



# The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

December 2022



## RHA Board & Committee News:

### Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Dec 12
ACC	Dec 5
Recreation	Jan 11
SA	Dec 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](http://www.rha-homes.org)

### Important Dates:

Dec 3	SA coffee & donuts @ Maleady & Parcher
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day 
Dec 17	Wreaths Across America
Dec 18	Hanukkah begins ( <i>sundown</i> )
Dec 19-Jan 2	fcps Winter Break
Dec 21	1st Day of Winter
Dec 21	RHA Decorations awards
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Boxing Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa begins
Dec 31	New Year's Eve
Jan 1, 2023	New Year's Day
Jan 2	New Year's observed
Jan 3	fcps back to school

### RHA Board

Don Nuss  
 Charlie Marts  
 John Hanchulak  
 Nick Viau  
 Mike Olson

(Board positions TBD Dec 12)

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FirstService Residential (FSR):  
 703-385-1133  
 800-927-4599 (24 hour)

### Board of Directors:

by Mike Olson & Charlie Marts, Board members

The **2022 RHA Annual Meeting** was held Tuesday November 8. This year's meeting was again conducted in a hybrid format to accommodate residents who desired to cast their votes in person. Four homeowners attended in person and six joined via Zoom. Our Bylaws require a quorum of 10% of townhome owners and 10% of detached home owners to participate in order to conduct a meeting. In addition to those present, we received 56 townhome proxies and 36 detached home proxies, so quorum was met.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect two Board members, but traditionally, we begin by presenting an award to the **RHA "Good Neighbor of the Year"**. This year Lois Olson was honored for her tireless Newsletter Team efforts in producing and distributing the RHA monthly newsletter and volunteering at various Community events, particularly National Night Out.



Good Neighbor of the Year Lois Olson (left) & RHA President Don Nuss (right)

Since there were two candidates for the two open Board seats, Mike Olson and Nick Viau, both were appointed to the RHA Board for a 3 year term. Board positions (president, vice president, etc) will be voted on at the December 12 meeting.

### **Metro Silver Line is Here!**

by Mike Olson, RHA Board member

After more than 50 years, the Metro Silver Line extension began passenger service November 15 after ribbon cutting ceremonies at Dulles Airport, Innovation Station, Herndon Station and Reston Station.

In addition to remarks from U.S.

Representative Gerry Connolly, State Senator Jennifer Boysko, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay, Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem and others, **Dranesville Supervisor John Foust** described the impact the **Innovation Station** will have on the community as a "game changer for residents and businesses by reducing single vehicle trips, reducing climate and carbon footprints and increasing access to affordable housing."

If you haven't signed up for clickpay, check your mailbox since your 2023 assessment coupons will be mailed in early December. If you have not signed into the FirstService Residential Connect, now might be a good time to do so and check your account balance.

The board recently audited trees in the common areas of the community and identified 24 trees to be pruned, removed, or replaced. The work should start in December.

The Street Ambassadors will be on the corner of Parcher and Maleady Saturday December 3 from 9-11am to say hello and offer donuts, coffee and hot chocolate to neighbors (rain date Dec 10).



### Architectural Control Committee:

by Brenda Brown, ACC member

At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the ACC, the Committee approved 3 applications. There was one application for a new fence, one to replace windows and patio doors, and one to replace siding. The next meeting will be **MONDAY**, December 5 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...**Temporary holiday decorations, including but not limited to lights, flags and banners that commemorate a specific holiday and are seasonally appropriate, do not need approval,

(continued on page 2)



Innovation Station ribbon cutting

**ACC** (continued from page 1)

But are permitted to remain on the exterior of the home and the Lot for only thirty (30) days prior to and after the specific commemorated holiday. Please plan accordingly.

**DID YOU KNOW...**All Owners must trim all shrubbery, landscaping and plants on private Lots in a manner so as to not impede pedestrian traffic or pose a safety risk. In addition, **all branches of trees overhanging public sidewalks must be trimmed to a height of not less than seven (7) feet.**



**DID YOU KNOW...**The next ACC meeting is scheduled for **MONDAY**, December 5, 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**.

**Recreation Committee, Inc. (RCI):** by Gene Harper, RCI Treasurer  
The committee met virtually on Nov. 9. Six members were present, to include newly appointed member Earl Blaes. Sequoia Community Manager Dale Edwards was also in attendance

After further deliberation about potential versus actual dollar savings and possible service interruptions, members voted to retain the current landline connection in the poolhouse instead of changing to broadband internet connection, known as Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP). Also discussed were further steps toward the request for proposals for upgrades to security cam-

eras in RCI.

The committee wrapped up discussions that had been ongoing during many months' meetings and approved retaining contracts with Peter's Landscape Inc., High Sierra Pools and Sequoia Management.

Final approval was voted on the 2023 budget. Members also agreed that any excess 2023 assessment income will be applied to the 2024 assessment.

Work progressed on the poolhouse rental agreement, with discussion about insurance coverage and the need to seek a final legal review before adoption to ensure reasonable safeguards are in place. The next meeting date is set for January 11 at 7 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Street Ambassadors: All RHA Winter Decoration Event**  
by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

RHA will host an All RHA Homes Winter Decoration Event for our 586 residents. **Awards** will be given for the most creative Winter Decorations with **Visa gift cards of: 1<sup>st</sup> place \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$50 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$25.** The judges are looking for store bought or homemade decorations (children's art accepted and encouraged) on windows as well as on the home and yard creating a visual, wonderful Winter Decoration home.



If you would like to participate or have any questions, please email: [ambassadors@rha-homes.com](mailto:ambassadors@rha-homes.com). Please have decorations completed by December 14. Judging will take place between December 16 and the 19. Awards will be delivered by December 21. We thank you for your participation. Good Luck!

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by Charlie Marts,  
Board member

**The leaves have fallen -- do you need to prune your trees??**

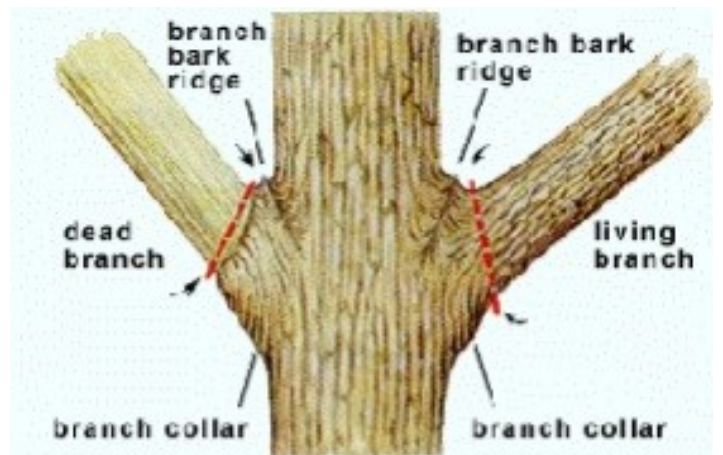
Winter is a good time to **prune or remove trees** on your owner lot that may be dead, too close to structures or have branches that overhang sidewalks and neighbor's property. **Prune dead branches and live branches** that overhang sidewalks and neighbors property. (note: see ACC article above for RHA specifics)

Making the correct cut is usually easy because the branch collar and the branch bark ridge, can be distinguished from the dead branch, because they continue to grow as shown in Figure 1. Make the pruning cut just outside of the ring of wound wood tissue that has formed. Large branches should be supported with one hand to avoid ripping the bark or trunk.

Pruning Guidelines

To encourage the development of a strong, healthy tree, consider the following guidelines when pruning.

- \* Never prune trees that are touching or near utility lines; instead consult your local utility company.
- \* Avoid pruning trees when you might increase susceptibility to important pests (e.g. in areas where oak wilt exists, avoid pruning oaks in the spring and early summer; prune fruit trees susceptible to blight only during the winter dormant season).
- \* Avoid pruning spring-flowering trees (dogwood, redbud,



yellowwood, azalea, etc.) until after they bloom next spring.

- \* Remove any branches that rub or cross another branch.
- \* Ideally, lateral branches should be evenly spaced on the main stem of young trees.
- \* Use the following decision guide for size of branches to be removed:
  - 1) under 2 inches in diameter - go ahead
  - 2) between 2 to 4 inches in diameter - think twice.
  - 3) greater than 4 inches in diameter - have a good reason.

### New Common Area Trees Planted

RHA has removed quite a few trees in the past few years -- some had grown just too large (several sycamore trees), a few were doing poorly in their location (some evergreens), and others were killed by insects (Ash trees).

But in November, we (or rather, Peter's Landscaping) planted ten young trees throughout the Town Home common areas: **3 Cherry trees and 7 Willow Oaks.** All should provide welcome color & shade in the years to come. Right now, the plan is that more will be planted next year in other areas (several more spots have been identified). Please feel free to make recommendations to the board.



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### Your Street Ambassadors in Action!

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

#### November 5 FREE Coffee, Donuts and Bottled Water



Many RHA neighbors started their Saturday, November 5, with a drive-by at our **RHA Donut and Coffee Stand** at the corner of Aiken and Apgar. Some folks got out of their vehicles to visit, indulged on FREE Coffee and Donuts, read and took copies of the Emergency Preparedness

information along with the newly printed refrigerator magnets and just smiled and enjoyed the friendship. The RHA Board provided all these FREE items to help our community get to know each other better. The event was so popular, we ran out of all our supplies by 11:00 am. Thank you for attending!

**Our last event was soooooooo popular,** our RHA Board has approved another **FREE** Coffee, Donuts and Bottled Water event on December 3, Saturday morning, between 9:00 and 11:00 am at the corner of Parcher and Maleady.

#### Property Manager Corner

by Swati Krishnamoorthy, FSR Prop. Mgr

**Annual meeting comments** – Congratulations to the newest Board member – Nicholas Viau and we would like to thank and appreciate the outgoing Board member – Colleen Ward for her efforts towards the community.

**Assessments for 2023 remain the same** \$84.42/monthly for Townhomes and \$ 99.73 annual for the detached. Coupons are on their way and will arrive soon.

Ambassadors will set up tables and even try to make Hot Chocolate!!!! If you see a crazy lady in the middle of the street stopping traffic, that's Brenda. She's real friendly!



Emergency Preparedness hand-outs and other freebies from local vendors will be available. Please stop by and visit. *(In case of inclement weather, we will re-schedule to December 10.)*



Thank you and see you soon. Your Street Ambassadors.



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#### Voided TH Parking Stickers (as of November 29, 2022)

- 1, 2, 49, 50, 62, 65, 66, 141, 142, 157, 158, 163, 164, 207, 208, 275, 287, 288, 295, 296, 301, 302, 345, 346, 363, 364, 371, 372, 415, 416, 465, 466, 475, 476, 499, 500, 527, 528, 555, 561, 562, 563, 564, 655, 656, 657, 658, 733, 734, 794, 795, 796, 797, 818, 819

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\*\*\*\*

No "Cookies With Santa" this year. In an abundance of caution, the popular (over 300 kids greeted Santa in 2019!!) "Cookies With Santa" event is cancelled this year. Sigh.

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**Wolf Trap Annual Holiday Sing-Along.** FREE. Saturday, December 3 at 4pm (gates open at 3pm) at the Filene Center. Led by the US Marine Corps Band & local choirs.

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**National Wreaths Across America Ceremony.** 12 noon, rain or shine, Saturday, December 17, at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Rd, Herndon. Come attend the ceremony and then place a wreath on one of the 920 identified veteran gravesites at the cemetery. This is the 9th year Herndon has participated in the National ceremony whose mission is to: Remember our fallen US veterans. Honor those who serve. Teach our children the value of Freedom.



**Toys For Tots.** Donate some new, unused, unwrapped toys. (note: cannot be toys considered to be weapons) Request a toy for a deserving youngster. Drop boxes for donations are at all Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Fire Stations through Dec 11. **The Marine Corps Toys For Tots** website <http://www.toysfortots.org> has info on both donating & requesting toys. Requests are made through local sponsor organizations (not to the Marines!!).



**Town Home Trash Situation.** On Wednesday, November 30th, the board was made aware that our current contracted trash company, **Haulin' Trash, has filed for bankruptcy** and will no longer be providing trash service. The board and our property management company, FSR, are currently soliciting vendors for short and long term trash service. Please visit the RHA website or sign up for FSR connect to see the latest developments. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please spread the word to TH neighbors that there will be a short-term hiatus to trash until the board enters a new contract.

RHA Newsletter submissions: Inputs/comments/suggestions for the January 2023 RHA newsletter are due by December 20. Send inputs to: [newsletter@rha-homes.org](mailto:newsletter@rha-homes.org)



# December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 (November)  Advent begins	28  CYBER MONDAY	29  Giving Tuesday	30	1  World AIDS Day	2	3 9:00-11:00am SA Coffee & Donuts @ Parcher & Maleady
4  Second Sunday of Advent	5 7:00-9:00 ★ ACC online meeting  International VOLUNTEER DAY	6	7 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting  1941 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY	8  Feast of the Immaculate Conception	9	10 Rain Date from Dec 3
11  Third Sunday of Advent	12 7:00-9:00pm ★ RHA Board ★ online meeting  SALE Green Monday	13  NATIONAL COCOA DAY	14	15  Bill of Rights Day	16	17  WREATHS across AMERICA 12 Noon, Chestnut Grove Cemetery
18  Hanukkah (8 days) starts Fourth Sunday of Advent	19  jcps Winter Break Dec 19 - Jan 2	20  Home Decoration Winners announced	21  1st Day of Winter	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 
25 Christmas Day	26  Boxing Day  KWANZAA	27	28  GOOD RIDDANCE DAY SHRED-IT AND FORGET IT	29	30 Official End of WWII 1946	31 New Year's Eve  Happy New Year!

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