



The Reflection Homes Association Community Newsletter

February 2023



RHA Board & Committee News:

Upcoming Meetings:

Board	Feb 13
ACC	Feb 6
Recreation	Feb 8
SA	Feb 1

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:

Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 12	Super Bowl LVII
Feb 12	Lincoln's birthday
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 20	President's Day  (FCPS holiday)
Feb 21	Mardi Gras
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
Feb 22	Washington's birthday
Mar 12	Daylight Saving Time begins

Board of Directors:

by Charlie Marts, Board President

From the last RHA Board Meeting:

--Champion Services was selected for Town Home trash collection (see below)

--The Board contracted with Peter's Landscaping for TH tree removal, pruning and replacement:

-15 trees identified for removal

-8 trees to be planted: Willow Oak, Arborvitae, Cherry, Oak

--Board members met on-site with Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District representatives to discuss TH drainage and erosion issues. A report was provided suggesting several possible solutions and is being reviewed.

--Dominion has ordered parts and will schedule repair/replacement for their TH parking lot lights once parts are on hand.

New TH Trash Policy to be sent out soon
All trash and recycling bins, plus bundled/bagged yard debris and large items, are to be placed:

-- Directly in front of the townhome if it faces the parking lot; on the home's sidewalk; or on the median strip alongside the parking lot, property lawn or walkway to the residence.

How's Your House Number?

Have you ever noticed a Fairfax County fire truck driving slowly around our neighborhood, with the occupants looking at the houses? The trips are to familiarize the firefighters with our area, and how to negotiate our streets if they need to find an address in an emergency. (...is YOUR # visible?)

The International Fire Code, (section F, 303.3) which forms the basis for both Virginia's and Fairfax County's codes, reads "Buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property."

Posting house numbers is covered in Fairfax County VA Code of Ordinance Section 102-1-3(b). In RHA, our **Architectural Guidelines** are quite specific:

-- for THs, it's paragraph R. 3. "Townhome numbers must be legible and visible from the street or parking lot. At least the last three digits of the TH number must be displayed on the rear of the TH in a visible place either under the light or over the sliding door. Rear numbers must be black, gold or brown, a minimum of three inches in height, and a contrast to the siding color. Numbers may be no more than six inches in height."

-- for DHs, it's paragraph Q. 4. "House numbers must be legible and visible from the street. House numbers must be at least three (3) inches in size. Numbers larger than eight (8) inches are not permissible."

-- In a Common Area adjacent to the parking lot, if the townhome is not alongside the parking lot (if located along an alley or pipe-stem away from the direct parking area).

Trash and/or recycling receptacles:

-- must be placed out NO Earlier than 7 pm or darkness the night before scheduled pickup.

-- must be removed from public view by 7 pm or darkness on the pickup day.

-- may be subject to removal and disposal by management if left in public view the day after pickup..

Architectural Control Committee:

by Brenda Brown, ACC Secretary

At the last regular scheduled meeting of the ACC on Jan 2, there were 6 applications and 4 were approved: 2 for roofs, and one each for a fence and a shed. 2 were disapproved due to incomplete "Change Application" forms. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm.

DID YOU KNOW: Home inspections generally take place during the spring or summer. Do you have items on your home that will require attention? If yes, plan on fixing them soon, so that you are not subject to a failed inspection and potential fines.

(continued on page 2)

by Lois Olson, RHA Newsletter Team



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)

ACC (continued from page 1)

DID YOU KNOW: to prevent delays in your change applications being processed, it's best to email them first to: arc.dcmetro@FSresidential.com

DID YOU KNOW: Under Architectural Standards for RHA; No clothing, laundry or wash shall be aired or dried on any portion of the lots in any area other than in the rear yards of the lots on clotheslines only. RHA Standards Section K.

DID YOU KNOW: All homes must display your house numbers on your home, both front and back. At least 3 inches in size. Fairfax County also requires house numbers both front and back for emergency purposes. (see article page 1)

DID YOU KNOW: You can locate ACC information at <https://rha-homes.org/acc-committee> as well as structural change or addition applications.

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

The committee conducted a virtual meeting on Jan. 11 with six members present. Sequoia Senior Community Manager Dale Edwards was also in attendance.

The committee adopted a **no-smoking policy** for all RCI managed areas, effective immediately. While there has been a poolhouse indoor smoking ban for many years, the new policy includes the area right outside the poolhouse entrance, where residents and their guests previously smoked at will.



In addition, the new ban covers every other facet of the recreation area: the pool parking lot, the paved and unpaved pathways, the tot lots, the grassy areas on either side of the creek, the basketball court and the fenced-in court – in other words, everywhere. The prohibition includes all smoking products and devices. Signs will be posted soon; however, the policy is in effect now.

Other RCI actions included discussions covering several ongoing



It's Girl Scout Cookie Time 2023!

Once again, RHA's Troop 51096 (along with other troops nationwide), in spite of the pandemic, is selling cookies! (including the new-for-2023 flavor "Raspberry Rally").

In RHA, several of the young ladies will be going door-to-door. You can also view the selection at: <https://www.girlscouts.org/meetthecookies> and then order directly from the troop at www.gsdigitalcookie.com/code and entering G9PFDUR3 or 8TFQ67A8. Or, you can email your request to: troop51096@jamieanderson.org

Or call Assistant Scout Leader Lourdes Umana at 703-618-8463. Online and phone orders will be delivered to your door.

areas. These included getting ever closer to a new poolhouse rental agreement and further action on a request for proposal for increased security camera coverage.

The next meeting date is set for Feb 8 at 7 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



This Is A No Smoking Area



(Winter storm damage in our park)

by Patsy Velin,
Street Ambassador Chair

Street Ambassadors:

The Street Ambassadors met virtually on Jan 4. The highly successful Winter Home Decorations Event was discussed, where homes on Oram Place, Schwenger Place, Fones Place, Maleady Drive (two), and Keisler Court (out of over 150 evaluated!) were selected as winners (see last month's newsletter for pictures). We are enthusiastic about holding the event again next December!

Please let your Street Ambassadors know if you need help with your RHA needs, or with reporting any home owner issues to our property management company. Your Ambassadors are here to help direct your needs to the RHA Board or PM.

The Board approved funds for RHA refrigerator magnets containing important contact information. The DH magnets are designed already but the TH magnets need some revision to include information pertinent to the new trash contract.



Property Manager's Corner

by Swati Krishnamoorthy, FSR Prop. Mgr



We request that all home owners check and update their billing address on file with First Service Residential, by calling Customer Service at 703-385-1133. This will facilitate taking care of your association's assessments.

Also, the months of May and June will be annual town home parking sticker time, and we would like to mail all stickers to owners at their official billing address. email: swati.krishnamoorthy@fsresidential.com

Solicitors Knocking on Your Door? Protect Yourself and Verify Before You Hire or Buy!

by Charlie Marts, Board President

Be Aware. Solicitors are strangers. Some are Scammers. If you choose to talk with them, do not allow them in your home.

Verify Credentials. Ask to see their Fairfax County Solicitor License. Check solicitor licenses by calling the Fairfax County Regulation and Licensing Branch at 703-324-5966 (TTY 771) and contractor licenses by calling the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8511 (TTY 771).

Take Your Time. Take a business card. Review options and seek a second opinion.

Review Agreements. Request a complete copy of the



scope of work with a cost estimate. Review the agreement thoroughly before you sign.

Ask Questions. Always ask questions for clarification. Check references. Seek advice when needed.

For Advice on Hiring a Contractor:

Call the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch. 703-222-8435 (TTY 711)

Never pay more than 30% of the total before work is complete. Pay by credit card or check, never cash.

To Report Scams or Solicitors Without a License:

Call the Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency Line: 703-691-2131 (TTY 771)

Plastic Bag Fees in Fairfax County

What happened? I am often asked about the five-cent grocery bag fee and what the County does with proceeds. As a reminder, in 2020 the General Assembly passed legislation to allow localities to implement a 5-cent fee on disposable plastic bags. On September 14, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted the ordinance by a vote of 9-1.

Where do the fees go? Any fee revenue collected is used by Fairfax County to assist environmental programs and services.

Among these programs are:

- Environmental Cleanup programs
- Pollution and litter mitigation programs
- Educational programs on environmental waste
- Programs that provide reusable plastic bags to those in need

excerpted from the January 18, 2023 Newsletter of Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Why are we doing this? The goal is to collect no money from the "bag tax" because we want shoppers to eventually use only environmentally friendly, reusable bags. Plastic pollution is a real problem as disposable plastic bags end up in our waterways.



Jeffrey C. McKay

NOTES

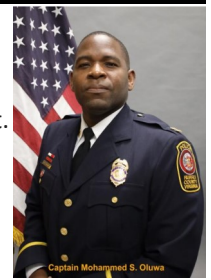
No Glass in Recycling! Do Not Place Glass in your recycling bin!! It is not accepted in Fairfax County!! If glass is in your bin, everything will be dumped into the trash. Take it to one of Fairfax County's **Purple Bins** (closest is on Rock Hill Road).

--If you are already a member of the "Purple Bin Club", consider asking your neighbors if they have any glass bottles the next time you plan to take glass to the bin. 😊

No Plastic bags in Recycling! Only 4 items go in recycling bins: Paper, Plastic Bottles, Cardboard and Metal Cans. Do not put them in plastic bags. Recyclables are sorted on conveyor belts, and plastic bags get wrapped around the rollers & stop the belt. Put plastic bags in trash or take them back to the grocery store.

Pavement Repairs: Fairfax County contractors will be repairing the damaged blacktop on Springer Drive beginning approximately January 31. Expect some traffic rerouting.

New Police Station Commander: Mohammed S. Oluwa has been promoted to Captain of the Reston District Station. Capt. Oluwa previously served as the Commander of the Mason District. Capt. Oluwa began his career with the Fairfax County Police Department in 2002. He went on to serve as the Assistant Commander of the Criminal Justice Academy and as an Assistant Commander of the Major Crimes Bureau.



Capt. Oluwa has a bachelor's degree from Liberty University and is a Marine Corps veteran. He recently completed an IACP fellowship.

Note: If you are new to RHA, RHA is part of Fairfax County (not Town of Herndon, even though we have Herndon mailing addresses) and is served by the Fairfax County Police Department, Reston District Office, not the Town of Herndon Police Department.













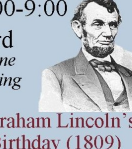










The picture on page 1 is of a clump of early blooming Snow Crocus, found in RHA on Jan 30, 2023.



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

February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 (January)	30  National Hot Chocolate Day	31  World Read Aloud Day	1 7:00-9:00pm SA online meeting  National Signing Day	2  Groundhog Day	3 <i>Violet</i>  February Flower	4  World Cancer Day
5  Grammy Awards	6 7:00-9:00pm ACC online meeting  National Weatherperson's Day	7	8 7:00-9:00pm RCI online meeting  National Pizza Day	9  Founded 1910	10	11  International Day of Women & Girls in Science
12  SUPER BOWL LVII	13 7:00-9:00 Board online meeting  Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (1809)	14  Happy Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18  Lailatal Miraj
19  NATIONAL DRINK WINE DAY	20  Presidents' Day feps holiday	21  Mardi Gras	22  ASH WEDNESDAY	23  George Washington's Birthday (1732)	24	25  THE NAACP IMAGE AWARDS
26	27	28 Operation Desert Storm ends (1991)	1 (March)	2  Read Across America Day	3  Employee Appreciation Day	4

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: RHAbord@RHA-Homes.org and/or newsletter@RHA-Homes.org Visit: <http://rha-homes.org> to read past newsletters, or to request email newsletter delivery.