



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

July 2022



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	July 11
ACC	July 6
Recreation	July 13
SA	July 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:

July 1	Canada Day	
July 4	Independence Day	
July 7	1st day of Hajj	
July 14	Bastille Day	
July 24	Parents' Day	
July 24	Riptides Swim Team End-of-Season Party	
July 28	World War I started 1914	
July 30	Islamic New Year	
Aug 1	Desert Shield began 1990	
Aug 2	National Night Out Party, poolhouse parking lot	

Board:

by Don Nuss, RHA Board President

The Board continues to receive complaints about the trash and large item dumping in the townhomes.

The Board has tried to fix this problem for MANY, MANY years. I have lived in this community since 1988; the problem existed then, and the Board was searching for ways to eliminate the problem then.

At one point, the number of trash pickup days was increased, but it made no difference. Trash and trash cans were out all the time and everywhere.

Currently, the TH trash pickup days are Monday and Thursday. Recycling day is Thursday. Still, there is trash out all the time, and there seems to be an increasing number of people dumping large items like furniture and white goods (washers, dryers, stoves, etc.).

This problem affects both townhome owners AND detached home owners. This is what is happening in the townhomes.

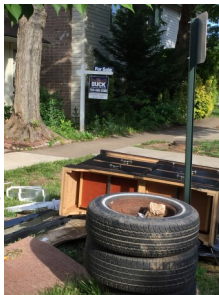
This is **YOUR** community. This is where **YOU** live, and **YOU** can stop this. It doesn't have to look like this. This affects your property values.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

These are the TH trash resolution rules:

- Trash days are Monday and Thursday.
- Recycling day is Thursday.
- Trash/recycling should be placed on **YOUR** property, in front of your own home, **NOT** on common ground.
- Trash/recycling should be placed for pickup no earlier than 7:00 p.m. the night before pickup day.
- Trash/recycling should be in the toters or bins issued by the trash company. **NO** loose plastic bags are allowed.
- Trash/recycling bins should be retrieved by 7:00 p.m. on Monday or Thursday (pickup day).
- Yard debris should be bundled, placed in paper bags, or placed in the toter.
- Large item trash is the responsibility of the homeowner and must be placed for pickup and removed from public view according to the same requirements as trash and recyclables. Large items are defined as: All items, including cardboard and delivery boxes, which will not fit into the trash cans, toters or receptacles described in the trash resolution. To arrange for a large-item pickup, call (703) 559-8558.



There are ways to report violators. Take a photo of them putting out the trash (or just the trash) and send the photo, the date of the infraction, and the violator's address to PM@rha-homes.org

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee approved 3 applications. One was approved for a deck and pergola, one was approved for a new driveway, and one was approved for a new roof. Because of the Independence Day holiday, the next meeting will be **WEDNESDAY**, July 6 at 7:00 PM. *(continued on page 2)*

Save the Date: National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2

National Night Out is a nation-wide, annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Come join us for free food, fun, and friendships. Volunteers are **ESSENTIAL** for this kind of an event. The more volunteers we have, the more games/stations we can have. Some of the things we had last year were a giant Connect Four game, dunk tank, popcorn, ice cream and sno-cones. If you can help, please email georgette.nuss@gmail.com.

RHA Board

President:

Don Nuss

Vice President:

Charlie Marts

Treasurer:

John Hanchulak

Secretary:

Colleen Ward

At Large:

Mike Olson

FirstService Residential:

703-385-1133

800-927-4599

ACC (continued from page 1)

The Committee normally meets once a month on the first Monday of the month. If you wish to submit an application for change, please do so 2-to-3 weeks prior to the meeting so that any questions can be cleared up before the meeting.

DID YOU KNOW...All sidings need to be free from stains that are usually the result of mold, mildew, algae, or moss. Additionally, gutters must be free from any noxious plant growth and debris.

DID YOU KNOW...In the townhomes, one pole bracket and pole is permitted per property without ACC approval.



Owners shall not place banner/flag poles in a location or manner so that such poles interfere with pedestrian traffic on the public or common walks. In the detached homes, two flag/banner poles and brackets per lot on areas in public view are permitted without ACC approval.



This includes a permanent flagpole placed in the ground. Flagpoles require an ACC application that includes location, dimensions and construction details. Let's get those pole brackets up and American flags flying. It's the 4th of July. Let's **CELEBRATE**.

DID YOU KNOW...Collapsible canopies or tents shall not be left up overnight.

DID YOU KNOW...The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, July 6, 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

The June 8 RCI Zoom meeting was called to order with seven members present, to include new members Janine Greenberg and Ginny Rodgers, plus Sequoia Community Manager Dale Edwards. One RCI community member also attended, a new resident who was curious about the workings of the committee.

by Derek Briggs, Brenda Brown & Patsy Velin,
Street Ambassadors

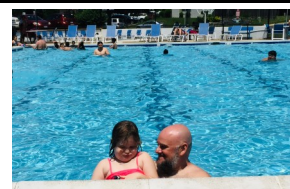
Welcome to Summer!

Time for bar-b-que, swimming, flowers in the yard and maybe some local outings. You may have noticed that the pool is open, and kids are out of school.

In the townhomes, please note that Mondays are **only** for trash pickup. Your recycling **will** be left behind on Monday (and you will need to take it back to your house). Put it out on Thursday and they will get it. Bulk pick-up is simple: call 703-559-8558 to schedule one. Please do not stack trash or your trash/recycling bins on your curb the rest of the week. It's not a nice look for the neighborhood.

We want to stipulate again to residents: the **RCI hang tags** are only good for parking in the pool parking lot. Vehicles with just this tag parked in RHA parking lots are subject to being towed. Please advise the friends and family you give this tag to of its only use.

Edwards reported that "tons" of pool passes were being issued to date. The new fabric for the two 12-foot umbrellas is expected soon.

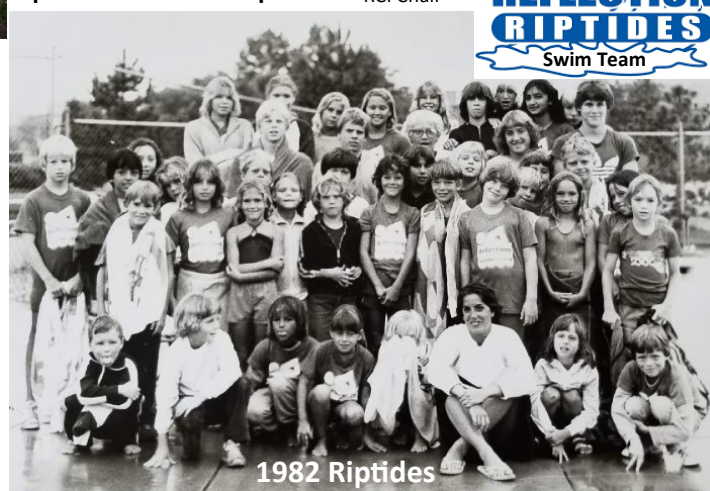


The committee discussed ways to improve the level and frequency of pool-house cleaning. Another topic was shoring up fence security around the pool. Modifications to the easement agreement that governs RCI responsibilities were discussed. The committee also talked about adding recycling bins to the pool deck and lot to encourage the practice of recycling in compliance with Fairfax County policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47p.m. The next meeting date will be July 13.

Riptides Swim Team Update:

by Lourdes Umana,
RCI Chair



1982 Riptides

40 years of Reflection Riptides training young swimmers! The above team photo is from that first 1982 team. Many of those swimmers have had kids & now grandkids on the team. Note the 1982 team coach, Kerrie Wilson, front row 3rd from right. Her mom started the team, & at the June 18 meet, had 4 generations of her family at/in the pool -- awesome!

There are 67 (!!!) registered swimmers this season. At the June 25 meet, Abby J. (11-12 girls) broke the 1988 record for 50m breaststroke, and the team had 51.76% improved times. Wow!

Pool & pool parking lot closings for swim meets are July 13 & 20. (4:30-9pm). Announcement signs will be placed at the lot entrance.

Walking around we have noticed some new neighbors moving in. The street ambassadors would like to greet the new residents and welcome them to RHA. If you have a new family moving in nearby, please let us know. Someone will come by to greet them and deliver a "Welcome Package".



SA "Welcome to RHA Packages" built up & ready for delivery

We are looking for a few new street ambassadors. If you are interested in joining us, e-mail RHABoard@rha-homes.org. We would be happy to have additional members that people can ask if they need to contact the HOA or the management company. We will help with that.

Property Manager’s Corner by Swati Krishnamoorthy, FSR Prop. Mgr

New townhome parking stickers were mailed in early June to all TH owners and go into effect July 1. Owners had until June 30 to notify the management company of non-receipt & to make other arrangements for delivery. After June 30, the only way to receive a sticker is filling out a sticker re-issue form and paying a

Foxes: Friends or Foes?

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

We’ve heard bad stuff about foxes in the metro DC area recently. The fox that killed about 25 flamingoes at the National Zoo in May and the one that attacked or bit up to nine people on Capitol Hill in April come to mind.

Closer to home right here in RHA it’s not unusual to see foxes. In fact our neighbors throughout western Fairfax County have posted multiple fox family sightings on social media apps, many showing frolicking cubs in backyards and woods.



Fox on storm drain, Pocono Ct

But what about rabid foxes? They generally pose little threat to humans, their property or pets in Fairfax, according to officials. “Recent rabies cases involving foxes in Arlington and D.C. might cause concern for nearby neighbors,” David Taube wrote in a May *FFXNow* news article. “But Fairfax has not seen any such incidents so far this year.”

Our county had 11 reported cases of rabies, as of early May this year – 10 raccoons and one groundhog. And those are from 72 animals tested so far, said Bryant Bullock, county rabies manager. The county numbers only between 40 and 60 rabies cases a year, “with bumps in the spring, summer and end of the fall,” Bullock noted. That breaks down into one-half of the cases from raccoons and one-third from foxes, raccoons and skunks. Plus there are a few cases in bats, cats, groundhogs and beavers.

Officials recommend you do not approach a fox acting aggressively or oddly. Call Fairfax County’s non-emergency response line at 703-691-2131 and ask to have an animal control officer dispatched. Visit:

\$25 fee. RHA will not be held responsible for vehicles towed due to non-receipt of stickers, missing stickers, stickers not affixed in the appropriate manner, or if the sticker was not clearly visible on the window. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Customer Service Team at 703-385-1133.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/rabies> for more information or call the Fairfax Health Department at 703-246-2433. In case of an emergency, you can reach a live voice 24 hours a day at 571-274-2296 for rabies-specific questions.

Foxes in urban areas commonly contract mange, a disease caused by mites that affects the skin and hair. Foxes with mange lose fur, have sores and frequently scratch and bite themselves. Fox mange can be contracted by dogs but generally is not a threat to other pets or humans.

Foxes are primarily nocturnal, but they are highly adaptive and can become increasingly active during the day in urban areas. Large red foxes have been known, in some cases, to prey on small cats. Officials say it’s always advisable to feed pets indoors and to keep small pets inside or securely penned at night.



One RHA resident posted security-camera video of a fox carrying what could be a small animal in its jaws across his property one night. And a fox startled another RHA neighbor witnessing it running through a yard and hurdling over a 4-foot fence early one morning.

One county website notes that a fox’s natural diet includes berries, plants, insects and small mammals. They also eat pet food, garbage, and bird feeder seeds. Foxes help control rodent populations by preying on rats and mice.

Congratulations to Our 2022 RHA Graduates!



Alejandra Rivera
GMU Class of 2022



****NOTES****

No Parking Within 10 feet of a Driveway: Per Fairfax County Code 82-5-1(a)(2). Measure it first, and then owners may call the Fairfax County Police Non-emergency Number, 703-691-2131, to report a vehicle too close to their driveway. Be sure to quote the violation code number shown above.

Recycling Rules: No Glass, No Plastic Bags, & No Styrofoam in recycling bins. The entire contents of the bin will be trashed.

Town of Herndon Celebration:
Games & music at 6:30. Fireworks at 9:30pm, July 4 (rain date July 5). Brady Park, 814 Ferndale Ave. But -- you can enjoy watching them from several (well-known to long-time residents) spots along Parcher Ave and other RHA locations.



The Fourth of July would not be the same without those breathtaking fireworks. However, tragedy can strike within seconds when fireworks are not properly and safely used. Thousands of people are injured each year in the United States due to fireworks. Put safety first when using **permissible fireworks**. For an expanded list of fireworks safety tips, as well as information on fireworks safety-related publications, reports, videos, news, and recalls, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) **Fireworks Information Center** online at www.cpsc.gov/en/safety-education



For a list of legal and illegal fireworks for Virginia: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/safety/fireworks.htm>























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



July 2022

National Parks Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 (June)	27	28	29  National Camera Day Swim Meet 4:30-8:30pm	30  NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY	1  HAPPY CANADA DAY!	2  World UFO Day
3  Ruby July Birthstone	4 Independence Day (1776)  AMERICA 4th JULY	5  NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY	6 7:00-9:00pm ★ ACC online meetings 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA	7  First day Hajj	8	9  Eid al-Adha Starts
10  ALL AMERICAN PET PHOTO DAY	11 7:00-9:00pm ★ RHA Board online meeting ★	12	13 7:00-9:00pm ★ Recreation online meeting Swim Meet 4:30-8:30pm	14  Bastille Day France 1789	15  NATIONAL MAC AND CHEESE DAY	16
17  National Ice-Cream Day	18	19	20  1969 NATIONAL MOON DAY Swim Meet 4:30-8:30pm	21	22	23
24  Parent's Day Riptides End-of-Season Party 5-10 pm	25	26	27 Korean War ended (1953)	28  World War I started (1914)	29  National Lasagna Day	30  Islamic New Year International Friendship Day
31	1 (August) ★ 7:00-9:00pm ACC Operation Desert Shield, Kuwait (1990)	2  NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PARTY 6:00-8:00pm National Night Out PARTY Poolhouse Parking Lot	3 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA	4  US Coast Guard Birthday (1790)	5  International Beer Day	6  Tisha B'Av

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.