provide clear access for fire and emergency personnel and their equipment in the event of an emergency. There is NO parking, blocking, unloading, sitting in these areas 24 hours a day.

MAILBOXES: Are you expecting medicine, tax returns, stimulus check or a letter or card from a family member? You won't get it if you or someone else blocks the mailboxes (this applies to the group mailboxes in the Townhomes as well as the individual ones in the detached homes). Typical mail delivery can take place between the hours of 9:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Saturday, depending

on the day. Please do your part and help our mail carriers do their jobs. Do Not Block Mail Boxes.

As an added incentive, violation of either of the above rules may get you ticketed and or towed. (note: in the DHs, homeowners only can call the police non-emergency number 703-691-2131, to report that their mailbox is blocked.) Anyone can call that number to report vehicles in fire lanes, or blocking the group mailboxes in the THs.

ASSIGNED TH PARKING SPACES. We are in the preliminary stages of working out marking and assigning spots. Handicap parking will be first. If you are a TH resident with a DMV handicap decal, your marked Handicap Parking spot will be your unit's assigned spot. (Please update your decal/hangtag with DMV if necessary, and ensure L&N has a copy of it along with your name and address.) Send any questions/concerns to: Parking@rha-homes.org



April Flowering Extravaganza in RHA



Leashing Out

by Gene Harper, Recreation Committee member



Longer days and comfortable temperatures are perfect recipes for dog walks. In case you haven't noticed it, people and their dogs are part of the closely knit fabric throughout Reflection.

At least seven Harper family dogs have sniffed their way around our neighborhood through our decades here. We probably can recall more dog names than people names. And over time, we've kept pace with a few things to keep in mind when you're out walking your dogs:

License. Your dog must have a license. It costs \$10 a year, whether your animal is spayed or neutered. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta or call 703-222-8234 for more info.

Leash laws require your pooches to be on a leash and controlled by a responsible person when off owner's property. And they can't run loose on private or public property – that is, outside of a fenced area such as a yard or the fenced-in court in our common area beside the creek.

Bites. Call Animal Control at 703-691-2131 if you see a dog running free or if you're involved or see a dog bite or attack incident. One RHA resident reported bad incidents with RHA four-

leggers: "We've had pets being aggressive to our mail carriers and last year," she said. "I was bitten by a neighbor's dog who ran out of their yard, not on a leash, and attacked me. I had to go to the emergency room and get a tetanus shot! Their dog was quarantined by Fairfax County Animal Control for 10 days, with threats of disposal of the animal if they received another report."

Poop. If your dog poops anywhere in RHA and you don't bag and dispose of it properly, county code says it's a "Class 4 misdemeanor and subject up to a \$250 fine." Use doggie bags from stations throughout our community common areas.

Toxins. Dispose of dog poop in available trash cans or take it home. Don't throw anywhere near or in our creek or down a storm drain. The county states: "Pet waste makes our streams unsafe for human contact and increases the cost to treat our drinking water. Cleaning up after your dog saves money by preventing the pollution in the first place." Doggie-doo contains all sorts of bacteria and parasites that "can make both humans and pets sick. Decaying pet waste can also contribute to fish kills in local streams and the Potomac River."

With the freedom we have out and about with our canine pets comes equal responsibility to our neighbors and neighborhood. Enjoy your canines; respect your neighbors and neighborhood!

****NOTES****

VDOT improves 2nd Hutchison ES crosswalk: Curb cuts and



handicapped ramps were installed in April on Parcher Avenue at the marked crosswalk closest to the ball fields.

Kudos to HES Teachers & Aides: Fairfax County Schools made the quick change to four days per week starting April 19th of in-person classes, as well as decreased the desk spacing from six feet to three. The teachers and aides worked much of that weekend, mostly on their own time, to reconfigure the class-

rooms, move desks and re-tape the desk spacing.



May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 (April)  Academy Awards	26 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting  National Pretzel Day	27	28  Denim Day	29	30 since 1872  ARBOR DAY	1 May Day put flowers on a friend's doorknob  Kentucky Derby
2  Orthodox Easter	3	4 7:00-9:00pm Architectural online meeting  National Teachers Day	5 since 1863  CINCO DE MAYO	6  NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER National NURSES Day	7  MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY	8  Emerald May Birthstone
9  Happy Mother's DAY Lailatal Qadr	10 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting	11	12 7:00-9:00pm Recreation Committee online meeting	13  Fid-al-Fitr Ascension	14 Bulk Item Pickup Tomorrow. Put Items Out Today!	15  ARMED FORCES DAY
16  Shavuot	17  TAX DAY	18	19 7:00-9:00pm Parking Committee online meeting	20  National Rescue Dog Day	21 since 1956  Bike To Work Day	22
23  Pentecost	24 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board	25	26  HAPPY VESAK DAY	27	28  National Burger Day	29
30  Trinity Sunday	31  MEMORIAL DAY	1 (June)	2	3  World Bicycle Day	4  NATIONAL DONUT DAY	5

Proper Disposal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): The creek cleanup on April 17th also turned up pieces of discarded PPE. Mostly masks and rubber gloves. Gross. Please dispose of these properly! Per the World Health Organization: Throw all contaminated PPE in a lidded or covered waste bin lined with a garbage bag. Keep used or discarded PPE out of reach from children and pets. Be sure not to overfill trash cans or waste receptacles to allow for easy removal and closure of the waste bin liner. And, remember to first cut the elastic loops on the disposable masks so no wild animal can become entangled.

Free Library is Up: Located on the corner of Mager Drive and Parcher Avenue. Help yourself to a free book to read -- drop off a donation for other folks. Thanks to Charlie Marts and Bilal Kheri for making it happen. Response so far has been great -- a second location is being planned!



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.