



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

August 2022



RHA Board & Committee News:

Board:

by Don Nuss, RHA Board President

The Board continues to work on improving lighting in the townhomes. The Board is currently running a trial to gain experience with different types of lighting fixtures with the goal of providing brighter and more maintainable lighting.

The Board passed a motion to hire an off-duty police officer, on a trial basis, to help with parking issues, trash, and the overall security in the community. The officer would have all the authority that an on-duty officer has such as writing tickets and making arrests.

The trash situation in the townhomes remains out-of-control. Despite repeated pleas from homeowners and the Board, some townhome residents persist in placing trash and large items in the common areas rather than where they should be—in front of their home. Townhome residents are reminded that there are ways to report violators. Take a photo of them putting out the trash (or just the trash and the address) and send the photo, the date of the infraction, and the violator's address to PM@rha-homes.org. To arrange for a large-item pickup, follow the directions in the ACC article in this month's newsletter, below.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, there were no applications for change. The next meeting will be **MONDAY**, August 1 at 7:00

PM. 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... Taking care of your lawn does not mean simply mowing it. If, after it is mowed it appears your lawn looks more like you harvested it because it had been so long since its last mowing, you need to rake it. In order to avoid that, either mow the lawn twice at two different heights, or mow it once and rake the lawn after you mow it. In addition, residents in the detached homes are required to edge their sidewalks. There are some sidewalks in the detached homes where it is impossible to be able to walk side-by-side without stumbling on protruding clumps of grass. Plus, it looks a lot nicer when it's edged. In both the townhomes and the detached homes, the job is not done until all the grass clippings are removed from the sidewalks.



DID YOU KNOW... The ACC is concerned with all aspects of keeping property values up—not just approving applications for change. However, the ACC needs everyone's help to maintain a beautiful community. If you live in the townhomes and have a large item of trash to pick up, you will need to call Haulin' Trash, (703) 559-8558.

(continued on page 2)

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2, 6-8pm

Come join friends and family at the clubhouse parking lot for our annual **National Night Out** celebration.

There will be many games, popcorn, snow cones, and a giant slip-n-slide. Remember...swimsuits are appropriate.



(see NNO history on page 4)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Board Aug 8
- ACC Aug 1
- Recreation Aug 10
- SA Aug 3

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:

- Aug 2 Operation Desert Shield began 1990
- Aug 2 **National Night Out Party, poolhouse parking lot**
- Aug 4-7 4-H Fair & Carnival at Frying Pan Farm Park
- Aug 5-7 VA Sales Tax Holiday
- Aug 15 V-J Day 1945
- Aug 22 **FCPS 1st day of school**
- Sept 2-5 FCPS Labor Day holiday
- Sept 5 Labor Day
- Sept 5 Pool closes at 8pm

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

<https://natw.org>

ACC (continued from page 1)

Tell Haulin' Trash you have a large item to pick up. They will give you a specific date when they will pick the item up. At 7:00 p.m., or later, the night before the date they give you, put the item out on YOUR lot (not Common area!). Do not put the item out earlier than that.

DID YOU KNOW...All pets must be kept on a leash when outside of a resident's private yard as **required** by county law. All Owners are required by county law and the Association to clean up pet waste **immediately** after its deposit or will be subject to fines if **pets** are found unleashed or pet waste is not removed.

DID YOU KNOW... The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **MONDAY**, August 1, 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 committee met virtually on July 13 with seven members present, along with Sequoia Community Manager Dale Edwards. One community resident also attended the meeting to observe.

Among issues presented in his management report, Edwards updated the committee on his next steps to improve pool fence security as well as progress to identify and remove downed trees in the RCI common area.

The committee approved a plan to improve the level and frequency of poolhouse cleaning. Also, the body voted to reduce monthly phone bills by upgrading phone service technology.

"Overuse of a Common by its Commoners"

by Mike Olson, RHA Board Member at Large

In 1833 British economist William Forster Lloyd published an essay that introduced the concept of the "overuse of a common by its commoners." In 19th Century England, farmers grazed their cattle on shared lands, called 'Commons'. In his essay, he gave the example of one farmer putting more cattle into the shared pasture. At some point, the additional cattle would cause the grass to be depleted and the community of farmers would suffer. More recently, this concept came to be known as the "Tragedy of the Commons" in a 1968 article by ecologist Garrett Hardin and has since been applied to a variety of disciplines.

What does this have to do with RHA? We are all members of an association who own private property (our homes and lots) and collectively have use of common properties, or what we call the (townhome) common area. While we're not grazing cattle, it is in our common interest to respect the areas we collectively own.

That means putting trash and recycling in the proper containers and putting them in front of your home only on pickup days: Monday and Thursday for trash; Thursday for recycle. Large items will be picked up from your home by appointment, by calling or sending an email to Haulin' Trash.

Let's not turn our commons into a tragedy.

One other area discussed was progress on a Request for Proposals to upgrade security camera application in the RCI areas of responsibility.

The next meeting date is set for August 10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47p.m.



Riptides Swim Team Update:

by Lourdes Umana, RCI Chair

Our 40th year! Thanks to all the parents, volunteers, Head Coach Chase Cooksey, Assistant Coach Calla Cooksey, and, of course, to the 67 (!!) talented & eager young swimmers in the program this summer!

Since early June, we've enjoyed home meets, away meets, records broken, learning & improving strokes, car wash fundraisers, the end-of-season party July 24, & most of all we had fun!

See you next year!



Street Ambassador Quiz (answers on page 3)

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

1. What time does the pool close and when does pool season end?
2. How many townhouses are in Reflection Homes Association (RHA)?
3. How many detached homes are in RHA?
4. What company manages RHA?
5. What's the official name of the organization that is responsible for the pool, poolhouse and all the common areas bordering the creek?
6. How tall can vegetables grow in my front yard?
7. When is National Night Out at the pool this year?
8. Is a hang tag needed to park at the pool?
9. Are vehicles allowed to park overnight at the pool?
10. How many welcome packages have been delivered?
11. Can I write articles for the newsletter?
12. Is the Lake Homes community a part of RHA?
13. What am I going to get to help me remember all this great information?



Answers to SA Quiz (from Page 2)

1. 8:00 p.m. The pool closes Labor Day, September 5.
2. 388 town houses
3. 198 detached houses
4. FirstService Residential Management, email pm@rha-homes.org
5. Recreation Committee, Inc., (RCI), managed by Sequoia Management, email rci@sequoiangmt.info
6. 4 feet
7. Tuesday night, August 2, 6-8pm.
8. Yes, with a hangtag that reads RCI Parking Permit followed by 3 numbers
9. Yes, with the RCI hangtag
10. The Street Ambassadors have delivered 9 welcome packages and have tried to deliver 4 more, but folks were not home.
11. Yes, anyone can submit an article to email: newsletter@rha-homes.org
12. No, Lake Homes is governed by Lake Homes Association (LHA). Both LHA and RHA share the pool and common areas under RCI (see answer #5 above).
13. Coming soon, free refrigerator magnets with important contact info for all

Those Thingies Up There on Our Lights...

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

Is "Big Brother" prying into our lives as we wait for a green signal at that busy entrance to our RHA community? Is he doing the same at each streetlight along Parcher Avenue?

Why would anyone think that? Because there are thingies attached to that traffic-light structure and atop each tall streetlight on our main thoroughfare. You haven't noticed them? They're up there -- and they're up to something!



First, the traffic light. The Town of Herndon is responsible for traffic control at our bustling four-way intersection, which sits on land either in the town or in Fairfax County. Those devices above that look like cameras pointing at our vehicles and us are really sensors. They work together with pressure plates embedded in the pavement at the inter-

section that control when the traffic signals should change. A Herndon officer emphasized that those "cameras" can't and don't take or record any photos or video footage.

And about the thingies on our streetlights? If you look atop each lamp, you'll see a black object. Could it be a security lens of some sort, that feeds into a bank of control center screens spying on the very ground we walk or drive along Parcher Avenue? Not hardly. Simple answer: On top of each street-lamp is a black photocell. Its job is to tell the light when to turn on at dusk or turn off at dawn. No drama there.



So for now we'll have to look elsewhere for others' attempts to spy on us, maybe overflying drones or phone apps silently collecting all kinds of data on us. That's a story for another day. But know that the way into and through RHA is controlled by the kind of technology that makes our daily lives a bit safer and easier to navigate.

It's the MOST wonderful time of the year for VOLUNTEERING!!

by Colleen Ward, RHA Secretary

Next month, owners will have a volunteer opportunity that only comes once a year! If you are interested in working with other owners in the planning and decision making for our community, these opportunities are for you! To get a sneak peek at what the opportunities involve, attend the August RCI and/or RHA August meetings! During the meeting, you will learn issues both groups are facing and see for yourself, what is expected. RCI is a particularly interesting opportunity as you will not just meet RHA owners, but our neighboring Lake Homes owners as well! See you there!

Voided TH Parking Stickers (as of July 26, 2022)

- 1, 2, 49, 50, 65, 66, 157, 158,
- 141, 142, 207, 208, 287, 288,
- 295, 296, 301, 302, 345, 346,
- 371, 372, 415, 416, 465, 466,
- 475, 476, 499, 500, 527, 528,
- 561, 562, 563, 564, 655, 656,
- 657, 658

The above sticker numbers have been reported to Battlefield Towing, and any vehicle parked in a RHA lot with these numbers is subject to towing.



****NOTES****

Back to School: FCPS first day of school is Aug 22. Do your children have their required immunizations? If your child is entering 7th grade, they must have the Meningitis and Tdap vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor & vaccinate them now!



Send us Your Sidewalks! The cracked, the worn, the broken, yearning to be repaired/replaced. OK, well maybe not your actual sidewalk, a picture will do!

The Board is working on requests to repair the sidewalks within the RHA community. This request is for all sidewalks (detached and townhome) within the RHA area, except for the walkway to your home. The walkway to your home is the owner's responsibility. Please include the street name, and closest home address to Sidewalks@RHA-Homes.org

The County 4-H Fair & Carnival returns to Frying Pan Farm Park, (2709 West Ox Rd, Herndon) Thursday, Aug 4 through Sunday Aug 7. For more info, visit: [Bit.ly/4HFair-Carnival](https://bit.ly/4HFair-Carnival)

Virginia's 3-Day Sales Tax Holiday is Aug 5-7. Buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, emergency preparedness items, etc without paying state sales tax.



For the list, visit: tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday

Numbered TH Parking Spaces. TH residents, Please advise your visitors and service contractors not to park in any numbered parking space, as they may be towed. Numbered spaces are assigned to specific homes.

National Night Out info: started in 1981 as "National Association of Town Watch", & became NNO in 1984. It's a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships & neighborhood camaraderie. On Aug 2 nationwide. Show neighborhood unity, keep your front porch light on, & come to your local celebration.

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



Back to School Month

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 (July)	1 7:00-9:00 ★ ACC <i>online meeting</i> Operation Desert Shield, Kuwait (1990)	2 6:00-8:00pm National Night Out PARTY Poolhouse Parking Lot	3 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA <i>online meeting</i> NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY	4 US Coast Guard Birthday (1790)	5 International Beer Day <i>observed by over 50 countries</i>	6 Tisha B'Av
7 National Sister Day 1782 PURPLE HEART DAY	8 7:00-9:00pm ★ RHA Board ★ <i>online meeting</i> INTERNATIONAL CAT DAY	9 Book Lovers Day	10 7:00-9:00pm ★ Recreation <i>online meeting</i>	11 Peridot Aug. Birthstone	12 International Youth Day	13 International Left-Handers Day
14 Assumption	15 Victory over Japan Day, 1945. End of WW2	16 NATIONAL TELL A JOKE DAY	17	18	19 National Aviation Day Orville Wright's birthday 1871	20 National Radio Day invented 1895
21 Senior Citizens Day	22 FCPS Back to School!	23	24	25	26 19th Amendment passed, 1926 Women's Equality Day	27 National Dog Day
28 MTV Video Music Awards 1984	29	30	31 Overdose Awareness Day	1 (September)	2 FCPS Labor Day holiday Sept 2-5	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: 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.