



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

March 2022



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Mar 14
ACC	Mar 7
Recreation	Mar 9
Parking	Mar 16
SA	Mar 2

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:

March 1	Mardi Gras
Mar 2	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
Mar 8	Internat. Women's Day
Mar 13	Daylight Saving Time
Mar 16	Purim
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 18	Holi (Festival of Colors)
Mar 18	Lailatul Barat
Mar 20	1st Day of Spring
Mar 20	Nowruz (Persian New Year)
Mar 27	Academy Awards
Mar 29	Vietnam Veterans Day
April 1	April Fools' Day
Apr 1-10	FCPS Spring Break
April 2	Ramadan begins

RHA Board

President:

Don Nuss

Vice President:

Charlie Marts

Treasurer:

John Hanchulak

Secretary:

Colleen Ward

At Large:

Mike Olson

FirstService Residential:
800-927-4599

Board:

by Don Nuss, RHA Board President

The Board of Directors had its first meeting with the new management company, **FirstService**

Residential (FSR), which assumed management duties on February 1.

Swati Krishnamoorthy is the new property manager. (Refer to the Feb Newsletter for more info.)

Several Board members took a field trip to Dominion's LED Demo Outdoor Lighting Area during February to view the various lighting fixtures available for the townhome lighting project.

The Board provided background material to FSR for the drainage and erosion project and the EV charging station effort. FSR is researching their portfolios for any information that may be helpful to RHA.

The restricted parking signs for the new RPPD have been installed. Any vehicle parked without a permit during the restricted hours is subject to receiving a \$75 citation from Fairfax County. Residents within the RPPD who have not yet applied for their permits should do so as soon as possible,



especially if you sometimes park on the street. To apply, follow this link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/parking/rppd-apply.



The board voted unanimously to return to once per month board meetings, on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning immediately.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee had no applications. The next meeting will be **MONDAY**, March 7 at 7:00 PM. The Committee meets once a month on the first Monday of the month. If you wish to submit an application for change, please do so two-to-three weeks prior to the meeting so that any questions can be answered before the meeting.

DID YOU KNOW...The weather is becoming more spring-like and you may be thinking about planting a garden. **REMEMBER**— "Vegetable and herb gardens must only be planted in the rear yard of a Lot. No vegetable or herb gardens of any type are permissible in the front yard of a Lot." (continued on page 2)

Is Your Home Ready for Spring?

by Charlie Marts, RHA Board Vice President



Before the arrival of April showers, it's a good time to get started on some spring maintenance tasks to shed the winter layers and give your home a fresh new start.

Clear gutters. Divert downspouts away from the home.



Remove winter lawn debris.

Apply grass seed and fertilizer.

Reseal outdoor structures (such as wood decks, fences, railings and pergolas).



Schedule HVAC Service. Change HVAC filters regularly.

Clean carpets. Send area rugs out for professional cleaning.



Laundry soft furnishings (furniture slipcovers, pillow covers, shower curtains).

Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



(see article on page 3 for info on the free Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Dept. program)



ACC (continued from page 1)

DID YOU KNOW...We're getting close to spring clean-up time. That's usually the time for the next inspection. You might want to do a surveillance of your house and check for things like broken windows; missing window screens: gardens that need weeding; rotted wood; missing shingles; missing, damaged, or rotted fence boards. Additionally, this is the time of year when evergreen shrubs need to be cut back before the new growth starts. Otherwise, you're going to have an out-of-control shrub. Flowering shrubs should be cut back right after the last bloom. If you wait too long, you'll be cutting off the flower buds that will bloom next year.

DID YOU KNOW...The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **MONDAY**, March 7, at 7:00 PM, via Zoom. If you are using a computer, use this link, <https://rha-homes.org/>, and scroll down to the paragraph **Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Meeting** to join the meeting with one click. No ID or passcode needed. Just click on the word **HERE**. To join the meeting by phone, please call (301) 715-8592. The Meeting ID is 880 5015 0929, and the Passcode is 491674.

Recreation Committee, Inc. (RCI):

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

Seven RCI members convened virtually on Feb. 9. Chairperson Angie Guevara was unable to attend because of family illness. Community Manager Dale Edwards also participated.

Following are some of the major topics brought forth during the meeting:

- Trash was the major theme of homeowner issues presented. The committee was asked to consider adding a trash can to the pool parking lot to help decrease littering. Also, doggie bag stations within RCI property were observed to be empty. It was noted that stations would be replenished as soon as back-ordered refill bags arrive.

- An insurance company representative joined a portion of the meeting and discussed areas of liability coverage levels for RCI property, the committee and RCI-sponsored activities. More follow-up will occur.
- A final review of the 2022 pool season operations and management contract concluded with the committee voting on the precise contract amount and corrected beginning and ending contract season dates, May 28-Sept. 5.
- RCI voted to acquire new pool furniture to replace missing, worn-out and damaged pieces, to include new tables, umbrellas, sand chairs and chaise lounges in time for the new season.
- An attendee at Jan. 19 virtual county meeting on the proposed walk path from the new Innovation Metrorail station that will cut through RCI property reported that plans call for construction to start summer 2024 and be completed during the summer of 2025.
- The committee was requested to begin compiling data to review the current pilot pool parking lot policies and practices in a timely manner to effect a permanent policy by May 1.
- RCI committed to set aside proper meeting time to review the RCI easement agreement to determine needed changes.
- Pool-pass applications and information will be mailed after the next scheduled meeting, March 9.



Late Winter (not quite Spring) in RHA

1. Snow Crocus
2. Snowdrops.
3. Flowering Quince.
4. Witch Hazel.
5. Daffodils (...almost!!)



Street Ambassador Committee

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

Hello. My name is Patsy Velin. I've lived in the Reflection Homes Community for 10+ years. I retired two years ago and thought about moving, but after getting involved with the RHA, meeting neighbors, and making new friends, I'm here to stay. You've probably seen my fellow cohort, Brenda Brown, walking around with me, smiling, visiting, joking... helping. As the new chair of the Ambassador Committee, and together with the RHA Board, we've changed the policy for the Street Ambassador program. We're **not** going to put a sign on your door that says your grass is too long or your house needs paint. That's not our job. We see our job as the helpful folks. When a new neighbor moves in, it's the Street Ambassador who should be knocking on their door, like the Welcome Wagon used to do.

If you need help managing the HOA guidelines, we can tell you where to find the answer to your questions. We're the eyes and ears for the Board. With that in mind, have you seen the new RHA website? The RHA board has worked hard to make the website much more user friendly.

So if you'd like to join us and volunteer for your street as a "Goodwill Ambassador", send us your name and contact information. Positive, helpful folks needed to keep RHA a good place to live and thrive! We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The Zoom link/information is on the RHA website home page. The meeting lasts an hour or less.

Contact us via email: ambassadors@rha-homes.org.

It's That Time of Year Again...

As the weather changes and the sun comes out, so do our graffiti artists!

The charge for graffiti is **destruction of property**. The dollar amount of damage determines the extent of the punishment.

Here's What to do:

Observe and report, should you see someone writing or spray painting on a surface, call the police.

Call the non emergency number (703-691-2131) to report graffiti, location specific. If you see someone damaging property, call 911.

It is your job to be the expert witness, so call the police and give us the information as you see it!

The more information you provide, the more the officers know when they arrive.

An address or landmark helps direct officers to its location, intersections are great!

Technically, the owner of the property has to report the damage, but with utility boxes and walls, most owners are known.

FCPD has a 15 day removal policy for all graffiti.

The officer will follow up to confirm the graffiti has been removed. If it has not, there is a possible fee for the removal of the graffiti from the county.

If the graffiti is on your property, take photos!



A Message From the Reston Crime Prevention Office, Fairfax County Police Department

Rescue Before the Fire

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

It was a recent sunny fall afternoon that the big red fire engine pulled up in front of our home. No blaring siren. No flashing red lights. Five of Fairfax County's finest firefighters emerged from the equipment-laden, diesel-powered truck and waited patiently for my spouse to answer the doorbell. They were right on time for an appointment that we had made with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to come check out and, if need be, to replace our smoke detectors – free of charge.



Two went upstairs, two headed to the basement, one stayed on the first floor. Within 10 minutes, they had replaced two existing smoke alarms and added one. They explained that existing units in the basement and upstairs needed updating and that it made sense to place another unit ground level near the kitchen and living space. The battery-powered units are built to last many years. Common intervals to check them are close to the dates when clock times change to or from Day-light Saving Time.

Again, this service is free year-round. Just web search "Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Smoke Detectors." You'll be instructed to fill out a simple online form – name, address, email and phone number. Or you can call 703-246-3801 or email fire.smokealarms@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information about the county's smoke alarm program.

And oh, by the way, county fire stations also stock a limited number of free carbon monoxide alarms available to install for residents who have gas- or oil-fired furnaces and water heaters. Be sure to ask firefighters about them when you schedule your smoke-alarm appointment. You can call the same 703-246-3801 phone number listed above, and an actual live voice will help. For more information, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/carbon-monoxide-alarm-program>.

I submitted the smoke-alarm form online one day and received a call from our nearby downtown Herndon fire station the next day to set up an appointment. Fairfax's lifesavers showed up promptly to lend a helping hand before disaster could strike – quietly, friendly and efficiently.

****NOTES****

Girl Scout Cookies are available til **March 13!!**. See last month's newsletter for info, or call 703-618-8463



From **March 1 – Dec 24**, in the Detached Homes, yard waste must be placed at the curb separately for collection on scheduled days. Yard waste must be placed in **paper yard bags or rigid containers. (No Plastic Bags!)** 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**.



Earth Hour Day: seeks to raise awareness about climate change by encouraging people around the world to switch off their lights, Saturday, March 26, from 8:30-9:30 pm. (Tell a spooky story by candlelight, or go star gazing.)

Daylight Saving Time: Begins Sunday, March 13 at 2 am. "Spring Forward!" Turn your clocks **AHEAD 1 hour**.



Smishing - Package Tracking Text Scams -

USPS: **Be wary of deceptive text messages** that look like they came from a government agency, like the Post Office. Criminals want your Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Don't Respond! The USPS doesn't send messages unless you request it!

<https://www.usps.gov/news/scam-article/smishing-package-tracking-text-scams>

Photos: The neighborhood pictures in this issue are by Mike Olson. Thanks!

RHA Newsletter submissions: Inputs/comments/suggestions for the April 2022 RHA newsletter are due by Mar 20. Send inputs to: newsletter@rha-homes.org



March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 (February)	28 Lailat al Miraj	1 Mardi Gras	2 7:00-9:00pm SA online meeting Ash Wednesday	3 World Wildlife Day	4 Employee Appreciation Day	5 Aquamarine March Birthstone
6 1912 NATIONAL OREO DAY	7 7:00-9:00pm ACC online meeting	8 International Women's Day (1909)	9 7:00-9:00pm Recreation Committee online meeting	10 World Kidney Day	11	12 Girl Scouts. Founded 1912
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins	14 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting Pi Day	15 World Consumer Rights Day	16 7:00-9:00pm Parking online meeting PURIM	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Lailatul Barat Holi Festival of Colors	19 Saint Joseph
20 PERSIAN NEW YEAR Spring begins	21 2011 World Down Syndrome Day	22 1973 National Agriculture (AG) Day	23 2006 National Puppy Day	24 1882 World Tuberculosis Day	25	26 2007 8:30-9:30 pm EARTH HOUR DAY
27 1929 Academy Awards	28	29 1974 VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY	30 MANATEE APPRECIATION DAY	31 Cesar Chavez Day	1 (April) feps holiday* April Fools' Day	2 Ramadan

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.