



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

March 2024



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	March 11
ACC	March 4
Recreation (hybrid)	March 19
SA	March 27

Until further notice, all meetings will be **online** at 7 p.m. & are subject to change.

The RHA website has instructions on attending online meetings.

www.rha-homes.org

Important Dates:

Mar 5	VA Presidential Primary Election (fcps holiday)
Mar 8	International Women's Day
Mar 10	Daylight Saving Time begins
Mar 11	Ramadan first day
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar 19	Nowruz (Persian New Year)
Mar 20	Spring begins
Mar 23	Purim
Mar 24	Palm Sunday
Mar 25	Holi, Festival of Colors
Mar 25-29	FCPS Spring Break
Mar 30	Easter Egg Hunt
Mar 31	Easter Sunday
Apr 1	April Fool's Day

Board of Directors:

by John Hanchulak, Board President

Spring is just around the corner, and it's time for some Spring cleaning! In the coming months, RHA will undergo a comprehensive community-wide inspection to ensure we're all in compliance with the ACC guidelines. We've heard that there's some confusion between the ACC rules for townhomes and detached homes so the wonderful volunteers of the ACC are simplifying and consolidating the guidance. Keep an eye out for more information.

Also, new signage will be posted around the community advising residents and non-residents to refrain from dumping trash in the common area. If you see someone dumping trash, please call FirstService Residential (703-385-1133) and, if it's excessive, call the Fairfax County Police non-emergency line (703-691-2131) to report. As we all know, dumping is a serious issue in the community and county, and it requires all of us to remain vigilant.

Just as a reminder, trash and recycling should be in containers and out only after dusk the night before pickup and removed by dusk of the pickup day. RHA's townhome trash pickup days are Tuesday and Friday and recycling is Wednesday. That means that trash cans should not be visible Friday night through Monday afternoon.

Please help keep our community clean!

More projects are expected in the spring and summer months: paving and sealing TH lots; updates to the Reflection Homes welcome sign; installation of new bollards to keep vehicles off of TH sidewalks; and startup of the path to Innovation Station Metro through the greenspace.

--Additional items "in work" by your board:
by Michael H., Board Secretary

During the last few months, the Board, with the aid of Jonathan Stamps, our FSR property manager, has engaged with vendors on the drainage and erosion project and other efforts to improve the community's land. (see January 2024 newsletter).

Additionally, the Board is continuing work on bettering the lighting in the TH community. A couple of years ago, the Board initiated a light study that identified significant improvements were needed. FSR is seeking updated quotes from vendors to continue the effort and better the TH lighting, both RHA-owned lighting and Dominion Energy-owned lights.

Also discussed was occasionally holding a second board meeting per month. Residents would be welcome to join. Details would be on the website.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC):

by Leron Culbreath, ACC Chair

At the February ACC Meeting, 1 application (front door awning) was reviewed and sent back with a request for more information

The next two ACC meetings will occur at 7pm on March 4 and April 1, at the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88050150929?pwd=ODdXaFhGRXFyK3g5YXA5bnhhMWh4dDZ09>

(continued on page 2)

RHA Board

President:

John Hanchulak

Vice President:

Mike Olson

Treasurer:

Matthew Knepper

Secretary:

Michael H (name withheld by request)

At Large:

Nicholas Viau

FirstService Residential:

703-385-1133

800-927-4599 (24 hour)

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
10 A.M. Saturday, March 30
at the Clubhouse
 (If there is a change in the status of this event, it will be posted at the clubhouse)
 (If you are 3 minutes late, you will miss it!)
BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!
Infants to Age 18 Welcome!
Join us at the clubhouse for the fun!

(continued from page 1)

Did you know... Cicada brood XIX should emerge south and east of us, according to the UConn ([The 2024 Periodical Cicada Emergence | Periodical Cicada Information Pages \(uconn.edu\)](#)) and Cicada Mania ([Periodical cicada Brood XIX \(19\) will emerge in 2024 in Fifteen States - Cicada Mania](#)).

Did you know... Vegetable plants are allowed in front yards, but only up to 4 ft tall.

Did you know... It's time for spring garden planning and seed acquisition to maximize your chances of a successful harvest.

Did you know... time is running out to complete your tree trimming. The optimal time depends on the type of tree, but is generally recommended to be done before they come out of dormancy.

Recreation Committee, Inc. (Rec): by Gene Harper, RCI Member

The full committee, along with FirstService Residential community manager Jonathan Stamps, convened Feb. 20 for an in-person and online session. Community members engaged in discussions about swim team management and budget matters until Stamps disengaged and redirected further discussion to the committee's executive session. One resident asking about how to become a committee member was instructed that members are appointed by the homeowner associations' boards of directors during annual meeting sessions.

Stamps reported that the transition from the former to current property management companies was still ongoing, with complete financial and other documents being uploaded to FSR's Connect portal soon.

Ginny Rodgers, committee chairperson, said that a poolhouse rental would occur on Feb. 24. This would be the first rental under a recently revised agreement and the first one since the 2020 COVID shutdown.

The pool season application process and pool passes will be 100 percent digital. Stay tuned for more details in March and April.



Pool season will start on May 25 and end on Sept. 2, covering the Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends.

The Recreation Association, the updated name that RCI can do business as, voted to contract with Battlefield Towing company for pool parking enforcement and towing services.

Rec also voted to use Trash Away solid waste and recycling company for the pool season.

The committee decided to maintain monthly hybrid (online & in-person) meetings on the third Tuesdays until further notice.

Street Ambassadors (SA): by Charlie Marts, Street Ambassador Chair

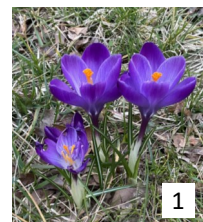
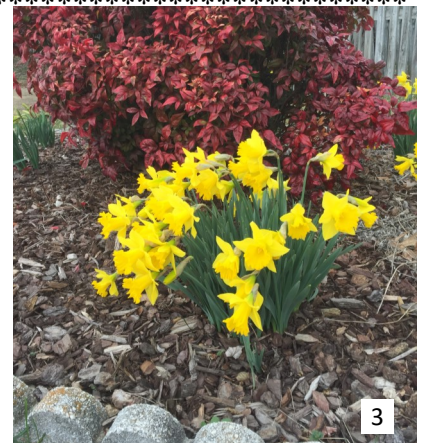
Complaints about Neighbor's Activities?: As a quick reminder, if you believe that a neighbor's activities are violating the rules ("Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions", available on the RHA website), and have not been able to resolve the matter with your neighbor, we have a formal grievance process (*Reflection Homes Association, Inc. Administrative Resolution 2021-5 Covenant and Rule Enforcement: Notice and Hearing Procedures*). The Board does not take action on the basis of informal complaints made to individual Board members; we need a formal grievance. If the neighbor's activities are not violating the Declarations but are violating a county or state law, ordinance, or zoning, the appropriate source for resolution is the government agency in charge of enforcing the law, ordinance, or zoning. The non-emergency number 703-691-2131 is a good place to start

Attention New Residents: the SAs have several "Welcome Baskets" made up, and we will restart deliveries soon -- We look forward to meeting (and greeting) you!

SAs promote community involvement by educating neighbors on RHA rules/events and providing your feedback to the board.

Interested in becoming an RHA Street Ambassador? First check out the SA pages on the RHA website, then send an email to Ambassadors@RHA-Homes.org We Need You!

RHA Spring Blooms Came Early



1. Snow Crocus 2. Lenten Rose 3. Jonquils (Daffodils) 4. Mini Iris 5. Snow Drops

Mold Management

by Charlie Marts, Board Past President

It's a problem man has battled since the dawn of time—controlling mold. 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, insulation and food. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth will often occur, especially if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed.



It is impossible to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment. However, mold growth can be controlled by keeping moisture in check. Moisture control is key—mold cannot grow without it. Left untreated, mold gradually destroys the material on which it is growing.

Because molds produce allergens, 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, clean up the mold and get rid of the excess water or moisture. If an area becomes water damaged, it is important to dry that space and any damaged items within 24–48 hours to prevent mold growth. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water to prevent recurrence. Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water and dry completely.



Absorbent materials (such as ceiling tiles and carpet) that become moldy may have to be replaced.

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.

Driving Rules Near School Buses

Reminder, Fairfax County Public Schools run more than 1,600 buses daily. We have been receiving multiple complaints about vehicles passing school buses after the bus stopped and the flashing red lights have been activated.

A lot of the violators appear to be high school aged kids driving to and from school. Please have a talk with your children about the dangers of passing a school bus that is actively loading/unloading children, and the possible legal consequences. Any passengers less than 18 years old, with certain exceptions, shall be secured in a safety restraint device.

Remember, passing a stopped school bus that has the lights activated is considered reckless driving. We will not issue warnings for these violations.

Remember, speed reduces your ability to react to pedestrians and bicyclists. The speed limit in active school zones is 25

mph. Violations result in increased fines and DMV points.

Know the codes: Help to Keep Our Community Safe!

- 46.2-873 Speeding in a School Zone
- 46.2-859 Passing a Stopped School Bus
- 46/2-924 Violate Pedestrian Right-of-Way
- 46.2-1078 Headphones Prohibited While Driving
- 46.2-1095 Child Restraint Requirements
- 46.2-818.2 VA Hands Free Law (phones down)

If you have any questions about this, or other crime prevention information, please contact MPO Jenette Post at Reston District Station at 703-478-5167.

excerpted from a February 12, 2024 Nextdoor post from the Fairfax County Police Department, Reston Station.



Public Safety Update

From the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department:



Gas Leak vs. Unhappy Skunk

This time of year, the Fire & Rescue Department sees an increase in the number of calls for possible outdoor gas leaks. Skunks are breeding and deliver their young in 7-10 weeks. If a female skunk is courted by a male that she is displeased with she wards him off by spraying a strong-smelling liquid (oil). The skunk's smell can be mistaken for a gas leak to the untrained nose. The most reliable sign of a natural gas leak is the smell, both Washington Gas and Columbia Gas add an odorant called mercaptan to create the distinctive smell of sulfur or rotten eggs. If you cannot tell the difference between the odors, listen for a hissing noise that gas under pressure would make when escaping a pipe. If you are still unable to tell if it's natural gas or a skunk, call 9-1-1 and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department will respond and investigate. [Learn more about skunks.](#)

excerpted from the February 14, 2024 Newsletter of Dranesville Supervisor Jimmy Bierman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

****NOTES****

Virginia Presidential Primary Election is "Super Tuesday" March 5: Virginia is one of 15 states holding presidential primary elections on the same day. It's an "open" primary: registered voters can vote in either the Democratic or the Republican primary (not both).

Be a Lifeguard! High Sierra Pools is hiring lifeguards for Summer 2024! Great pay, flexible schedules & referral bonuses, plus the chance to make a difference in your community. Apply online today:



<https://bit.ly/3oCLXzG>

Change your clock,

CHANGE your batteries

Daylight Saving Time:
 Begins Sunday, March 10 at 2 am.
 "Spring Forward!"
 Turn your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour.

Excessive Road Salt? If you see a salt pile of any size on a road or parking lot, say something! If not removed, it will end up in the storm drain system after the next rain and directly pollute our local streams. Only 1 teaspoon of salt can pollute 5 gallons of water. Take a picture of the salt pile (if possible) and get closest street address or intersection for reporting. Then call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD.



Support Herndon Boy Scouts: and get some awesome native plants! Troop 1577 is having a **native plant sale fundraiser**. Check their website for all the details <https://www.troop1577.org/native-plants-sale>

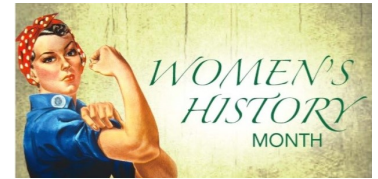











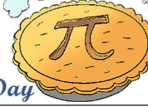















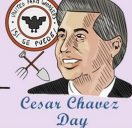



If you don't know a boy scout in the troop, you can mention Logan Wong as the boy scout that let you know about the sale! Great plants, great price, and FREE delivery to your door!



RHA Newsletter submissions: Inputs/comments/suggestions for the April 2024 RHA newsletter are due by March 20. Send inputs to newsletter@rha-homes.org

March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 (February)	26	27	28 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA online meeting Operation Desert Storm ends (1991)	29  HOPPY LEAP DAY	1  Employee Appreciation Day	2  Read Across America Day
3  World Wildlife Day	4 7:00-9:00pm ★ ACC online meeting	5 Virginia Primary Election Day FCPS holiday 	6  HAPPY DENTIST'S DAY	7	8  March International Women's Day	9
10  Academy Awards Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 7:00-9:00pm ★ Board online meeting ★  Ramadan	12	13	14  Pi Day	15  WORLD SLEEP DAY	16  THE NAACP IMAGE AWARDS
17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19 7:00-9:00pm ★RCI online meeting  PERSIAN NEW YEAR	20  Spring begins	21  World Down Syndrome Day	22  World Water Day	23  PURIM
24  Palm Sunday	25 Festival of Colors  होली	26	27 7:00-9:00pm ★ SA	28  Holy Thursday	29  GOOD FRIDAY	30 at Pool house Easter Egg Hunt 10-11 am 
31  Easter	1 (April) 7:00-9:00pm ★ ACC online meeting  April Fool's Day	2  Cesar Chavez Day	3  National Walking Day	4	5  Lailatul Qadr	6  National Tartan 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: board@RHA-Homes.org and/or newsletter@RHA-Homes.org
 Visit: <http://rha-homes.org> to read past newsletters, or to request email newsletter delivery.