



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

September 2022



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Sept 12
ACC	Sept 6
Recreation	Sept 14
SA	Sept 7

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:

Sept 2-5	FCPS Labor Day holiday
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 5	Pool closes at 8pm
Sept 16	POW-MIA Recognition Day
Sept 17	Reston Multicultural Festival
Sept 22	1st day of Autumn
Sept 23-Oct 3	VA State Fair
Sept 26	Rosh Hashanah (fcps holiday)
Sept 28	2023 Budget Meeting (tentative)
Oct 5	VA Personal Property Tax payments due

Board:

by Don Nuss, RHA Board President

The RHA Board meets on the second Monday of the month. At its last meeting, the Board discussed and addressed the following items:

Townhome Drainage and Erosion. Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District has been contacted to schedule a visit to come out and view the drainage and erosion issues in the townhomes and provide technical assistance with defining the most appropriate solution.

Sign Repair. Property Management is soliciting quotes for straightening and repairing signs around the community.

Townhome Recycling Bins. The recycling bins have arrived at Haulin' Trash. The Board is working with them to schedule delivery of the bins .

Hiring an Off-duty Police Officer. Efforts are underway to create a job description for this person.

Revised ACC guidelines. Efforts are underway to update the ACC guidelines and merge the townhome and detached home versions into one document with a new and different format.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Georgette Nuss, ACC Chair

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee reviewed and approved all 5 applications on the agenda. There were two appli-

cations for new fences, one application for a new roof, one application for new gutters, and one application for a new porch. The next meeting will be **TUESDAY**, September 6 at 7:00 PM. The Committee normally meets once a month on the first Monday of the month unless there is a holiday. 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... If you are considering making a change to your house, you can access a copy of the change application on the RHA website at <https://rha-homes.org/acc-committee>. Just scroll to the bottom of the page and make the appropriate choice.

DID YOU KNOW... There are different times to trim trees and shrubs. Some common evergreens to prune after the first frost during the upcoming winter in Northern Virginia include:

- Boxwood
- Holly (don't prune hollies during the growing season or you'll remove the berries)
- Live oak
- Southern magnolia

If you wish to shape other shrubs, particularly spring-flowering ones like azaleas, wait until they are done blooming next spring. If you prune them now, you will be cutting off the buds that will have bloomed next year. If you're not sure what to do, the best thing is to check with your favorite nursery for your particular tree or shrub.

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September: See Something, Say Something Month



We as neighbors play a key role in the "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign that works to empower and educate the public on suspicious activity and how to report it. It's more than a slogan. It's how we protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities. Please put the **Fairfax County Non-Emergency Number, 703-691-2131**, on your cell phone contact list. If it is an emergency, always call 911 first; call if you can, text if you can't. Visit: dhs.gov/see-something-say-something to learn more.

The 5W's: If you see suspicious activity, report it to law enforcement and describe specifically what you observed, including:

- **Who** or **what** you saw;
- **When** you saw it;
- **Where** it occurred; and
- **Why** it's suspicious.

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)

DID YOU KNOW... The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY**, September 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 committee conducted a Zoom meeting on August 10 with five members present, plus Sequoia Community Manager Dale Edwards.

Among administrative and routine issues discussed were several needs:

- replenish mulch in, and remove weeds from tot lots;
- remove debris clogging the creek;



-- address damage in the park area from recent storms (downed tree limbs, etc.); and

-- consider a deep cleaning of the pool house.

The committee voted to set up a date to provide **FREE snow cones** to members of the community. On Saturday Aug. 20 at the pool house an estimated 50-60 children and adults enjoyed the delicious, cold treats, made and handed out by RHA board members Don Nuss and Mike Olson, and RCI member Georgette Nuss. Reportedly, blue raspberry was the favorite flavor.



The RCI members also voted to donate the leftover cases of bottled water from the National Night Out gathering (Aug 2) to the Reston District of the Fairfax County Police Department, the unit that patrols our community. The water was subsequently delivered with a note of "thanks for all you do...from the residents of Reflection Homes Association and Lake Homes Association."

The next RCI meeting date is set for Wednesday, September 14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

An Expensive Lesson: Parking, Mail Boxes, & Yellow Curbs

by Brenda Brown, Street Ambassador

YELLOW CURBS and LANES: Those yellow curbs and lanes are considered "Fire Lanes". These areas provide clear access for fire and emergency personnel and their equipment in the event of an emergency. **NO BLOCKING, UNLOADING, or PARKING** in these areas 24 hours a day.

MAILBOXES: Are you expecting medicine, tax returns, stimulus checks, or a card or letter from a family member? ...**NOT** if you or your guests continue to block the mailboxes. It inhibits the mail carrier from having access to the box to deliver the mail.

Fairfax County Parking Officers are actively watching:

I did this on a Saturday night at 11pm and on Sunday morning at 8am, I had a \$75 ticket for this violation. Again, I was lucky:



I could have been both ticketed and towed.

RHA Street Ambassador's "Night Out"

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

It was so hot yet still delightful. More than 100 neighbors came to the Pool parking lot for **National Night Out** on Aug 2. The best part was all the adults sitting together under the trees, talking, drinking the cold water provided and enjoying the cool breeze. Or maybe, the best part was the children laughing and playing games of Rope Ladder, Slip and Slide, Hop Scotch and more. But the really best part was the refreshing, multi-flavored snow cones. More than 300 were scooped. The more than 20 kettles of popcorn were also a treat. Then I met my new friend, 11-year old Melissa, who wants to be a police officer when she



grows up. More than anything, she wanted to see the inside of a police car. Voila, along came Fairfax County Police Officer Lieutenant Mike to grant her wish. Georgette Nuss achieved another evening of magic and recruited eager volunteers to ensure the evening's success. The motorcycle police roared into the lot, handing out treats and noting how our event was much more crowded than all the other events that evening. Thanks again to all who attended and helped make it a fun night out. Looking forward to next year. Don't miss it.



A Good Night Out

by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer

'Twas another good annual **National Night Out** for the Reflection and Lakes Homes communities to come together on the poolhouse lot on Aug. 2.



Chief organizer Georgette Nuss estimated between 100 and 125 residents enjoyed the festivities. "We served 200 bags of popcorn and 300 snow cones," she said.

"The kids enjoyed racing their friends on a dual-lane slip 'n' slide," she noted, describing a water slide that turned out to be the most

popular activity of the evening. staying open at least 20 minutes past the official 8pm NNO ending to accommodate the long lines. The cornhole, or bean bag toss, proved to be a very popular game, while some youth chose to cool down by running through or standing close to water sprinklers.

led by Assistant Commander Lt. Michael Gubesch, engaged with adults and children alike. While moving among attendees, Gubesch told one resident that he expected the bicycle patrols to resume soon in the neighborhood after being suspended because of the pandemic and manpower shortages. Also, two motorcycle unit officers were on hand to show off their two-wheelers' flashing blue lights and engine exhaust sounds.

"It was a wonderful evening of fun," said Nuss. She thanked all the volunteers, pointing out "we could not have 'pulled it off' without you."



Besides watching their children have fun, adults mingled with their friends and old and new neighbors.

Fairfax County police officers from the Reston District,

NOTES

Trail to Herndon Metro: An 8-foot wide asphalt pedestrian and bike trail will be constructed from the intersection of Worldgate Drive and Van Buren Street to the Herndon Metrorail Station pavilion entrance. The Town of Herndon recently approved \$410,000 for the project, which could open as early as next year.

Send us Your Sidewalks! 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

Call For Candidates! The **RHA 2022 Annual Meeting** will be **Tues, Nov 8**. This year we will elect **2 Board members**. If you are interested in serving your community, send your name and contact info to PM@rha-homes.org by **Thursday, Sept 22** to be included on the ballot.

RHA 2023 Budget Meeting. A meeting to discuss the 2023 budget is tentatively scheduled for Sept 28. Check rha-homes.org for updates.

National Cinema Day is September 3, and movie tickets at most theatres nationwide (including Worldgate AMC) will be just \$3.



Virginia's Personal Property Tax payments are due on Oct 5.

The Free Covid-19 test kits program is suspended as of Sept 2. If you have kits on hand that are nearing their expiration date, please note that most have been extended by the FDA. Check status of yours at: www.fda.gov

Vietnamese and Korean Speakers are needed as election officers for the November general election. Persons who fluently speak Vietnamese and English, or Korean and English are needed in several Fairfax County election precincts. To apply, visit: Vote4Fairfax.com/Apply or for more info visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov and search for "working at the polls".

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



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 (August) 1984 MTV Video Music Awards	29	30	31 Overdose Awareness Day	1	2 FCPS Labor Day holiday Sept 2-5	3 NATIONAL CINEMA DAY \$3 movie tickets!
4	5 Labor Day	6 7:00-9:00 ★ ACC online meeting Read A Book Day	7 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting	8	9	10 Sapphire Sept Birthstone
11 Grandparents Day	12 7:00-9:00pm ★ RHA Board ★ online meeting EMMY AWARDS	13	14 7:00-9:00pm ★ Recreation online meeting	15	16 M.I.A. RECOGNITION DAY	17 until Oct 2 Oktoberfest
18	19 INTERNATIONAL TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY	20 National Voter Registration Day	21	22 Fall begins	23	24
25 Gold Star Mothers Day	26 FCPS holiday Rosh Hashana	27	28	29	30 INTERNATIONAL PODCAST DAY	1 (October) World Vegetarian 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.