



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

January 2023



RHA Board & Committee News:

A flyer showing Champion's trash services was delivered to all THs the weekend of Dec 17, and will be posted on the RHA website.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Jan 9
ACC	Jan 3
Recreation	Jan 11
SA	Jan 4

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:

Jan 1, 2023	New Year's Day
Jan 2	New Year's observed
Jan 3	fcps back to school
Jan 6	Epiphany
Jan 7	Orthodox Christmas
Jan 14	Orthodox New Year
Jan 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. day (fcps holiday)
Jan 22	Chinese New Year (Year of the Rabbit)
Jan 26-27	fcps student holidays
Feb 2	Groundhog Day

Board of Directors:

by Charlie Marts, Board President

At the last RHA Board Meeting, the following board seats were assigned:

President	Charles Marts
Vice President	Nicholas Viau
Treasurer	John Hanchulak
Secretary	Don Nuss
Director At Large	Mike Olson

Town Home Trash Contract: Trash costs, now that Haulin' Trash is in bankruptcy, have **doubled**.

Potential vendors contacted by the board and FSR adjusted the pricing of their bids based on the economy and the amount of trash in the THs.

The board is working to readjust budget areas to cover this increase.

Potomac Pros was contracted to pick up trash in the community while vendor bids and legal review was being considered.

After review and consideration of the trash collection bids, The RHA Board has contracted with **Champion Services Inc.** to providing Trash and Recycling services to the Reflection Townhouse residents.

Champion Services, Inc. Phone: (703)239-8540
Email: customerservice@cswwaste.com

Most important is the change to pick-up days: **Tuesday and Friday for Trash/Household Waste; Wednesday for Recycling.**

Replacement of current TH lamp post lighting:

Work to install new LED versions is in progress by Dominion Power.

Proposal bids for repair/replacement of the common area lamp post electrical panels are being reviewed by the board.

Winter Home Decorations Event: Our RHA community sparkled! Please see the Street Ambassador article on page 3 for results.

Architectural Control Committee:

by Brenda Brown, ACC member

At the last regular scheduled meeting of the ACC on Dec 5, there were 2 applications and both were approved: one for a retaining wall, the other for solar panels. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 pm.

While travelling through the community, I have noticed quite a few changes on homes that have not been submitted through the ACC: I.E. color changes to the exterior of the home; porches and or fences being installed, roof changes and so on.

Also we are still receiving requests for architectural changes that have not been submitted in the proper manner, or on the proper form.

(continued on page 2)

"Gifts" of the Season

by Mike Olson, Board Member-at-Large

Among the many things the holiday season usually brings us are **new assessment coupon books** and **new parking stickers**. Last Spring, the RHA Board decided to issue TH parking stickers annually. The current orange parking sticker is valid from June 2022 to June 2023. Detached Home residents who live in the Residential Permit Parking District will notice an expiration date of January 2023 on their permit. The county will automatically send renewed permits.

First Service Residential and Sequoia Management have sent coupon books for Reflection Homes Association and Recreation Committee Inc. assessments. If you are not paying online and have not received your coupons,

please contact First Service or Sequoia Management, as the first payments are due in January. Additionally, the U.S. Postal Service rates will increase on January 22. The price for a one ounce letter will increase to 63 cents. Additional ounce postage will remain at 24 cents. The price to send a domestic post card will increase to 48 cents. Make sure you affix the correct postage to your assessment return envelopes! Finally, Dulles Toll Road fees go up Jan 1 (last increase was 2019). For two-axle vehicles ramp tolls go from \$1.25 to \$2, & main plaza tolls from \$3.25 to \$4.

RHA Board

President:

Charles Marts

Vice President:

Nicholas Viau

Treasurer:

John Hanchulak

Secretary:

Don Nuss

At Large:

Mike Olson

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



SEQUOIAMANAGEMENT.COM
MANAGING YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET SINCE 1986

ACC (continued from page 1)

Please! If you are considering making any changes to the outside of your home, access a copy of the **change application** on the RHA website at: rha-homes.org/acc-committee. This form **must** be filled out and **signed** by the Homeowner.

The ACC normally meets the first Monday of each month; Please ensure your application is in before that so we can act on it in a timely manner.

Did You Know: the next ACC meeting has been moved to Tuesday, January 3 due to the New Year’s Holiday. The meeting will be 7pm 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 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 did not meet in December, but will resume its monthly meetings virtually on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

The six percent increase in the quarterly RCI assessment begins this month. The new amount is \$90.89 per quarter; for at least a decade, the previous assessment had been \$85.75. Coupons and envelopes were mailed to homeowners in December. Sequoia Management Company also recommends that homeowners use its digital portal to view account information and to make payments. Check it out at sequoia.cincwebaxis.com.

RCI membership is comprised of representatives from Reflection Homes Association (six) and Lake Homes Association (two) for a total of eight. Each association appoints members for a one-year term; the committee in turn votes on its officer positions. The distribution ratio of committee representation is weighted according to the number of homeowners in each association.



Winter Arrived December 21st -- Is Your Home Ready ?

by Charlie Marts, Board President

Before the weather gets too harsh, here are a few tips to prepare your home for the cold and snow that’s sure to come.



Outside Water Faucets:

Shut off faucets by closing valves inside the house, then turning on the outside spigot to drain water from the line to prevent frozen pipes.



Furnace Filters: Change filters at least every two months to keep utility bills low, limit dust and improve furnace efficiency.

Heat Setting: Prevent pipes from freezing by setting the home’s temperature to at least 55 degrees when you are out of town.



Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Test your detectors once a month and replace old batteries promptly. Properties with gas heat or a wood-burning fireplace should also have a carbon monoxide detector.



Fireplace: Have your chimney professionally cleaned once a year if you use it frequently

Snow and Ice Removal: Use kitty litter or ice melt on concrete driveways, walkways and steps rather than salt, which can damage concrete.



Current officers and members are as follows:

- Lourdes Umana (RHA), Chair
- Eugene Harper Jr. (RHA) Treasurer
- Georgette Nuss (RHA), Secretary
- Earl Blaes (RHA), Member
- Derek Briggs (RHA), Member
- Janine Greenberg (LHA), Member
- Ginny Rodgers (LHA), Member
- Colleen Ward (RHA), Member



The committee is responsible for the management of the parkland property adjacent to our 2 associations, running alongside the creek from the Town of Herndon limits on the north side, (crossing Parcher Ave) to the Dulles Toll Road barriers at the southern end. This includes the grounds, the tot lots, the basketball court, and the pool and its parking lot.

Street Ambassadors: Welcome Baskets

by Patsy Velin,
Street Ambassador Chair



Your Street Ambassadors delivered 22 (!!!) **Welcome Baskets** to our new neighbors in 2022. The RHA Board has agreed to sponsor more Welcome Baskets for 2023. The baskets are loaded with lots of useful items for new residents: especially important RHA phone numbers and emergency information along with a gift card. If you are new, please let us know by emailing ambassadors@rha-homes.org so we may properly welcome you.



Thanks to our RHA Board, in 2023, your ambassadors will have more “street corner donuts and coffee” mornings, a winter wonderland decorating event and maybe a Halloween decorating event. These are all very fun, but seriously if you have questions or need our help expressing any issues to the Board, or ideas for improvements, we’re here to help. If you would like to help us help you....email us!!!

Happy New Year to All.

RHA "Winter Wonderland" Event was Wonderful !!

by Patsy Velin, Street Ambassador Chair

Thank you to all our neighbors for your beautifully decorated homes. Our RHA judges had a wonderful time viewing over 150 of our 586 residents to find our Winter Wonderland winners.

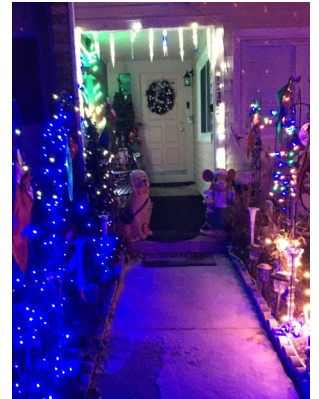
With much difficulty, we whittled the list to 34 homes. Judges went back out again to view and vote on the twirling snowflakes, rainfall strands of blue and white lights, characters in the lawns including the

Grinch, Mickey Mouse, Bears, Stars, Reindeer and Santa along with the Elves, Snowflakes and Angels projected on the homes. We also enjoyed the children's art displayed in the windows.

Finally, we came up with SIX winners to split the pot! Congratulations to the homes on: Oram, Fones, Schwenger, Keisler and two homes on Maleady. WELL DONE!



Oram Place (above)



Schwenger Place (left & above)

Small photos just don't do justice to these displays -- please drive/walk around & enjoy them in person!



Maleady Drive (above)



Keisler Court (below)



Fones Place (above)



Maleady Drive (below)

****NOTES****

Safe Trade Zone. In late December a Fairfax County resident was selling an iPhone on Facebook Marketplace. When the buyer came to pick it up, instead of paying he ran off into the dark street with it. Don't let it happen to you! Locally, the Herndon Police Dept. has established a "Safe Trade Zone" in the front parking lot of the Herndon Police Dept. Headquarters at 397 Herndon Parkway for use by the public as a meeting place to complete online transactions. The area is well lit and monitored by security cameras. Or you can use the 24-hour lobby of the police station. Be cautious of someone who is hesitant about completing a transaction in a "Safe Trade Zone".

www.herndon-va/public-safety/patrol/safe-trade-zone



DOMINION POWER FRAUD: The Herndon Police Department would like to make the public aware of a telephone scam.

If you receive a phone call from a person representing themselves as an employee of Dominion Virginia Power and threatening to shut off your power unless you send them money, please contact the police department and file a report (non-emergency number: 703-691-2131). If possible, get the person's name and phone number and provide it to the police. Dominion Virginia Power will never call on the phone requesting payment. Do not provide your personal information or account information over the phone. The best way to confirm you are actually talking to an employee of Dominion Power is to call them at 1-866-DOM-HELP.



RHA Newsletter submissions: Inputs/comments/suggestions for the February 2023 RHA newsletter are due by January 20. Send inputs to: newsletter@rha-homes.org



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 	2 New Year's Day (observed) <i>fcps holiday</i> 	3 7:00-9:00pm ACC online meeting <i>fcps back to school</i> 8 th Day of Christmas	4 7:00-9:00pm SA online meeting National Spaghetti Day	5 National Bird Day	6 Epiphany 12 th Day of Christmas	7 Orthodox Christmas
8	9 7:00-9:00 Board online meeting Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10 Golden Globe Awards	11 7:00-9:00pm RCI online meeting National MILK DAY	12 KISS A GINGER DAY	13	14 Orthodox New Year
15 NATIONAL HAT DAY	16 <i>fcps holiday</i> 1929 1968	17 Operation Desert Storm starts (1991)	18 WINNIE THE POOH DAY	19 National Popcorn Day	20	21
22 CHINESE NEW YEAR	23 Year of the Rabbit	24 National Peanut Butter Day	25 <i>fcps end-of-quarter 2 hour early release</i>	26 <i>fcps holiday</i> 1788 Australia Day	27 <i>fcps holiday</i> Holocaust Memory Day	28 DATA PRIVACY DAY
29	30	31 National Hot Chocolate Day	1 (February) National Signing Day	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 World Cancer 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.