



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

April 2022



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Apr 11
ACC	Apr 4
Recreation	Apr 13 May 11
SA	Apr 6

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:

Apr 1-10	FCPS Spring Break
April 2	Ramadan begins
April 7	World Health Day
April 10	Palm Sunday
April 13	Cambodian New Year
April 14	Holy Thursday
April 15	Good Friday
April 16	Passover begins
April 17	Easter
April 18	TAX DAY 2022 
April 22	Earth Day
April 24	Orthodox Easter
April 26	UN Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
Apr 27	Admin Professionals Day
April 29	Arbor Day

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 following are key results from the monthly Board of Directors meeting on March 14:

-- The Board approved publishing an addendum to the ACC guidelines to "allow herbs and vegetables in the front yards up to a maximum height of 4 feet with no part of any plant allowed to extend beyond the owner's yard. After the growing season, plants must be removed".

-- The ACC will combine the Townhome and Detached Home guidelines into one architectural document.

-- All Parking Committee meetings are suspended until such time as a need arises.

-- A **bulk trash pickup** (DH and TH) will be scheduled for May 14, and a **Creek Cleanup** will be scheduled for May 21.

With regard to the Townhome Lighting Project and the Drainage and Erosion Project, our new property management company is researching their other properties to see if any of them had situations like the RHA townhomes and what those other properties did to fix those situations.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee approved one application.



Here's some advance information from the cover letter that's with the new Parking Resolution and Policy for the pool lot. By the time you read this, the package from Sequoia Management will have already arrived or be on its way to your mailbox.

-- The new pool parking policy becomes effective on May 1. Until then, the trial period remains in force through April 30.

-- Also in the package will be a placard/hang-tag to hang from your vehicle's rear view mirror to replace the window sticker you've been using for

The next meeting will be **MONDAY**, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. 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...Inspections are just around the corner. It's time to check your house for things like broken windows; missing window screens; gardens that need weeding; rotted wood; missing shingles; missing, damaged, or rotted fence boards.

DID YOU KNOW...The Board of Directors will be having a large item (bulk) pickup on May 14. Spruce up the house and get rid of the trash. The Board will have more information about that as we get closer to May 14. You can also check the RHA website, <https://rha-homes.org/>. If during the year you find yourself with a mattress, refrigerator, washer, dryer, etc., you need to contact your trash company and schedule a large item pickup. They will tell you when they are coming, and you can place the item out the night before.

DID YOU KNOW...The Board approved an addendum to the ACC Guidelines in the townhomes. Please refer to the Board President's article on this page.

DID YOU KNOW...The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **MONDAY**, April 4, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

(continued on page 2)

Pool Parking Lot Update

by the Recreation Committee

the trial period. The new placard starts on May 1; the old sticker remains in place through April 30. *(This hang-tag is only valid in the pool parking lot, NOT in any RHA or LHA parking lots.)*

-- The lot will close between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. starting Tuesday May 5 and every Tuesday after that. Until then, the current 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. hours of closing remain in effect. Also, the lot will be closed to residents during special events, such as swim team meets and clubhouse rentals. Ample time will be given before these events, with notices to be posted at lot entrances and other locations.

-- For more details, read and keep the cover letter along with the Parking and Policy resolution itself.

ACC (continued from page 1)

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

-- The March 9 RCI meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. with one member absent. Sequoia Community Manager Dale Edwards also attended.

-- Edwards reported that the new replacement pool furniture should be arriving in about a month, ahead of the May 28 opening date for the summer pool season.



Three days after the meeting it snowed 4" & the temp. dropped to 17 degrees.



-- The committee devoted a considerable amount of time to reviewing and revising the current trial-period Parking Policy Resolution, which expires on April 30. The committee voted on changes to the trial and to make the

Moisture & Mold in Your Home?

by Charles Marts, Board Vice President

MOLD MANAGEMENT is important! Controlling mold, especially in basements is a problem homeowners have battled since the dawn of time.

Mold is dormant but present in most homes just waiting for the right environment to grow. It lurks in the corners and can cause major damage and nasty health issues.



As long as moisture and oxygen are present, mold can grow indoors or out on virtually any organic substance, including wood, paper, carpet, drywall, insulation and food. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth will often happen, especially if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or untreated. It is impossible to eliminate all mold and mold spores in an indoor environment. However, mold growth can be controlled by keeping moisture in check.

Moisture control is key, as mold cannot grow without it. Left untreated, mold gradually destroys the material on which it is growing. Because molds produce allergens,

revised policy document permanent beginning on May 1. A cover letter and the new policy document were scheduled to be mailed to residents by the end of March. (Please see an article on page 1, for more information, based on the contents of the cover letter.)

-- The next meeting dates, April 13 and May 11, were set before adjournment at 11:07p.m.

-- Pool-pass applications and information will be mailed jointly with the above mentioned pool parking lot package.

Street Ambassador Committee:

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

-- The NEW Street Ambassador (SA) Committee's first meeting on March 2 was short and effective. So nice to hear from our on-going members Brenda Brown and Derek Briggs, and new member Earl Blaes.

-- Our discussion covered a request for a minimal budget from the Board for a "welcome" package for new homeowners, some possible changes to the Architectural Guidelines, and ways to facilitate communication between residents and the board.

-- We'd like to ask YOU for your thoughts. Please send any ideas for neighborhood boosts by sending an email to: ambassadors@rha-homes.org. We will discuss, review and if feasible, submit a request to the Board because we are the Eyes, Ears and Voice for RHA.

-- Would you like to join us? Please go to: www.rha-homes.org/street-ambassador-program and read our new program details. Some fresh, positive ideas are always welcome. (Plus, we could use some help distributing the newsletters.) Thanks for your consideration.

irritants and toxins, they have the potential to cause a variety of health problems and can exacerbate existing conditions, such as asthma.

If mold is a problem in your home, maintain humidity below 65% using a dehumidifier or heater. Clean up the mold and get rid of the source of excess water or moisture. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water to prevent recurrence. With spring rains on the way make sure your sump pump (if your home has one) is up to the task.

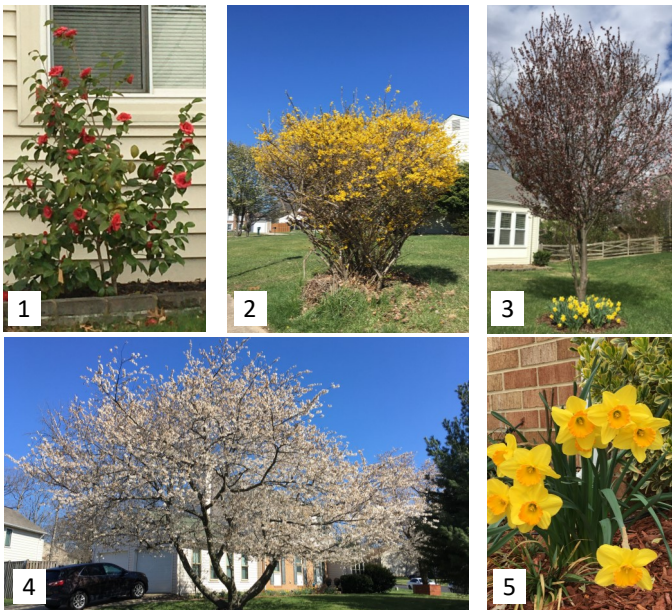
If an area does become water damaged, it is important to dry that space and any damaged items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth. However, any absorbent materials (such as ceiling tiles and carpet) that do become moldy must be replaced.

Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water and dry completely. Use KILZ® Paint Primer before painting drywall and wood surfaces in areas where mold is most likely such as basements.

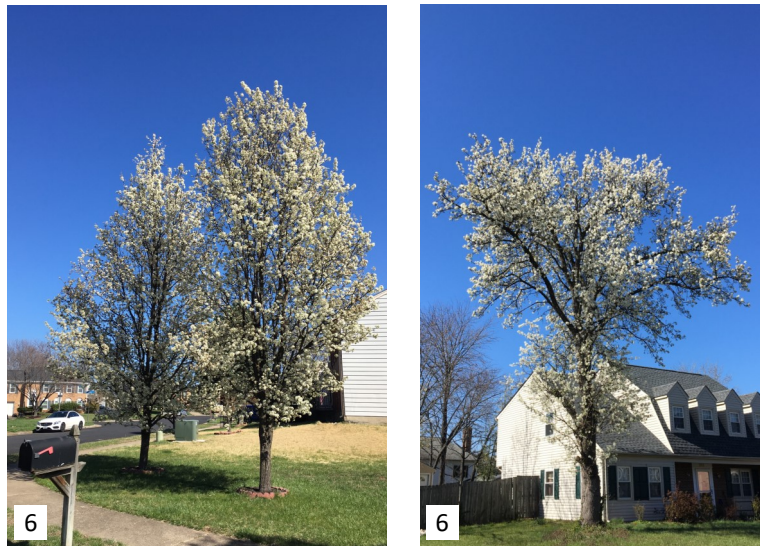
For more information on how to clean up residential mold problems and how to prevent mold growth, download the Environmental Protection Agency's free publication, "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home" at www.epa.gov/mold/pdfs/moldguide.pdf.

More NOTES: The Fairfax Connector, which provides bus service within RHA, is finalizing plans for changes to future bus service, probably to coincide with the summer opening of Phase 2 of the Silver Line Metrorail stations near Herndon and beyond. They want your comments and ideas **until April 15**. View the plan and take the online survey, which can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/TSP. The survey is in at least 10 languages -- Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese and English. Your voice matters!

- Now is the time to apply for 2022 Fairfax County real estate tax relief. Seniors (65 and older) and people with disabilities must apply by **May 2**. (Veterans with Disabilities or Surviving Spouses, Spouses of Military Service Members Killed in Action, and Spouses of First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty can apply any-time.) Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief, call 703-222-8234 or email taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov, to get an application. You can also visit the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 225.5, Fairfax, VA.



RHA in Bloom 1. Camelia 2. Forsythia. 3. Purple Plum 4. Flowering Cherry. 5. Daffodils 6. Bradford Pear



Free LED Bulbs Save You Dollars

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

If you live in an RHA townhouse or detached home and you get your electricity from **Dominion Energy**, you can get a free LED bulb upgrade for your home and lower your power bill.

RHA power provider Dominion Energy is offering this deal on inside and outside home lighting through Dominion contractor Comfenergy.

“Our LEDs are soft white, dimmable, save 30 to 75 percent electricity usage, last for seven to 10 years and cost nothing at all for the homeowner or tenant,” said Mike Bradley, Comfenergy account manager whose company comes out and switches out the bulbs. “LEDs that are a year old or more are less efficient and do not last as long as newer LEDs. We will replace your old LEDs as well as non-LEDs.”



Bradley reports that it doesn't matter if you are a tenant or homeowner to take advantage of the money-saving program. “Either way you can authorize this work. If you feel you need to, you can contact your landlord, but it's not necessary, Bradley said. “After all, what landlord wouldn't want his tenants to save money?”

In 2018, the Virginia State Corporation Commission mandated that Dominion Energy provide energy-saving options to their residential customers, including no-cost LED bulbs. Dominion Energy is required to fund the LED program. To date, Comfenergy has installed LEDs in over 1,800 homes in North-

ern Virginia.

“Comfenergy buys the LEDs wholesale and receives the retail price rebate from Dominion, which allows us to install the LEDs at no cost,” Bradley noted.

Note: Only Dominion offers this LED bulb upgrade program. It does not include the estimated 40 homeowners and renters who live in the section of RHA detached homes whose power comes from Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative. A NOVEC customer service representative pointed out that NOVEC currently doesn't have a free LED bulb upgrade program. However, there may be something similar to Dominion's offering in the future.

To be eligible, RHA Dominion customers already meet the requirement to live within a 30-minute radius of Comfenergy's Sterling, VA, warehouse. You must also:

1. Have a Dominion Energy Account.
2. Be a detached or townhouse owner or renter.
3. Have 50 or more bulbs (combined lamps, ceiling, recessed, chandelier and outside bulbs).

To get started, contact Mike Bradley at: mbradley@comfenergy.com or text/call 703-623-6496 to schedule an installation, which takes about an hour and a half.

“It is very easy and costs nothing,” agreed RHA resident Charles Bailey, who recently took advantage of the program.

****NOTES****

★ **New TH Trash Company:** May 1st, RHA will switch from Bates to **Haulin' Trash**. Watch for a flyer mid-month with more info. ★

Where do we live? Friendly reminder, if asked, say you live in **REFLECTION HOMES** -- not Reflection Lake!

“Coffee With the Commanders”: Monday, April 4th at 10 a.m. at the Reston District Police Station. No agenda. No speeches. Just coffee & conversation. 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston, VA.



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

Jackie Robinson Day: April 15th. Honors & commemorates the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the US. Players wear his #42 jersey in honor of his legacy. His #42 is the only number retired across all of MLB.

Kids Looking for an Easter Egg Hunt? - In an abundance of caution, RCI cancelled its popular Easter Egg Roll for 2022. However, the Town of Herndon is hosting “Hoppy Egg Hunting” for kids ages 2-7 on Saturday, April 16, at Bready Park, 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more info online:

<https://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/hoppy-egg-hunting>

RHA Newsletter submissions: Inputs/comments/suggestions for the May 2022 RHA newsletter are due by Apr 20. Send inputs to:

newsletter@rha-homes.org



April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 (March) 1929 Academy Awards	28	29 1974 VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY	30 MANATEE APPRECIATION DAY	31 Cesar Chavez Day	1 feps holiday April Fool's Day	2 Ramadan
3 1959 Grammy Awards	4 7:00-9:00pm ACC online meeting National HUG A NEWSPERSON Day	5 DEEP DISH PIZZA DAY	6 7:00-9:00pm SA online meeting National Walking Day	7 1948 World Health Day	8	9 National Siblings Day
10 Palm Sunday	11 7:00-9:00pm RHA Board online meeting NATIONAL PET DAY	12 NATIONAL GRILLED CHEESE DAY	13 7:00-9:00pm Recreation online meeting Cambodian New Year	14 Holy Thursday	15 GOOD FRIDAY	16 Passover
17 Easter	18 TAX DAY	19 Polish 10th century DYNGUS DAY	20	21 NATIONAL HIGH FIVE DAY	22 Earth Day 1970	23 World Book Day
24 Orthodox Easter	25	26 UNITED NATIONS Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	27 Administrative Professionals Day	28 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY	29 Arbor Day	30 Lailatul Qadr Independent Bookstore Day

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: RHAboard@RHA-Homes.org and/or newsletter@RHA-Homes.org Visit: <http://rha-homes.org> to read past newsletters, or to request email newsletter delivery.